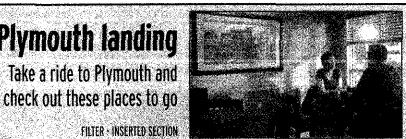
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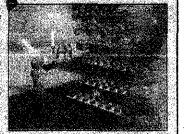


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THURSDAY November 23, 2006

Observer (1996)

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MDEQ provides more money for Cooper cleanup

STAFF WRITER

A \$1 million state grant, authorized Monday to clean up the contaminated Cooper School property in Westland, could be the final piece of a 15-year puzzle for redeveloping the site, officials said.

The grant will bring to nearly \$3.4 million the amount allocated for the project by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The total includes nearly \$2.4 million in grants for the Livonia school district, which shuttered the school in 1991, and a \$1 million revolving loan for the city of Westland.

Officials called the latest grant critical for

cleaning up the former landfill and making it feasible for developers to build medical office buildings and a senior citizen independent living facility.

"Without this we would not have been able to go ahead with the project," said Jack Kirksey, former Livonia mayor and project consultant for the Livonia district.

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli announced the latest grant on Monday, saying it will boost remediation efforts on the site on Ann Arbor Trail east of Middlebelt.

"This additional funding is the direct result of a lot of hard work on the part of the city, the Livonia Public Schools and the developers of the site over the last couple of years," Cicirelli said.

Officials had met regularly to push for more state funding after the MDEQ ruled that contaminated soil will have to be hauled away rather than isolated in one area and capped.

"We have been meeting on a regular basis in order to bring this project to completion, and there was a last-minute need for additional funding that could not be provided by the city, the schools or the developer," Cicirelli said. "I am extremely happy that the MDEQ stepped in to ensure that all our hard work will not go for naught."

Departing state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, and her successor, state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also announced the latest grant.

The redevelopment project fell behind an

earlier, tentative schedule as officials awaited word on additional funding.

On Tuesday, Kirksey said remediation efforts could begin as early as next year, when students are on summer break at the newer,

nearby Cooper Upper Elementary School. Construction of the first of potentially four medical office buildings could begin by the end of 2007, he said. Developers plan to build a multi-story senior housing facility as market conditions, currently sluggish, improve.

Officials are more optimistic than ever that the Cooper School site will finally be redeveloped and generate new tax revenues. The school was demolished two years ago.

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Schweitzer Elementary kindergartner Jamie Downing (left) said 'I love it all,' as she and her reading buddy Amber Ritter (right) enjoy their 'traditional' Thanksgiving feast.

The '1st' Thanksgiving

Kindergartners share traditional feast with their reading buddies

It was as close as you could get to the first Thanksgiving dinner — dried meat and fruit, muffins and soup.

But there were a few 21st century items on the plates of kindergartners who gathered Monday to celebrate the holiday with their second- and thirdgrade reading buddies.

"The idea is to have them experience a more traditional Thanksgiving dinner," said kindergarten teacher Anne McKolay who has been holding the feast for at least seven years. "When the Pilgrim's had their feast it was with the community there."

The kindergartners dressed as pilgrims with paper hats, bonnets and large white collars, while their reading buddies, with names like Tiger Lily,

Strong Wind and Fire Starter, wore brown paper bag vests and feathered headdresses.

It didn't matter that the older students had had lunch before the feast. 'We always have room for food," said Kelsie Wysong, 8.

They sat down to plates full of corn muffins, corn chowder, baked beans,

PLEASE SEE THANKSGIVING, A4

Student arrested after bringing gun to middle school

STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials are urging parents to talk to their children about school safety in the wake of the arrest of a 13-year-old Marshall Middle School student who brought an unloaded .25-caliber semiautomatic handgun to school Monday.

"Students need to act responsibly and so do parents," Supt. Greg Baracy said. "This very likely prevented a more serious situation. Whenever you put a gun in the hands of a young person, loaded or not, there's the potential for a tragic result. It's always a grave concern for all of us.

The incident happened around 12:30 p.m., after the teen showed another student the gun he had in his pants pocket, according to Westland Police Lt. James Ridener.

"It happened between classes. He stopped another student in the hallway and pulled the gun out enough for the student to see," Ridener said. "He didn't point the gun at

The student reported the

incident to a teacher and, according to a letter sent home to parents, school administrators and the school safety officer isolated the teen and removed the weapon from his pocket.

"I give that student a lot of credit for acting responsibly and in an adult manner," Baracy said. "The student did the right thing by immediately sharing the information with an adult."

According to Ridener, the teen told other people that he had bought the handgun on the street for \$75."

"We don't tend to believe him, but as far as we know, it. didn't come from the family home." he said. "Whether it's accurate or true, that's open to debate."

The teen was removed from the school by Westland Police, processed and sent on to the county vouth home. Because of his age, the matter will be handled through Wayne County Juvenile Court.

The district has a number of security measures in place and, according to Baracy, they worked well in this instance.

"And that's what we hope"

PLEASE SEE GUN, A4

Mayor orders fences at ball fields, new signs in Central City Park

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli moved swiftly this week to respond to demands from residents who criticized city and county officials for their years of silence on contaminants in Central City Park.

On Monday, Cicirelli ordered city workers to install snow fencing around the western ball diamonds, where soil tests found elevated levels of lead.

Cicirelli also confirmed that more detailed signs would be posted this week in the park, after residents called the "temporarily closed" signs insufficient. Only a paved walking path remains open

The mayor also affirmed that soil tests will eventually be done at Tot Town - an area of miniature

for public use.

buildings used by children near Carlson and Ford Road. She said testing will be done even though aerial photos don't indicate the Tot Town area was ever used as a dump site.

Cicirelli pledged to work with Wayne County officials for testing of a Central City Park pond where children fish.

Finally, she engaged in telephone conversations with county officials in hopes of setting up a temporary site, possibly at the Bailey Recreation Center, where children and adults can be tested for lead exposure. Details hadn't been firmed up Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm hopeful that we'll get that very quickly," Cicirelli said.

Her actions came after residents packed a public meeting last

PLEASE SEE PARK, A4



announcing that it is closed and that people must stay on the paths. Snow fencing also is being erected around the baseball diamonds which testing has shown to have problems with contamination.

The city has replaced

signs around the park

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> Volume 42 Number 52





APARTMENTS

BELIEFS & VALUES A18 AUTOMOTIVE 88-C8 CLASSIFIED CROSSWORD Joes Movies A18 OBITUARIES REAL ESTATE **B8** B12 SERVICE GUIDE

Coming Sunday in Health

Trouble in toyland: PIRGIM (Public Interest Research Group in Michigan) releases its 21st annual toy safety report.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 23, 2006

BY REBECCA JONES STAFF WRITER

Livonia's school board met for a retreat Nov. 13, in part to discuss ways to improve communication with the public.

But few members of the public knew about it. The retreat replaced a committee of the whole meeting that had been canceled.

"We talked about working together and working with the community, how to effectively communicate with each other and the community," said board President Lynda Scheel.

Although cancellation of the committee of the whole meeting was noted on the district's Web site, there was no mention online of the retreat meeting. A notice was posted on the door to the administration building at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10, said Suzanne Steffes, executive assistant to the superintendent and Board of Education.

"It was posted on the school board office per the Open Meetings Act," Scheel said.

The law specifies how and when a governing body must notify the public before meeting. For a special meeting, the requirement is 18 hours, and the board office must be open during that time.

The district met the Open Meetings Act requirement.

However, parent Brad Wolkan questioned the time-

"That's not illegal.

on race."

Unethical? Yeah," said Wolkan, a member of the group Citizens for Livonia's Future. "They contradicted themselves."

To improve communication, he said, "they need to start doing more than the bare minimum, especially at these times."

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., but started shortly after 6 p.m. and lasted until 9 or 9:30 p.m., Scheel said. Board Secretary Kevin Whitehead took minutes.

All seven board members participated. Virginia Winters from the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency facilitated.

"Nobody was there from the public," Scheel said, adding that since she's been on the board "we've never had anybody there from the public" for a retreat.

"We usually do one to two board retreats a year," Scheel said, "but you have to work around everybody's schedule."

When the Nov. 13 time slot became available, the board decided to meet "sooner than later."

"We are going to have another one planned soon," she said. "We do not discuss business, nor is business decided at our board retreats. Our board retreats are to provide continuous improvement - a way to measure where we are as a board, to where we want to be."

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Seven-year-old Evan Winowiecki, who is blind, plays a game of tic tac toe on a special board with Emerson Middle School eighth-grader Brandon Wolfe at Seedlings, a Livonia nonprofit organization.

Class makes tic tac toe for the sight-impaired

STAFF WRITER

Tic tac toe is traditionally a pen-and-paper game of Xs and Os.

But Emerson Middle School students developed a 3-D version for visually impaired children to play.

On Thursday, Ron Wilson's technology class delivered the game boards and pieces to Seedlings, a Livonia nonprofit that adapts children's books for braille readers.

Students routed a three-bythree grid into a sheet of plywood. Instead of Xs and Os, the pieces are red asterisks and white cylinders that fit into drilled holes.

Last year's class started the project, and this year's students put the finishing touches together. Students created and packaged 54 games.

We sanded (the wood) to make sure there were no rough edges, drilled the holes and painted the tic tac toe pieces," said eighth-grader Courtney Woods

At Seedlings, Woods and



Emerson Middle School eighth graders Jake Long (left), Connor Osborn and Brandon Wolfe take a look at one of the Braille printers with Seedlings staff member Debbie Charnley.

classmates met and played tic tac toe with two visionimpaired students from Cass Elementary. Third-grader Austin Hill and first-grader Evan Winowiecki each got to take home one of the tic tac toe games. Austin also read from a braille version of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar."

Seedlings produces 24,000 braille books each year, filling a need for blind parents who want to read to sighted children and for blind children

who want to read for themselves about Arthur the anteater the or Junie B. Jones. the new favorite book series of both Austin and Evan.

"You can't just go to Borders or Barnes & Noble and get a braille book," said Debra Bonde, Seedlings' director and founder.

Less than 5 percent of what's available for sighted children is ever available for blind children, said Susan Bresler, community outreach director at Seedlings. "They're still at a disadvantage, but we're trying to make a difference."

Seedlings sends books around the world. Even Bonde doesn't know where the tic tac toe games will end

"Your games may go to Australia. They may go to Ghana. Your school name is going to go around the world," Bonde said. "They'll go to good use."

Wilson's technology class will now begin a new project. Wilson developed a mold of Michigan to teach visually impaired children about the Great Lakes and help them learn where places like Traverse City and Lansing are in relation to each other.

The project will be submitted for the Michigan Industrial and Technology **Education Society invention** convention where it will compete among learning tools inventions.

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CORRECTIONS

The headline for Hugh Gallagher's column on Sunday, Nov. 19,

À headline in the Sunday, Nov. 19, issue above a story about the

funeral Mass for a Canton man killed in Iraq should have referred

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should have read "Support for Proposal 2 opens door for dialogue

to Sgt. Bryan Burgess as a Marine.

Jeannie Parent

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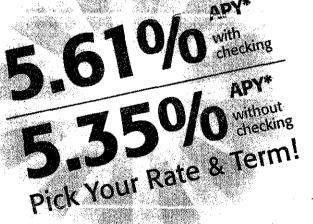


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Board narrows field to 2 for library director

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

Westland library officials could be nearing the final chapter of their search for a successor to former Director John Patane, who was fired in May.

The field of candidates has been narrowed to Susanna Davidsen, coordinator of the electronic Michigan eLibrary, and Clyde Scoles, director of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library in Toledo, Ohio.

"We are down to two candidates," Westland Library Board Secretary Daniel Bourdeau confirmed Monday.

Davidsen and Scoles would bring distinctly different skills to the job, Bourdeau said, adding that the board still hopes to fill the post by the New

Davidsen was described by Bourdeau as having a very traditional background with a lot of good experience" in running a library, while Scoles was portrayed as "very forward thinking" in terms of new technology.

A board decision will be difficult as long as both candidates remain in the running for the job, Bourdeau said.

"It's going to be challenging," he said. "I think either way we choose it's a win-win decision for the library. At this point, given the two candidates, there's not a bad decision to be made."

Davidsen and Scoles have survived a nationwide search led by library consultant Larry Corbus, who said nearly 30 applicants sought Patane's job.

Patane was fired in May after a board majority took issue with the way he was handling his job. His dismissal came less than two years after the 10-year-old facility's first director, Sandra Wilson, also was fired.

Bourdeau said the library board hopes to have Davidsen and Scoles return for a second interview as soon as possible. He said the two finalists also will be given a tour of the city and will meet with key elected officials.

A salary hasn't been decided, although the board advertised up to \$84,864 for the next director. Patane was paid \$70,000.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Len McCulloch directs the Broe Therapy Choir during its performance at the Burger Center for Students with Autism.

Choir performance has safety message

BY SUE MASON STAFF WRITER

They came, they sang, and when they were done, the Broe Institute Therapy Choir left youngsters at the Burger Center for Students with Autism with a message: Protect your head.

Billed as a "unique a cappella choir comprised of people recovering from traumatic brain injuries," the choir visited the Garden City school last month to promote the prevention of brain

'We're here to tell you to always wear your helmet," said choir director Len McCulloch. "If you're riding a bike, roller skating, ice skating, wear your helmet. When you cross the street, look both ways. Some (choir) members didn't look both ways and were hit by a car."

Plenty of hands went up when McCulloch asked how many youngsters rode a bike, but far fewer were raised when he asked how many wore a helmet while riding their bikes.

The choir is made up of adults being treated through the Broe Rehabilitation Services Inc. in Farmington Hills where McCulloch is director of psychological services.

It started with one singer in 1998 and has grown to 18 members. It presents close to 100 free concerts a year. In addition to performing at schools like the Burger Center, homeless shelters and churches, the choir has sang at the Michigan State Capitol and for former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, at a lunch for 1,400 people, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Detroit

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. The choir has produced five CDs, including its debut album, Music of Special People. The group worked with Michigan Opera Theater in composing a song.

Interspersed with songs like Amazing Grace, Take Me Out to the Ballgame and a medley of TV show tunes, some members of the

choir talked about themselves. "I was into drugs and alcohol,"

said Larry Tillman of Detroit. "One day I woke up in the hospital. I had been in a coma, but the Lord saved me and sent me a second chance."

McCulloch pointed to another member who shuffled through a well-worn magazine. Identified as Kimberly, he told students she had autism like them.

"She loves singing at home, especially in bed," he said. "She's in the choir to try and encourage her to talk more."

One member was suicidal before joining the choir, but after two weeks, he had "a choir to live for," he added.

"For many, before the choir they were just 'Joe, I'm brain damaged," he said. "Now it's 'I'm a celebrity in a special choir.' They're proud as opposed to being shattered and broken.

"In the early years, they were timid, but now they take the stage like they own the place."

As part of the program, the choir - this is its fourth visit to Burger – was joined by the Burger Choir, under the direction

of music teacher Susan Helmkamp in performing two songs - Michael, Row the Boat Ashore and He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.

McCulloch also passed out Frisbees and balls to some students and tapped Kevin Kimberlin to be "safety guy for the rest of the day" after he correctly identified the name of the song the choir performed.

"If you guess it, you'll be the first one in 140 shows to guess it," McCulloch said. Kevin did identify the song, Old MacDonald Had a Farm.

"I want you to remind your friends to wear their helmets," he also told the youngsters.

McCulloch is pleased with the reception the choir has received over the years. It's been featured in 42 newspaper stories and appeared in a PBS special.

The community has reached out to us and we reach out to the kids, so they learn, too," McCulloch said.

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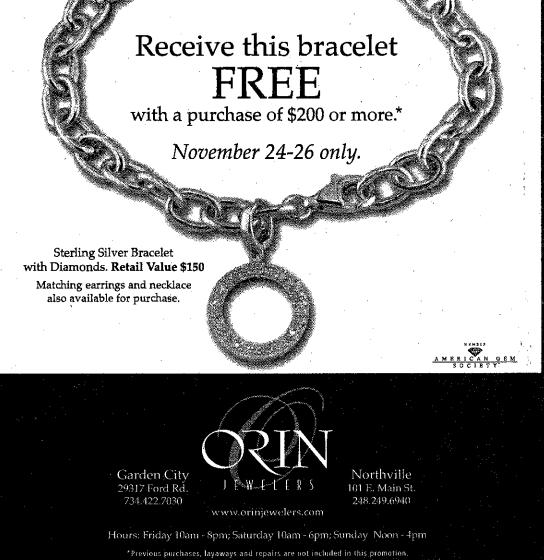
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FROM PAGE A1

Thursday and blasted city and county officials for the way they handled the park controversy.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 23, 2006

Lead was found in elevated levels mostly on the ball diamonds. Officials have called it unlikely that park users would have come into contact with enough soil to pose any real health threat.

Speaking during a Westland City Council meeting, Cicirelli said she hopes that cleanup efforts can begin by early spring in the limited areas mostly the ball diamonds where elevated lead contamination is known.

The scope of the problem will be more fully known as early as next week, when officials expect to receive results of new soil tests conducted earlier this month.

Officials hope that most of the park will be in use by sometime next year, although no one can yet say with certainty. The park hosts activities ranging from Little League baseball to the Westland Summer Festival.

The park controversy continued to fuel some criticism during Monday's council meeting - though nothing like the heated attacks that erupted last Thursday.

Parent Velda Garcia, who spoke during both meetings, said Monday that government officials should move quickly to clean up the park.

She said private residents would be forced to take quick action for similar problems on their property.

Garden City resident Teresa Waterkamp, formerly of Westland, said that her sons played ball in the park and that



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli assured residents Monday evening that the water in the park's Friendship Lake also will be tested for possible contamination.



Marcia Burgess (from left), visiting from Florida, walks with Ivana Zavodsky, 2, and her mother Damyana, both of Canton, along the path at Central City Park Monday afternoon.

her extended family helped build the children's playscape. She told Cicirelli that she should be ashamed for not acknowledging the lead contamination until earlier this

month. Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt repeated her criticism of the city for not taping last Thursday's meeting and showing it on Westland cable

station WLND for residents who couldn't attend the session.

Council President William Wild responded that most study sessions, such as the one last week, aren't usually taped and shown on cable. He said the council typically airs only its regular business meetings.

aged to try what was on

salty," said McKolay,

explaining that "the

dried beef.

their plate, especially the

"It's real soft, but it's real

Pilgrims didn't have refrig-

their food. That's how they

erators, they had to dry

had to preserve things." Reaction to the thinly sliced meat was mixed. While 8-year-old Kylie Strong said the meat

smelled "like cat food,"

"salty," but good tasting.

the pie," she said.

cream.

beef.

for food."

Courtney Walsh, 8, found it

"I liked the beef and I like

Yes, the pumpkin pie was

the big hit of the feast with

students asking for seconds

cream. There were requests,

however, for just whipped

Downing liked the soup a

lot — "All the stuff in it is

good" - but skipped the

"I didn't expect to have

this much food because the

Pilgrims didn't have any-

thing," she said. "They had

and gave it to the Pilgrims

to help out," added Jamie's

While the contents of the

meal were somewhat of a

surprise for the kindergart-

ners, it was nothing new for

their reading buddles who enjoyed the same feast their

reading buddy, Amber

Ritter, known as Little

Dolphin for the feast.

first year of school.

to plant seeds in the ground

"The Indians planted food

with plenty of whipped

Six-year-old Jamie

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Schweitzer Elementary kindergarten teacher Jennifer Ferris reads 'The Very First Thanksgiving Day' to her students before their feast. THANKSGIVING FROM PAGE A1 dried beef, dried apricots, cranberries and banana chips, and such modern day delights as trail mix, popcorn, juice boxes and pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Youngsters were encour-

Third-grader Julia Lyle (from left), kindergartner Alexia Daygsa and third-grader Shiann Scalf dance to the Pow Wow song in preparation for their Thanksgiving feast.

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FROM PAGE A1

for," he said. Bringing a gun to school is in violation of the district's weapons-free school zone and the teen will face "appropriate due process," Baracy said.

"It appears from what we know at this time there will likely be a mandatory expulsion," he added.

In the letter sent home to parents, Marshall Principal Robert Van Vulkenberg also asked parents to discuss the danger of handling weapons with children and pointed out that weapons should be "kept under lock in a secure location.'

"Parents, number one, need to talk to their children about safety, violence, weapons and what to do if they come in contact with one," Baracy added. "This student acted very responsibly and did the right thing."

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Jack DeJack (left) and Reshard Kanady, dressed as native Indians, dance with the kindergartners, dressed as pilgrims, at their Thanksgiving celebration.

Third-graders

Robert Martin, 8, "pretty much ate everything except the dried fruit," but was there for the dessert.

"I pretty much like the pie," he said trying to wrangle a third slice. "I'm here for the pie."

Before their classroom feasts, students gathered in the school gym where they gathered in two circles to dance to several native American songs. One was a drum beat, while the other. Pow Wow, spoke of flying like an eagle, running like a deer and growling like a

The youngsters growled loudly like a bear and howled at the moon, and in the case of McKolay's students, danced around a fire

made of pieces of wood and construction paper flames.

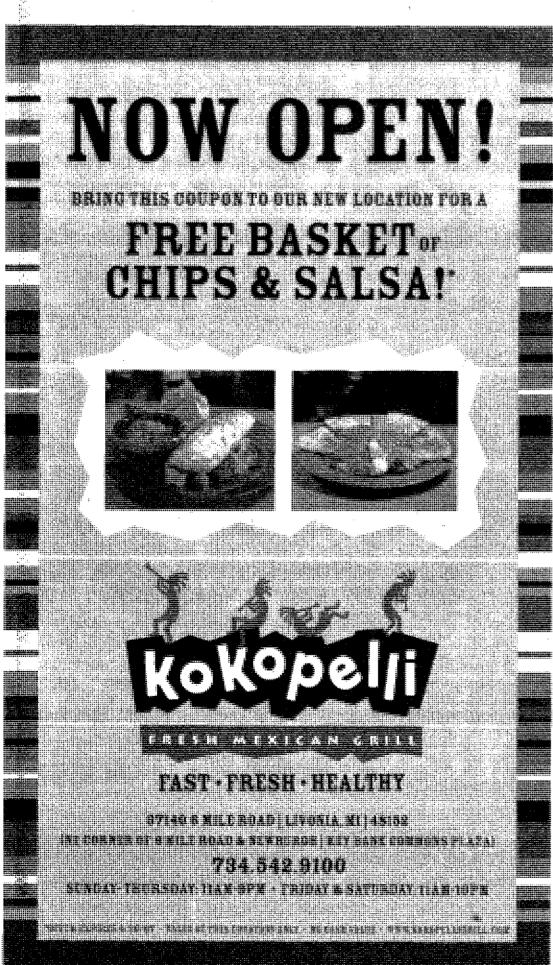
And like the early settlers, these young Pilgrims also exchanged gifts with their guests. They gave their reading buddies necklaces made of hand-dyed noodles and received handmade beaded necklaces in return.

There also were Happy Thanksgiving cards.

"I really like being your buddy," wrote Amber. "I think you're really friendly." "I am," said Jamie with a

smile. A similar note from buddy Kylie to Jamie's sister, Emily, acknowledged the youngster as "sweet."

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Hospital reunion

The 22nd annual holiday reunion of former Wayne County General Hospital's staff and retirees is scheduled for 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Golden Corral restaurant, on Warren Road between Newburgh and Central City Parkway. The reunion will be

held in a private dining room.
Anyone associated with the hospital is invited to attend.
For more information, call Patricia Ibbotson at (734) 561-0177.

The hospital on Merriman Road closed in 1984, and the building was torn down in 2000. Many people have connections with the hospital or worked in the buildings on the grounds, including the Eloise Post Office, which closed in 1979, or the commissary, which is now used as a homeless shelter.

Blood drive

VFW Post 3323 will start off the holiday season with a Red Cross blood drive 1-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24. Call the post at (734) 721-9876 for more information.

Country breakfast

AMVETS Post 171 and its auxiliary will hold a country breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Nov. 26, 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.

Got a mocktail?

Share a favorite non-alcoholic drink for a chance to win a gift certificate for stores at Westland Shopping Center.

The Southeast Michigan
Community Alliance and
Mothers Against Drunk
Driving are looking for the
tastiest holiday drinks to be
featured at the Holiday
Mocktail Mixer 11:30 a.m. to 1
p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at the
mall's east court.

There will be first-, secondand third-place gift certificates awarded.

Drop off recipes at the mall Information Desk, e-mail them to Wendy Harless at wendyh@semca.org or mail them to 25363 Eureka, Taylor MI 48180. All entries must be received by Friday, Dec. 1.

For more information, visit www.semcaprevention.org.

Talk about SciFi

What if *The War of the Worlds* started in Westland?

H.G. Wells' classic story isn't based in Westland, but a new science fiction forum is. The Westland public library

will host a science fiction and fantasy discussion group at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29. It's free, and the public is invited. "I'm looking more for adults

"I'm looking more for adults, anyone 20 and over," reference librarian Jane Lowry said. "It's for anyone that reads science fiction or fantasy."

A flier for the group seeks participants to "engage in spirited discussion" during "kind of an intellectual party about aliens" and other things science fiction.

Oh, and cookies will be served, but don't worry: They're made by humans, not aliens.

Diabetes programs

The CVS Pharmacy at 37530 Cherry Hill, Westland, will offer a program on Managing Your Diabetes 3-6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27.

Participants will learn how to control diabetes and manage their medications, as well as get tips on making healthy lifestyle choices. They also will have a chance to speak to an expert about diabetic supplies and get a free glucose screening.

For more information, call (734) 727-0322.

The program also will be offered at the CVS Pharmacy at 31411 Cherry Hill, Westland 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30. For more information, call (734) 326-2990.

Craft Show

Lutheran High Westland will hold an arts and craft show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1-2, at the school 33300 Cowan east of Wayne Road.

A variety of items will be featured at the juried show, including work by Gary and Jan Bower of Traverse City. Jan Bower is an oil painter who

Food fest

does exquisite portraits, main-

band has authored a children's

Also featured will be Jim

Highland, who does oil paint-

ings of area landmarks. A par-

show, he will be back with new

Lunch will be available, and

there also will be a bake sale,

prizes and Kid's Craft Corner.

For more information, call

entertainment, hourly door

ly of children, while her hus-

boo, I'm a Michigan Kid,

Williams, the artist from

ticipant in the spring craft

designs, such as Comerica

Park, Santa at 12th floor of

Hudson's, Ford Field, the

Palace, and others.

(734) 422-2090.

which she illustrated.

Holiday Taste Fest, featuring food and drink from 19 vendors, mostly restaurants, will come to the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Admission is \$20 per person for the event, sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

The Hellenic Cultural Center is on Joy Road east of Newburgh.

Tickets may be bought 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays at chamber offices on Ford Road east of Newburgh. The event also will include entertainment. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-

Christmas Extravaganza

The Westland senior Friendship Center will hold its annual Christmas Extravaganza noon-3 p.m.

Extravaganza noon-3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at the center 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. with the Fabulous Fest served at noon. There will be an opportunity for pictures with Santa Claus, a sing-along with the Friendship Center Chorus, entertainment by the Tommie James Trio with Michael Carluccio and gifts.

Tickets are \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members.
They're on sale at the

Friendship Center. For more information, call (734) 722-7628

Scrapbooking event

Scrapbookers and picture people are invited to Another Hot Crop! and Holiday Open House 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Sponsored by the Westland Jaycees, the event allows scrapbookers the time and space to devote to their scrapbooks and pick up new ideas, tips and techniques. Nonscrapbookers and beginners can learn how to preserve their memories and photos.

The cost is \$35 for the all day crop. It includes lunch and

dinner, goody bag, cropping space and much more. Album supplies and tools will be availed able for purchase.

able for purchase.

The event will benefit the
Westland Fire Department
which is raising money to pur-

chase a thermal imager.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call Lisa
Graham at (734) 718-5705 or contact her by e-mail at
Lisa.Graham@sbcglobal.net:

Book sale

The Friends of the Library will hold a book sale Dec., 8-10, at the William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.



<u>Parinam yresetiyi birxayada ildin idagaran iliyoni bir dalaraya bilanga bilalara ilili il aktar bala bala</u>

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Cameo Bond, Shayna Bono, Jessica Boone, Gabrielle Borden, Danielle Borg, Samantha Boslooper, Danielle Boston, Deanna Boston, Christopher Bowie, Amanda Bowman, James Boyce, Joshua Bradford, Joshua Bradley, Yolanda Bray, Lekaya Brinson, David Brooks, Chante Browder, Andrea Brown, Jackson Brown, Jessica Brown, Rickelle Brown, Jonathan Bryant.

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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@hometownlife.com, For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday concerts

The Oakland Community College Chorale with the Orchard Ridge Choral Society in Farmington, Michigan is presenting a series of two holiday concerts, featuring a mix of classical and contemporary favorites, including Hodie Christus Natus Est, Gaudete, O Magnum Mysterium, Torches, Still Still, Still, Carol of the Bells and many more. These 40 mixed voices will perform their repertoire under the direction of Gerald Custer, with piano accompaniment by MaryAnn Balduf.

Their first holiday concert will be at the Oakland Community College Smith Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. The college is on the Orchard Lake Road exit, south of I-696. The second concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the First Presbyterian

Church, 26165 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 474-6170.

Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. See what Girl Scouts has to offer, Call (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688.)

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A perfect addition to

baby's scrapbook!

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Observer & Eccentric

Urban Singles presents "Ring in the New Year," with live entertainment from Jimmy Howard and Company Sunday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the party goes until 1 a.m. The party takes place at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia (between Merriman and Middlebelt). Tickets are \$50 per person until Dec. B; \$60 after Dec. 8, and cover dinner and beverage. Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations will be

available. Deadline for tickets is Friday, Dec. 22. For more information, call Linda, (734) 507-9173, or Mary Ann, (734) 654-0115.

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-

Advocacy group The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally III, 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 (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) No. 28 meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Weighin is 6-6:45 p.m. For more information. call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

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.

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 also offered, Call (734) 459-7477.

and Cesarean birth preparation are 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-

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 packet. 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. For information, 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 biggo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323. 35 (3)

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, 31117 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.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information, Call (734) 722-7632. Senior dinners The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts

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

Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 50. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The

exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center

Travel Group

or call (734) 722-7632.

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

Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads, Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. Call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

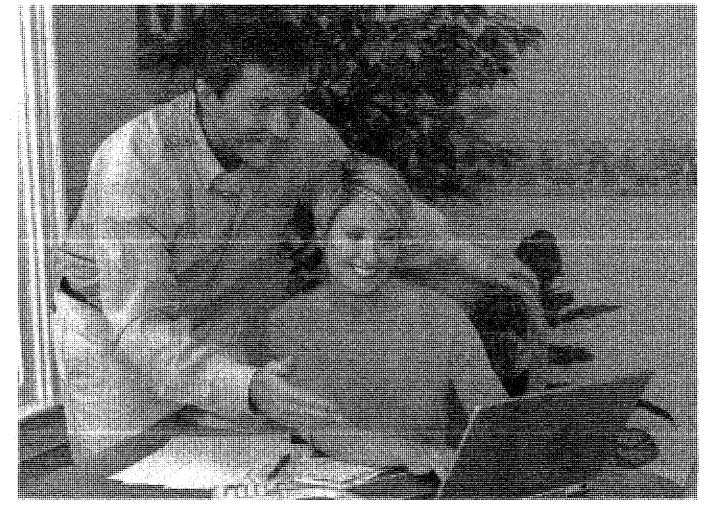
Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat, zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/Plymouth CantonVVA for more information.

Friends of library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each. month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

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U-M-Dearborn lauded for prison program

The American Association of University Women's Legal Advocacy Fund granted the University of Michigan, Dearborn the 2006 Progress in Equity Award for its efforts to educate women in a local prison.

The university's College Level Courses at the Scott Correctional Facility for Women offers universitycertified courses in women's studies, composition, sociology, African American studies, and other subjects to women at the prison. Courses are taught by university professors on a volunteer basis.

"We are honored to recognize this innovative program," said AAUW Educational Foundation President Barbara O'Connor. "We continue to be impressed by the important work it does to advance women's educational opportunities in a critically underserved population."

The program's effects are two-fold - giving female prisoners hope to overcome life's obstacles, and compelling the community to challenge conventional stereotypes about women in prison. The program will

receive \$5,000 from AAUW. "Women who receive a college education or begin the degree process while in prison fare better when they rejoin society than those

who do not," said Program Director and University of Michigan at Dearborn Professor Lisa Lempert.

"College builds a context for transformation and responsibility that the women take with them as they leave the facility."

The Progress in Equity Award recognizes a college or university program that promotes equity for women with a cash reward. Since 1987, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has recognized more than 38 programs throughout the country for progressive and innovative advancements on behalf of women.

"When the Michigan legislature made it illegal to use tax dollars for inmate college tuition, this enterprising group of volunteers stepped in to fill a critical need and give a second chance to women in prison," said Lisa Maatz, interim director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

The University of Hawaii, Honolulu received an honorable mention for its Bridge of Hope program, which provides on-campus student employment and support programs for welfare recipients.

An awards presentation was held Nov. 16 at the University of Michigan, Dearborn campus to honor the Scott Prison project.

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McCotter elected chair of Policy Committee

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, was elected by his colleagues to serve as chairman of the. Republican House Policy Committee during Republican Conference Leadership elections Friday.

The position is the fourth highest leadership position in the Republican House Caucus.

McCotter defeated U.S. Rep. Darryl Issa of California, 132-63, for the spot. The policy committee has been part of the Republican leadership since the late 1940s. The committee helps shape Republican policy positions in general and on specific key issues.

"Especially coming from our area you could tell they were ideologically adrift and the corruption was more a symptom of lacking a principled agenda to push," McCotter said Monday about the scandals involving GOP House members and the subsequent loss of the House majority to the Democrats.

Without that agenda, he said, some members of the Republican party were tempted to succumb to the temptations offered to members of Congress.



was able to win the support of unior House members and 'backbenchers' who haven't been in the

He said he

Congress for 10 or 12 years during the GOP's domi-

nance of the House. We came in as true believers," McCotter said. He was first elected in 2002.

He said his first task will be structural, promoting more interaction between party members on issues they can unite behind.

You have to talk to each other, you have to put forward the conclusions you reach," he

He compared himself to a conductor bringing the members together.

He said two issues are at the forefront, health care and the war in Iraq.

"No doubt (health care) will be a contentious issue between the two parties, between universal coverage and universal access," he said.

He said he would push for universal access through private insurance rather than a government program.

On Iraq, McCotter said the "Fresh Eyes Committee," which he supported, will be issuing its report shortly.

"It's important to remember that this is not to be the final word on the subject," he said.

He said it will be important for Republicans to clearly

articulate their differences. McCotter also said he wants to find a way to work with the

Democratic majority. "The key for my party is that they not only offer loyal opposition but also loyal cooperation and not oppose just to oppose," he said.

McCotter said he learned a valuable lesson when he was a minority member of the Wayne County Commission. He said then County Executive Ed

McNamara always demanded that the Republicans on the commission offer a better alternative. McCotter joked that the alternatives were always dismissed but he learned the importance of presenting another option.

McCotter said he had expected John Boehner of Ohio to be elected minority leader, as he has only been the majority leader for eight months. He said Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert "took a hit" for the party by stepping aside from the leadership election and allowing the party to move forward with a new slate of leaders.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2149



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Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain and how this accidental discovery has let to the most promising back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the

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Thursday, November 23, 2006

OUR VIEWS

Board fails by not sharing retreat info

There are minimum requirements and there are expectations.

Last week, the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education met the minimum requirement in announcing a school board retreat meeting. What they didn't do, however, is meet the community's expectations.

This community expects, and has every right to demand, that the school board do a better job in communicating with it. The irony here is that the subject of this board retreat was working with and communicating with the community.

The fact that the board canceled its committee of the whole meeting, that had been scheduled for Nov. 13, and replaced it with a retreat isn't a big deal. The fact that officials posted that notice on the board office doors, as required by the Michigan Open Meetings Act, met the law. Posting the cancellation of the committee meeting on the district's Web site certainly made sense. But why then, didn't the Web site include anything about the retreat being scheduled?

It has been well-documented that the community's reaction to the Legacy Initiative and the subsequent recall effort had a lot to do with the feeling by many that the board and school administrators was an exclusive club, that the general community wasn't really invited to participate. School officials surely know that, just because nobody may have visited board retreats in the past, things are different now. Members of the Citizens for Livonia's Future and others in the community have said quite specifically that they will be attentive, ask questions and attend these meetings, and they have certainly kept that pledge.

This community expects its board members and school administrators to do their part to go beyond the legal minimum requirements by, in this case, at least using their Web site to share information about its meeting plans.

Traditions make Thanksgiving everyone's favorite holiday

Thanksgiving is everyone's favorite holiday.

It hasn't been diminished by commercialism or robbed of its true meaning, as have the three-day summer holi-

Thanksgiving remains a day for family, friends, good food and a sincere sense of gratitude for the blessings of life in this great country.

In southeast Michigan, Thanksgiving has long been both a public and a private holiday. The city is host to one of the largest, most colorful and high-spirited parades in the country. It's a parade of magical floats and balloons

designed by children, local high school bands and a legion of volunteer float builders, marchers and clowns.

For generations, the little children of this area have always marked the beginning of Christmas magic with the arrival of Santa's sleigh down Woodward at the Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Since 1934, the Detroit Lions have also part been Thanksgiving. In that first Thanksgiving confrontation, the Lions lost to the Chicago

Bears 19-16. But through good years and bad, the Lions have made their place into millions of homes for the holi-

But as important as these public traditions are, it is the special family traditions that matter most: the special recipes that make their way to the holiday table whether anyone really enjoys them or not; the college students who return to the family hearth for the first time since leaving for campus and then head out to meet with friends, making the night before Thanksgiving the most lucrative for taverns; the ritual moments at every dinner - the moment for grace, the carving of the turkey, the choosing between the pumpkin and the apple pie; and, best of all, the flood of memories of all those past gatherings of family and friends. Even the inevitable family squabbles have their place in our Thanksgiving memo-

We have much to remember and much for which to be grateful.

Keep hope alive and have a happy Thanksgiving!



PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY e)GANNETT

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Hugh Gallagher

Managing Editor

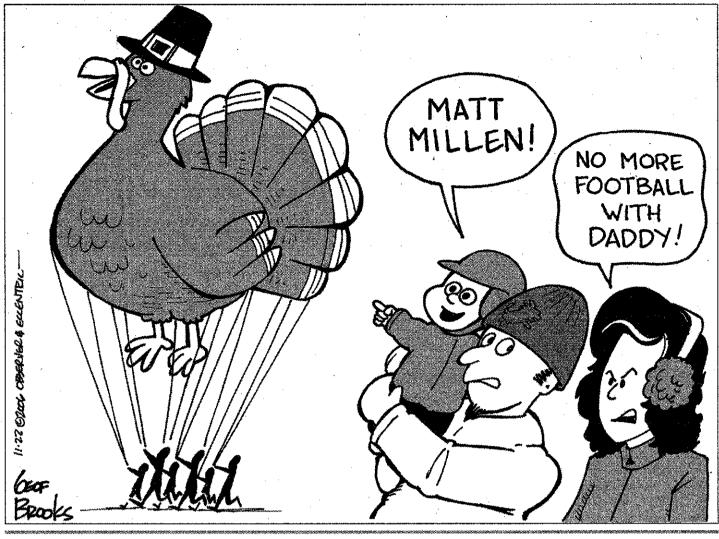
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.



LETTERS

Thanks for support

I wish to say thank you and to express my sincere appreciation to the Westland community for supporting my state representative candidacy on Nov. 7. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve our residents in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Our team of supporters, volunteers, friends and family members worked hard to ensure a solid victory, with emphasis on my 12-year record of elective service and a focus on the issues that matter most to the citizens of Westland. It was a pleasure to campaign in an issue-oriented election, and my opponents, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Durante, deserve credit for their campaigns, too.

Special thanks go out to Senator-Elect Glenn Anderson. My good friend of nearly two decades is as selfless as a person can be. Always looking out for those who need assistance, Glenn also believes in the importance of encouraging others to contribute to a better community. It was with his guidance that I became elected to the City Council, and most recently to gain your support for his current State Representative seat. I look forward to working with him at very excited at how beneficial this will be for our city.

As we move toward 2007 and the new term of this elected office, my pledge is that I will continue to represent you in the same way I have for more than 12 years as a councilman and as a school board member. You can expect that I will uphold the honor that my predecessors have established and that I will cast votes that are absolutely in the best interests of Westland, its business community and its residents.

Richard LeBlanc councilman and state representative-elect, 18th District

Buck stops with mayor

In the most recent council meeting, Mr. Pickering said if he would have been confronted by a newspaper reporter, he would have talked to the mayor. Mr. Pickering, you've got it backward. The mayor knew about the lead at the park. It was her responsibility to let the council and the public know about the problem. If she had been forthright and not derelict in her duties, there would have been no need for the reporter to contact Mrs. Graunstadt.

A few of the councilmen have on more than one occasion been sarcastic and belittled Mrs. Graunstadt when they have not agreed with her opinion. However, they did not point fingers in this instance.

You, Mr. Pickering, on the other hand, chose to pass the buck to Mrs. Graunstadt. The buck stops with the mayor, and she should have to answer as to why she kept the information a secret, jeopardizing the health of children and adults who frequented the park. This should be done before she leaves her position as mayor.

Shirley Tenney Westland

1st leaf pickup was too early

I could not figure out why Mr. Tom Wilson and Kevin Buford scheduled the first leaf pickup so early in the month of October. There weren't any leaves on the ground yet.

Instead of pulling the crews and expensive equipment that day and put them on another detail/job, you let them go through the entire Norwayne project for a whole day picking five leaves at a time.

This time your crews scraped up the leaves very well, and the leaf vacuum workers hardly even tried to swing that vacuum anywhere.

If you need advice, please contact me. Joseph Owen-Jarvis

Westland Difficult situation for district

The Citizens for Livonia's Future Organization is saddened by the reported loss of student population within the district. The numbers go well beyond the original amount budgeted for a loss of approximately 160 students, and are an indication of more difficult times yet to come. These losses, and the subsequent statements by the board of education, and the superintendent, that are often conflicting and confusing, only indicate that further monies are going to be depleted from the fund equity as stated by Dr. Liepa. This threatens to plunge the district into further financial stress and is not solid financial planning for

This is the same fund equity that was quoted by the administration and the BOE as being so low, and whose financial data was used to justify the passing of the Legacy Initiative, and at the time as quoted by a few of the BOE Trustees, "We may not have a high school in a few years," or "We are 'this close' to receivership," that now has enough in it to supplement what may amount to millions of dollars in losses. The continued deficit budgeting, poor financial decisions and management, and the lack of clear, concise data to support these decisions, has made this a very difficult situation for the entire Livonia Public Schools School District community. When many of our surrounding communities report increases in enrollments, or losses that are less than have been budgeted for, the community cannot ignore the true reasons for the losses within

our own district. It is our sincere hope that these budget shortfalls, and the further erosion of the fund equity do not lead to any further staff reductions, or deter the efforts of many concerned citizens who are working hand in hand with the district on programs such as the DARE, anti-bullying, and drug prevention in an effort to protect and enhance the total learning experience for all students. Our goal should be for all citizens, business owners, community leaders, board of education, and LPS administration to work together to determine what is best for the long-term retention of students, as well as providing a high-quality school configuration that will draw increased enrollment to a once proud and thriving school district.

Brad Wolkan Citizens for Livonia's Future

Return neighborhood schools

As the district has not yet released the official student count, but has stated in the Nov. 2 Observer "the estimate was about 2.5 percent," which equals 425 students, I am deeply concerned with the district's financial situation under the Legacy Initiative.

If you subtract approximately 160 students, which represents the district's anticipated loss, we are still at an additional loss of 265 students.

The original concern over the Legacy Initiative was if 174 students (\$1,484,000 legacy minimal savings/\$8,537, the 2006/2007 student expenditure) have left this district, the 1 percent Legacy savings is gone. At 265 students lost, we are at a huge deficit of \$2.2 million dollars. (\$265 x \$8,537 = \$2,262,305). That is 1.5 times greater than the 1 percent savings. And that figure does not include the numerous additional Legacy costs (parking lot paving/roads, \$1 million possible).

Do we have a plan "B" in place? What will the district do "if" these students do not return? If a high percentage of those that left the district attend private schools, those homes will not be available for new students. Thus, the savings is gone for good.

I am not asking this question because I wish the Legacy to fail, I am asking this question as it has been a genuine concern from day one. During the election last May, members of this board were quoted as stating our fund equity was dangerously low and we may be close to receivership. To say now that "finances were not the biggest issue we were facing" is just a shell game.

How is it in May and June of this year we were broke, now just a few months later, our district has so much money in our fund ance the mid-year budget deficit.

I would hope if the Legacy is not the plan it was thought to be, our district would do the right thing and return to the neighborhood school system Livonia has always been proud of.

> Ed and Kim Naccashian Livonia

Coleman out of line

The day after elections, I was amazed at the arrogance of Mary Sue Coleman, the University of Michigan president, on television telling the taxpayers of Michigan how she and her lawyers are going to fight the installation of Prop. 2.

Who pays for this? The citizens who just voted in the proposal? I thought U-M was a state university supported by the citizen taxpayers of Michigan who passed a proposal by a wide margin to eliminate entrance discrimination. Who is this person telling the Michigan taxpayers that she is going to do what she wants, didn't we hire her and pay her salary? She's not the CEO of a private company but the president of a great state university. The citizens of Michigan do not want the University of Michigan to be the "left coast" university of the Midwest.

Richard Giles Canton

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

Mail:

Letters to the editor Westland Observer 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150

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QUOTABLE

"It assumes that the entire area is used like the back yard of a house. If you contact the soil, you may have an issue."

- James Harless, a senior soils and material consultant representing Wayne County, about testing being done at Central City Park.

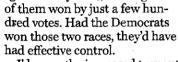
Michigan needs big ideas from leaders of both parties

o now that the votes are counted, the victors promoted and the losers sent off to weep, what do we make of the election results?

A lot. Let's start with a quick look at the numbers. Turnout was way up: A total of 3,833,535 people voted, nearly half a million more than predicted. The turnout was higher still than in 2002, and Gov. Jennifer Granholm won five out of six of

To the astonishment of everybody (including the Democrats!) control of the Michigan House of Representatives flipped, with Democrats gaining six seats for a 58-52 majority.

Senate Republicans, who had looked more vulnerable than their House allies before voting day, wound up keeping control by 21-17, although two



I'd guess the increased turnout was a result of massive spending by all parties (it was the most expensive election in Michigan history, hands down). GOP challenger Dick DeVos spent more than \$41 million of his own money. Ironically, it appears the new voters his spending brought

out voted overwhelmingly for Granholm. Sen. Debbie Stabenow crushed her Republican rival, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard, by an even bigger margin.

Power

So was the election a "tsunami" in favor of the Democrats? Only ... sort of. Though Granholm won re-election by a whopping 56 to 42 percent and Democrats overall were hot to vote against the Bush administration, elections expert Mark Grebner thinks the core Democratic vote was not much larger than usual.

If anybody can be said to have won, it was the moderates, the centrists, the muscular middle, the sensible center — take your pick of names. One compelling fact: Of voters who call themselves independents, Granholm and Stabenow took around 70 percent.

For the last several election cycles, the prevailing wisdom amongst politicians has been that you should concentrate on turning out your committed partisan base and forget about the folks in the middle. Wrong! Swing voters do matter. Persistently disrespecting them is a recipe

for political trouble, as this year proved. The big mistake Democrats could make from this big win is to figure they've got a lock on the future and they can go back to being subservient to

their traditional labor and liberal paymasters. Wrong again! Many of the successful Democratic candidates were moderates, not ideological lefties. Democrats may have banked the majority of votes, but those

votes were loaned by middle-of-the road voters.

That loan can be called in, pronto, if the

Democrats screw up.

As for the Republicans, there appears to be an emerging split between those who think it would be wiser to moderate their approach and try a little bipartisanship and those who think the GOP conservative message needs to be sharpened, if any-

Tom Shields, a smart Republican pollster and strategist, told the annual postelection "pundit summit" in Lansing last week that "Republicans really have to sharpen the differences between the two parties in order to succeed."

We'll get a pretty good idea of where the GOP is headed when talk turns to what to do about the repealed Single Business Tax.

Granholm last year proposed a fairly moderate package that was arguably revenue-neutral; Republicans trashed it in the Legislature and dumped on it in hearings all over the state. Spearheaded by the state Chamber of Commerce, some business types in recent months have been beating the drum for a net business tax cut of around \$500 million in any SBT replace-

Granholm's hand will be strengthened after the turn of the year when Democrats take control of the House. For the sake of the state, I hope moderates of both parties in the House and the Senate will decide to work with Granholm on the SBT.

Certainly, our business tax system needs bigtime reform. But yanking another \$500 million out of state tax revenues, on top of a pre-existing billion-dollar-plus structural budget deficit, is just irresponsible. We are already a below-average tax state. And if Michigan is going to put in place a serious restructuring plan to get through our current economic crisis and lay the foundation for a more prosperous future, we're going to have to think boldly.

We need to move toward a knowledge economy. We've got to develop a public investment program to accentuate our state's enduring competitive assets such as our research universities and our environmental wonders. We must change our culture of dependency, entitlement and avoiding risks

And we certainly have to change the workings of our dysfunctional political system. Big problems call for big ideas. But big ideas need to be broadly acceptable across a spectrum of Republicans and Democrats, in both the governor's office and the Legislature. Thanks to this remarkable election, we now have a prospect of doing that, if we and our leaders step up to the plate.

Phil Power is founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@hcn-

Funeral was about a Marine's honor, and a mother's love

s hundreds of people filed past the coffin of Sgt. Bryan Burgess on Saturday at St. Bernardine of Siena Catholic Church in Westland, representatives of a couple of different support groups waited nervously for his mother, Evelyn, to arrive.

They were there to make presentations honoring her son, who died Nov. 9 when a sniper's bullet caught him in the cheek, killing him instantly while on patrol with the 1st Battalion of the 24th Marines in Fallujah. They were there to offer support to Evelyn Burgess, whom they'd never met.

But it was Evelyn Burgess, a Westland mother there to bury her son, who did most

of the supporting, stoically accepting the embraces of these groups, most of whom were moved to tears. Evelyn suffered them gladly, a grateful smile adorning her face, the tired face of a mother who'd just lost her only child. Summoning the strength

maybe only a mother can

have, she then made her way Kadrich to the coffin. She caressed

Bryan's face, held his hand for just a moment, let him know one last time she loved him. And then she let him go.

There was no outward bitterness, no anger at the senseless loss — emotions to which she certainly is entitled. But you got the sense watching her, and listening to his friends and fellow Marines talking about him, that that's not what Burgess, a Westland native who went to Franklin High School, would have

"He loved being a Marine ... I'm very proud of him," she said.

Loved it so much he went to Iraq when it wasn't really necessary. He'd served around the world, taking part in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and spending time training against terrorists in Africa and with soldiers from other countries in South America.

But when his unit — the largest Michigan contingent to serve in Iraq - was going back, Burgess, 35, wanted to make sure the younger guys had guidance.

"He wanted to go to Iraq to make sure the younger guys, who didn't have the experience, were OK," said Sgt. Bradley Compton, 26, a Marine Reserve veteran who had deployed with Burgess before. "He worked really well with the younger Marines, and they had an enormous amount of respect for him. He had outstanding leadership ability."

When I was a youngster, my mother used to tell me, "Mommies know everything." Burgess' mom knew something was wrong

when three Marines showed up at her doorstep. When you've got a son deployed overseas in a war, that's the last sight you

"He had only been in Iraq for six weeks and I was afraid for him ... he was on my mind 24 hours a day," Evelyn Burgess said.
"But he wanted to serve his country and be with his fellow Marines. I knew something was wrong; I knew he was gone."

Mommies know everything. There were rumors that the group associated with Fred Phelps, the leader of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., that has been protesting at soldiers' funerals, espousing anti-gay views, planned to show up Saturday. One of Phelps' beliefs is that the war in Iraq is going so badly as a way of God punishing the United States for being tolerant of gays. Ironically, as despicable as such a protest would have been, it's entirely possible' Burgess, who died serving a country that wholeheartedly embraces the concept of freedom of speech, would have said, "Let them have their say."

Thankfully, we'll never know, because the group didn't show up, allowing the day to be solely about honor, about a soldier who died doing a job that wasn't his, because that's how he was, by all accounts.

It was a trait the Rev. Sal Briffa, pastor of St. Bernardine, extolled during Saturday's Mass, when he talked about Burgess' penchant for helping others, from fellow Marines to next-door neighbors to total strangers in a culture thousands of miles removed from his own.

'We know Bryan's death is not meaningless," Briffa said. "Bryan offered his very life to bring peace and freedom to millions of people in Iraq."

Saturday was about honor, from the Marine procession that stopped in front of Evelyn Burgess' Westland home and rendered her a salute, to a mother who gave her only son in service to his country.

And when it was over, after tears had been shed and Taps and Amazing Grace had been his played and the 21-gun salute had been rendered, this was about a mother who let her son go, secure in and comforted by the knowledge he'd died his way — serving his country, with honor.

Mommies know everything.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth* Observer who spent 15 years in the U.S. Air Force. He can be reached via e-mail at

bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-% 2700. Staff writer Tony Bruscato contributed to this

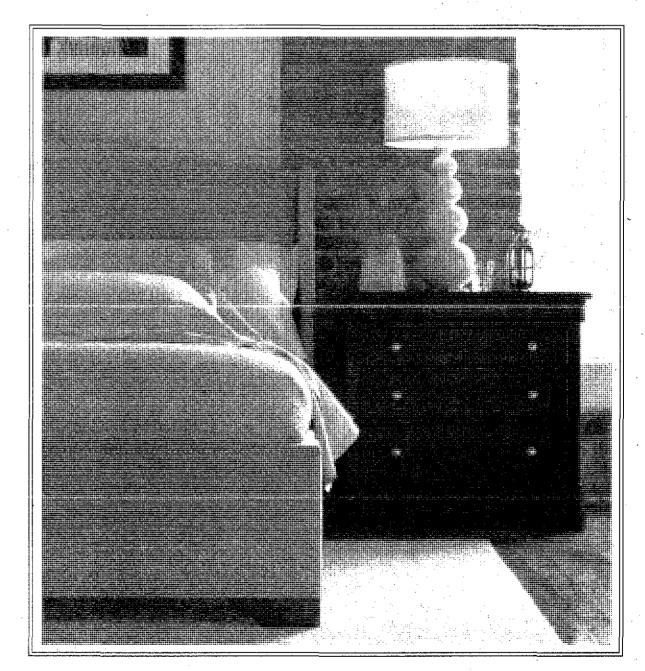
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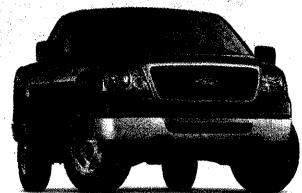


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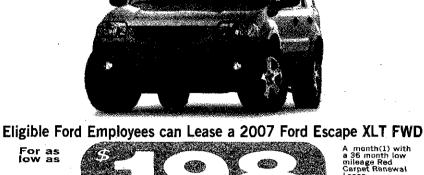


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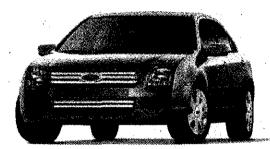
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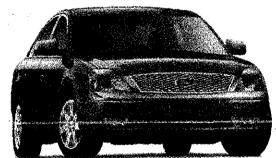


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Area educators visit China on bridge-building mission

Knowledge is power!
Most of us have heard this statement sometime in our life. Yet, it could not be more true as we enter the 21st-century "knowledge" economy where technology has knocked down walls and political boundaries like no other time in human history.

It was this quest for knowledge that led 18 metro-area educators and business officials to accept an invitation to visit China from Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese language Council International, a non-governmental and non-profit organization affiliated with the National Ministry of

Republic of China.

The goal of Hanban is "making the Chinese language and culture teaching available to the world to contribute to the formation of a world of cultural diversity and harmony."

Education of the People's

Our delegation's goal is to continue to find ways to build bridges with Chinese educators and to secure English-speaking Chinese teachers who will come to Michigan to teach Chinese language, history and culture to our students to help prepare them for the transformational, disruptive, technological-driven global economy they will face.

As educators and business leaders, the participants of this education delegation to China believe that if Michigan wants to survive and thrive in the flattened world economy it is critical to find ways to build bridges and not dig moats with our Chinese colleagues. It was toward this end that we embarked last month on a 10day, three-city tour of China (Beijing, Tianjin, and Xian) as the guests of the Office of Chinese Language Council International (www.english.hanban.edu.cn).

This was my ninth trip to China since 1989. A great elementary teacher opened my eves to China many years ago and I have been fascinated ever since. I co-led this delegation along with Lily Yen, COO of the Center for Management Training and Development and her husband Dr. Louis Yen. This is our second delegation in the past two years and we will continue to seek to build language, cultural and economic bridges between China and the state of Michigan.

AREA DELEGATION

Our delegation consisted of two former state board of education members, two local school board members, an Intermediate school board member, an Oakland County Circuit Court judge, principals from public and private schools, a superintendent, two

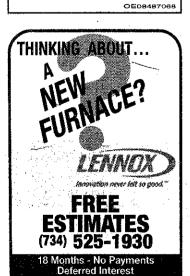
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Tom Watkins

assistant superintendents and a representative from the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

If you concur with the statement that "knowledge is power," ask yourself how much you know about China? Did you know that China is home to 1.3 billion people, with more than 100 cities that have a population of more than 1 million people?

I wrote this while sitting in my hotel room in Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China, which is a city with more than 12 million people. To put that number in perspective, there are 10 million people living in the entire state of Michigan. Imagine everyone in Michigan jammed into Wayne County, plus 2 million people, and you can perhaps begin to comprehend the sheer magnitude of the humanity I could see as dawn broke in this capital city. There is so much building going on in China that the joke is that the nation's bird is the "building

crane!

Did youknow that more people know or are studying English in China than there are people in the United States? Did you know that more than 300 million people, the same number of U.S. citizens, have risen from poverty in China during the last quarter of a century?

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world and yet it is not offered as a language in most schools across this county. The national governments both here and in China are attempting to catch up with the reality that China has awaken and will be a superpower economically and in other ways in the 21st century.

TEACHING MANDARIN

The Novi school district has broken out of the pack and taken the lead in offering Mandarin Chinese at the high school level this year. John Lawrence, principal of Novi High School, said, "the world is shrinking, and it is critical that we prepare our children and students to thrive in a global economy. Knowing the Chinese culture and language is another tool that will better prepare our kids to compete in the 21st century knowledge economy."



A detemption of extrators from the United States men with Chinese executions and stated Chinese achieves

Peter Dion, superintendent of Novi School District added, "currently 23 percent of our school population is Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Indian). We are proud that the Novi School board is forward-thinking and always striving to provide a world-class education to our children. Offering Mandarin Chinese is just another example of our progressive school district."

Mary Blackmon, president of the Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency that provides educational support services to the 34 school districts in Wayne County said: "Clearly China is on the rise economically. Educationally it is our responsibility as leaders to prepare our students to be competitive in an ever-changing world."

"Meeting and hearing Chinese students from kindergarten to high school speak English was astonishing and demonstrates that we have our work to do to make sure our students are prepared to prosper," Blackmon said.

Northville Public Schools
sent two board members —
Karen Paciorek and Marilyn
Price — on the trip. Both see
tremendous potential in edu-

cational exchanges with China.
"Wow would be an understatement!" Paciorek said. "I was impressed by the quality of the preschool and kindergarten programs I saw and it is amazing to see such young

PLEASE SEE CHINA, A20



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Area agencies stretch dollars to provide food, aid to needy

BY SHARON DARGAY STAFF WRITER

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 23, 2006

A dollar can make a difference in a needy person's life.

"One dollar to Gleaners gets 16 meals. We leverage the dollars. Because of the scope of the operation and logistics we can get a dollar to stretch much farther," said Gerry Brisson, vice president of development for Gleaners, southeastern Michigan's food bank.

"We do a lot of work with canned food drives and things of that nature, where people collect a barrel or two of food. It's not as efficient as cash, but it gets people involved. For some people a can of food is all they can donate. But because a dollar gives 16 meals, it's the easiest thing to do."

Cash - it's on all relief agencies' wish lists as the holiday season kicks into high gear starting Thanksgiving Day.

It's the most economical way to meet increasing demands which agencies experience at the holidays and have begun to see even earlier this year because of the state's poor economy.

"Money gives us the flexibility to address needs in terms of hunger and homelessness and utility costs. It helps throughout the year," said Don Czaplicki, divisional social services director for the Salvation Army in southeastern Michigan.

The corps kicked off its annual kettle campaign Friday, Nov. 17, at Campus Martius in Detroit. On Thanksgiving Day, it will serve breakWant to help? See where you can donate, page

fast at Masonic Temple to the homeless. The corps also will distribute food boxes and toys to needy families at Christmas.

"I encourage people, if they see a red kettle, please donate," Czaplicki said. "The economy has been stalled and it's hard because we have lots of people who need assistance and it's getting harder to give because they are losing jobs or are concerned about losing their jobs."

FROM FOOD BANK TO PANTRY

Brisson said Gleaners' Livingston County center has distributed 20 percent more food over the past few months in response to summer layoffs. Gleaners distributes food at low cost and in some cases for free through five centers to 400 local partners including soup kitchens, food pantries - 70 percent are faith-based shelters and crisis centers.

"There's a lag time between layoffs and the increase in demand. Even though people live paycheck to paycheck, they find a way to scrape by for a while, but unemployment isn't near what they need to survive. That's when we see a spike in demand," Brisson said.

"When you see who is served by emergency food services, so few are bums on the street. They're people you'd be surprised need help. They're your neighbors."

At Lighthouse Emergency Services in Clarkston, Connie Stapleton, manager, has seen former donors become Lighthouse recipients over the past

The agency serves 10 north Oakland communities and is allied with Lighthouse Emergency Services in Pontiac, which serves communities north of 14 Mile, between M-23 and Dequindre.

"We've had real estate agents coming in, builders coming in, contractors coming in. We have people who had good jobs and lost them. Or people trying to sell their house, they can't and the house goes into foreclosure," said Stapleton.

"The face of our clients changed over the past year. It's been dismal. Our donors are coming in for assistance.'

And that means donations are down.

Meanwhile, demands have increased. Stapleton said even those earning middle-class wages tend to cut back on little luxuries - dinners out, professional hair service - when times are tight. That, in turn, affects people in the service industry who depend on tips to make ends meet and who end up turning to agencies like Lighthouse to survive.

GIVE CASH

"What we need most is money. That will help us pay utility bills or help someone get to work if the plate on their car is expired. Or purchase food at the food bank," Stapleton said. Lighthouse Clarkston gave food to

approximately 400 people in September 2005. This year, it fed 894 people.

Lighthouse Pontiac helped 900 families and 2,867 individuals in 2005. Those numbers jumped to 1,172 households and 3,595 individuals this year.

Christine Burk, spokeswoman for Lighthouse Pontiac's holiday program, said the agency needs another 150 donors to "adopt" a family and

buy Christmas gifts for its members. "As we reach out to the community for help, people are responding if they can. People seem to recognize the need and they are rallying around their neighbors," she said.

Susan Vidican, director of Rochester Area Neighborhood House, said canned food drives at local schools have begun to replenish her agency's pantry shelves that had been empty since August.

We had to purchase food," she said. "I think one thing all agencies are doing is we recognize that our resources are limited, so we're doing a lot of partnering to make the dollars go farther."

WORKING TOGETHER

The Farmington Area Goodfellows group, for example, partners with Farmington Schools, which conducted a canned food drive this month. The Goodfellows will include the donations in its holiday distribution on Dec. 16.

"We do a lot of work with Toys for Tots. We partner with stores that we use gift certificates through," said Lisa Ellis, a Goodfellows board member. "We work with senior citizens in Farmington.

"There is greater demand this year. More families and seniors are in need. But our community mailing has been successful for us," she said, referring to a community-wide appeal mailed to residents earlier this month.

"People have been very generous. I see every donor card that comes in. We have a lot of people who give \$5 or \$10 and it all adds up."

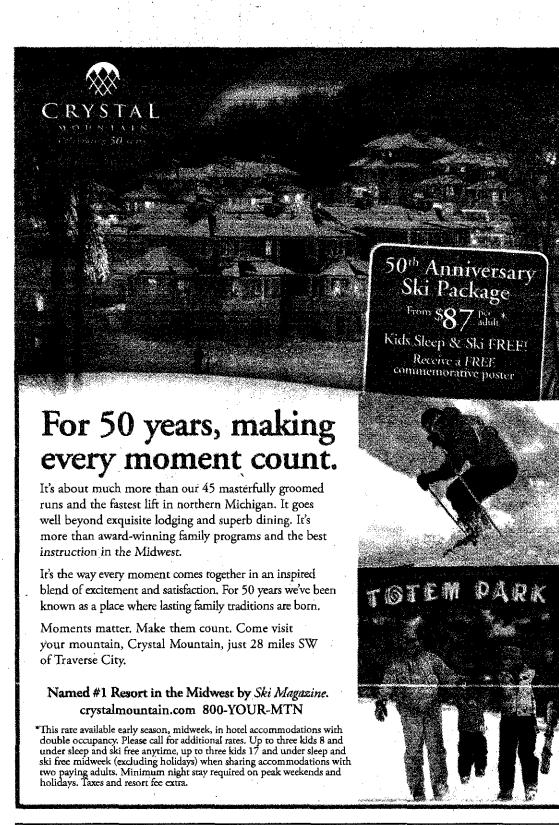
The Rev. Vincent Reyes, pastoral director of Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit, said the organization's two dining rooms in Detroit are serving "a few more people" than it has in the

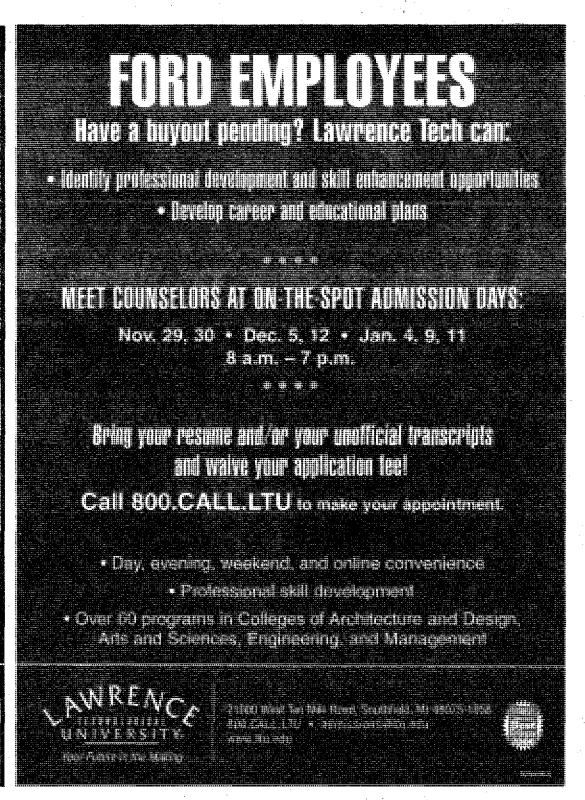
"We do our best to make donations stretch," he said. An average meal which might include chicken, sweet potato, salad, barley taboulee, cookies and a beverage - costs the Capuchins \$1.17.

"We've been around since 1929 and we've never gone two days without serving. We've never run out of food. We've been blessed. The people of this area are generous," he said. The nonprofit ministry distributes more than three million pounds of food in its pantry packs each year, in addition to serving hot meals and running various programs on Detroit's east side.

"I've never seen such generous people as those in Detroit. Not a day goes by that I don't remember them all in prayer."

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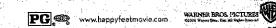
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HOW TO HELP

DONATIONS NEEDED

- Gleaners Community Food Bank is the third largest in the nation. It distributes free and low-cost food to soup kitchens, shelters, food pantries, crisis centers and other relief agencies, totaling 400 partners. It accepts nonperishable foods through donation drives or individual donations, cash and volunteer help at its five distribution centers, which are located in Detroit, Howell, Pontiac, Warren and Taylor. Visit www.gcfb.convio.net to donate online, arrange for a food drive or to volunteer. By mail: 2131 Beaufait, Detroit, MI 48207. Or call (866) GLEANER. Look for donation appeals at local grocery stores that allow shoppers to add a gift to Gleaners to their shopping bill. "We don't want to hot all the money. Help anyone you know doing food distribution, because times are tough," says Gerry Brisson, vice president of development. To find a food pantry nearest you, visit www.pantrynet.org.
- The Salvation Army, eastern Michigan division, aided 480,000 people in the tri-county area through its annual holiday kettle program last year. Proceeds bought more than two million meals for the needy, as well as Christmas gifts for children, food baskets, personal care items and year-round aid. The Salvation Army hopes to raise \$7 million through kettles this year. Visit www.salvationarmyemich.org to find out about volunteering as a bell ringer or to participate in the mini-kettle program, which allows individuals to collect donations at home or work, private parties and other gatherings. Other ways to donate:

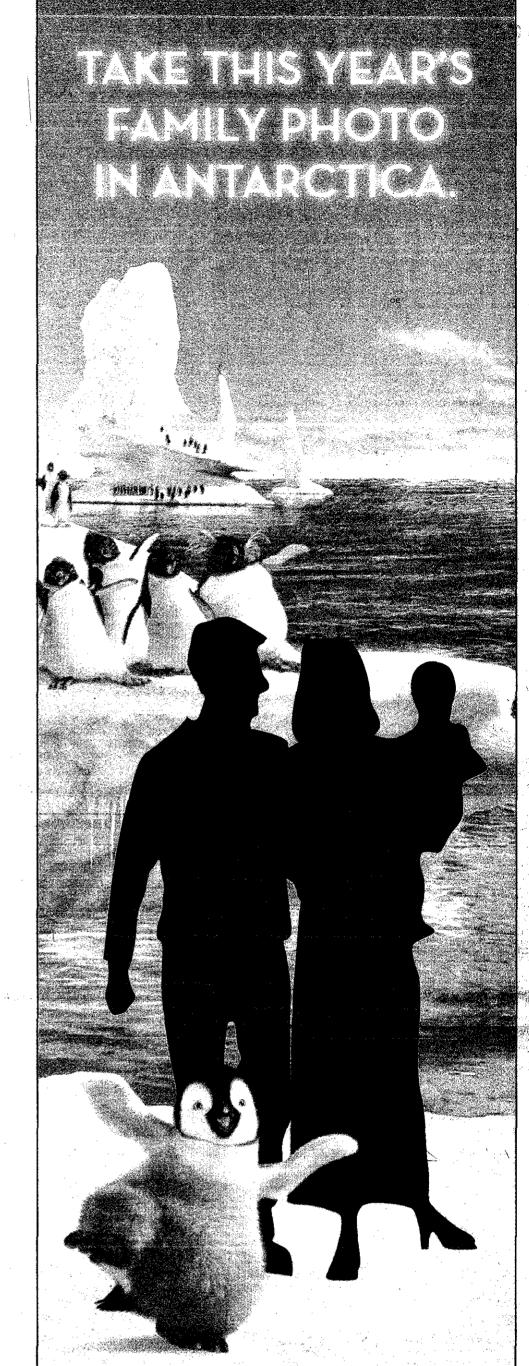
Donate a child's coat or cash to the Salvation Army's Coats for Kids at the Detroit Lions-Miami Dolphins game at Ford Field on Thanksgiving Day. Or call (866) 985-COAT. Buy a toy for the Salvation Army's annual holiday toy shop. Call the eastern Michigan division in Southfield at (248) 443-5500 to find a corps near you.

Donate used goods to a Salvation Army store. For pickup and store information, call (313) 965-7760.

Donate money online or send a check to the

Salvation Army, Eastern Michigan Division, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075.

- Farmington Area Goodfellows helps people year-round, but will distribute toys and food for the holidays on Dec. 16. To donate cash or items, call the Goodfellows office at (248) 871-2848 before Nov. 27 and (248) 473-1360 afterward. Or visit www.farmingtonareagoodfellows.org.
- COTS, (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) is headquartered at 26 Peterboro, Detroit, but runs housing programs at various locations, offering emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent, supportive housing. Check its Web site at www.COTSdetroit.org for an updated list of needs, including linens, clothing, children's items, gift certificates and toiletries. Or call Robyn Smith at (313) 831-3777.
- Redford Interfaith Relief, located in Pearson Education Center, 19990 Beech Daly, serves senior citizens, the disabled, the working poor and families in a crisis, within the Redford area. The organization needs cash, personal care items, canned goods and volunteers. Call (313) 387-9802 or visit on the Web at www.redfordinterfaithrelief.org.
- Capuchin Soup Kitchen has two dining rooms in Detroit, maintains a pantry, clothing and household distribution center, offers substance abuse treatment as well as children's programs. Send donations to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207. Donate on the Web at www.cskdetroit.org or call the development office at (313) 579-2100, Ext. 1875.
- The THAW fund gives emergency energy assistance to low-income families, individuals and senior citizens throughout Michigan who are in danger of losing heat or electricity. Donation appeals are enclosed with some gas an electric bills. Or send a check to THAW at 1212 Griswold, 10th floor, Detroit, MI 48226. Or contribute by phone at (800) 866-THAW or online at www.thawfund.org.





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DOUGLAS STEVENS

Frankfort. Age 73, died November 14, 2006 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He was born on August 26, 1933 the son of Richard and Ann Stevens in Highland Park, Michigan. Doug married Norma J. Eustice on February 10,1998. He served the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict as a Staff Sgt., shooting instructor and armorer. He was a member of the American Legion Frankfort Post No. 221 and the Cedar Rod & Gun Club. He was also a lifetime member of the NRA. Doug attended Blaine Christian Church and was employed with AAA for 29 years. Surviving is wife, Norma; children Linda Stevens of Grand Blanc and Scott (Jennifer) Stevens of Shelby Twp.; two grandsons, Jacob and Danial; stepson, Jeffrey Butler of Frankfort; brother, Godfrey (Delores) Stevens; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister. A celebration of Doug's life will be Saturday, November 25th at 3PM at the Benzonia Chapel of McElduff-Jowett Funeral Home, 7223 South St., Benzonia, MI, 49616, with Rev. Bob Larimer officiating. The family will receive friends from 1PM until the me of the service. Burial will be in Blaine Twp. Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Benzie County Animal Welfare or the NRA The Benzonia Chapel of McElduff-Jowett Funeral Homes & Cremation Service is handling the arrangements.



GARY ALAN MILZ

Age 58. Born May 26, 1948 went to be with the Lord peacefully on November 18, 2006, with his family by his side. Preceded in death by his parents Clarence and Marjorie and sister Gail. Survived by his wife of 28 years Diane; seven children, Eric (Debra) Mellissa (Jay) Gajewskie, Renee (John) Thompson, Mathew, Stephen, hristopher, Jacob; ten grandchildren, Ioshua, Joshua, Amelia, Levi, Taylor, Kennedy, Zackery, Ashton, Sawyer, Jaymen and Jackie; brother-in-law Joe (Brenda) Limontte; two nephews Joey and David. Memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Wayne, 36125 Glenwood Rd, at 11:00am November 24th.

GEORGE A. CLIFFORD

age 77, of Redford, November 20, 2006. George is survived by Iris, his beloved wife of 48 years; children inda (Ed) Landess, Julie Gentry Joanne (Rob) Hendricks, and David. Mr. Clifford is also survived by eight grandchildren and five great-grandhildren. Funeral service Saturday, November 25, 11:30am, at the Heeney- Sundquist Funeral Home, 3720 Farmington Rd., between and 10 Mile Roads, just north of Grand River, downtown Farmington, 248-474-5200. Visitation Friday, 2-8pm. Memorial tributes suggested to American Cancer Society, or can-

heeneysundauist.com

HAROLD VERNON COLLINS

Age 65, of Westland, died November 20, 2006, at Garden City Hospital. He had been seriously ill for three weeks. Born June 13, 1941, in Paintsville, Kentucky, the son of Conard and Glady Mae (Wells) Collins. He was married to Judy Perry in August of 1963. For more than 20 years, he was employed by Clark Oil and managed service stations in the Downriver area. He enjoyed coin collecting and playing his guitar and banjo. For the past twelve years, he made his home with Lisa Dukes. He is survived by two sons, Jeffrey of Monroe, and Timothy of Ypsilanti; three brothers, Christopher Columbus Betty) of Taylor, Jesse (Jewel) of Van Lear, KY, and Colvert (Peggy) of Greenup, KY; a sister, Verdie Mollette of Milan; and four grandchildren. Friends may call Friday, November 24, at the UHT Funeral Home, Westland, 34-721-8555. Funeral service will be held at 2pm, Saturday, November 25. Mr. Collins' nephew, Doug Mollette will officiate. Graveside services will be held Monday, November 27, at 2pm at Highland Memorial Park in Staffordsville, KY. Friends may attend graveside service from 11-12pm. In hed of flowers, those desiring may make donations to the family.



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 23, 2006

JACK VITO MIGLIORE

April 30, 1922-November 20, 2006 Jack Vito Migliore, a resident of Sterling Hts. and former longtime resident of East Pointe, died Monday morning in William Beaumont Hospital of Royal Oak at the age of 84 years. Jack was born in Detroit on April 30, 1922 a son of the late Sebastian and Rosa (Giordano) Migliore. He Owned and operated Jacks Produce Market on Wheels. Jack was a charter member of Detroi Produce Venders Association. He did not retire until age 81 as he lived for and loved his work. As a hard worker, it was important that he provided for his family and he loved what he did for those many years. Jack also enjoyed all gambling of any kind and enjoyed playing cards. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Jack is survived by his loving wife, Magdelina; his devoted daughters, Marianne Stevens and her dear friend Lawrence Thompson and Rose (David) Edgeworth; his grandchildren Jackie (nee Stevens)(Steve)Cansler Nykol & Brooke Edgeworth; his great grandchildren, Eric & Trever Stevens and Alex & Alyssa Cansler and his sister, Rose (Joseph) Ferri & brothers, Sam (Lena) and Augustine (Josephine) He was preceded in death by sister, Phyllis and brother, James Visitation will be held at the Faulmann & Waish Golden Rule Funeral Home 32814 Utica Rd., Fraser, Wednesday 1pm till 9pm and Friday 10:30am til time of Mass at 11am from St. Anastasia Catholic Church 4571 John R., Troy. Share memories with the family at faulmannwalsh.com

LAMAR M. RUSSOM

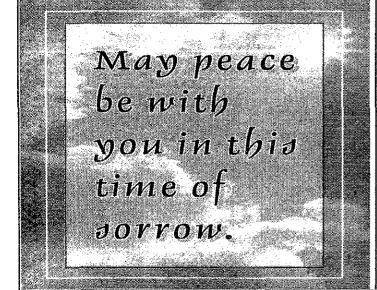
Age 90, November 19, 2006. Beloved husband of Ethel. Dear father of Carol (Manuel) Yacoub, Thomas (Jo) and Ronald (Debra). Dearest brother of Frances McPherson. Also survived by eight grandchildren. Funeral service Wednesday 1:30 p.m. from R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Tuesday 2-9 p.m. Memorials suggested to American Lung Association.

PETER CHARLES ZEMNICKAS

of Reverly Hills Sunday, November 19, 2006, at Stone Bridge Medical Complex in Flint. He was born July 16, 1917, son of Peter and Anastasia Zemnickas. He was predeceased by Donna, his beloved wife of 65 years. Peter was an active member of St. Regis Catholic Church Through the years his interests took him in many directions. He was a member of the Birmingham Senior Men's Club and the Michigan Chapter of the Rolls-Royce Club. For many years, he did volunteer work at Henry Health Systems of West Bloomfield where he was known as the "Angel Man". Father of Robert (Carol) Zemnickas of Mt. Pleasant SC; Gordon Zemnickas of Howell and adopted daughter, Ann Zemnickas of Farmington Hills. Grandfather of Karen (Chris) Ochs of Fairborn, OH; Kevin Żemnickas of Mt. Pleasant, SC Mark Zemnickas of Beverly Hills and Christine of West Bloomfield Great Grandfather of Shane and Sarah Ochs and Tyler and Michael. Funeral Mass was Tuesday, November 21 2006, at St. Regis Catholic Church Bloomfield Hills. Burial, Holy Sepuichre Cemetery, 25800 W, 10 Mile, Southfield. Memorial contributions can be made to the Parkinson Disease Foundation and/or Avalon Hospice. Share your memories at www.sawyerfuller.com

JEAN ANN (MCMICHAEL) RUHL

Age 67, of Farmington Hills, MI passed away on November 20, 2006 Jean was the beloved wife of the late Dr. George Ruhl and is survived by her brother, Russell McMichael; her three children, Melody Alfather, Ed and Greg; grandchildren, Miles, Devin, Joshua and Jordan. A celebration of her life will be held at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in West Bloomfield The church is located at 4300 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323, phone (248) 681-9424, on Saturday, November 25 at 10:30am. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in Jean's name to Angela Hospice in Livonia, MI are greatly appreciated.



RUTHANN JOHNSON

Beloved wife, mother & grandmother passed away on Monday, Nov. 20, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Richard, of Bloomfield Twp. She is also survived by her children Alan (Pat) Johnson of Holly, MI, Susan Johnson of Bloomfield Twp., Carol (Fiance Terry Burke) Bernardi of Lancaster, PA, James (Deborah) Johnson of Muskegon, MI, Judy Johnson of Las Vegas, NV and Melinda (Robert) Smith of Beverly Hills, MI. She is also survived by her eleven grandchildren, eight greatgrandchildren and a host of other family and friends. She loved gar-dening and was a member of the Troy Garden Club. She was a member of Birmingham Sr. Women's Club and a member of St. Thomas More Church She loved music and spending time with her family and many grandchildren. Family will be receiving friends Wednesday, Nov. 22, from 5-8PM with Scripture Service at 7PM, at A.J. Desmond Funeral Home, 32515 Woodward. Funeral Mass will be Friday, Nov. 24 at 10AM at St. Thomas More Church, 4580 Adams

TOM MOSHIMER

Age 71, November 21, 2006. Beloved husband of Nancy. Loving Father of Duncan (Cheryl) Mike, Jim (Nicki), Kelly (Phil). Dear Grandfather of Sarah, Zach and Patrick. He was a high school teacher and foot-ball coach for 42 yrs., (8 yrs. in Dundee, MI and 34 yrs. at Plymouth Salem). He retired in 2000. Visitation on Friday, November 25th, 10am 9pm at McCabe Funeral Home, 851 Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187. Service on Saturday, November 26th, 10am at St. Thomas a'Beckett of Canton.





PIERRE LOUIS DePORRE

Age 74, of Bloomfield Hills, died November 20, 2006. Devoted husband of Virginia (Teppert) - 49 years Caring father of Pierre (Deborah) DePorre, Louise (James) Westcott Julianne (Efrin) Padilla, Mary (Craig) Sturza, Paul (Janie) DePorre. Loving brother to Juliette (the late Casmir Zaranek, the late Denise DePorre, the late Jules (Carolyn) DePorre, James (Janet) DePorre. Brother-in-law to the late John Teppert, Sally Teppert Proud grandpa of 14. Beloved by all who knew him, including countless nieces and nephews. Family will receive friends at A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Rd., (btwn. Maple & Big Beaver) Friday 1-9 PM, with Scripture Service Friday 7 PM. Funeral Mass Saturday 10 AM at St. Thomas More Church 4580 Adams Road, Troy. Prayers at the funeral home Saturday 9:15 AM followed by procession to church. Memorial Tributes to the Companion Animal Fund, CVM Development Michigan State University, F-130 Veterinary Medical Center, East Lansing, MI 48824. Pierre was a great man devoted to caring for all of God's creatures - great and small. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines: Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com

or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: **Charolette Wilson** 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser

734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday. .

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving service

10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, at Ward. Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville, For information, call (248) 374-7400. The church's traditional celebration features the Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Teen Choir and Children's Choir. Special presentation of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Childcare provided to age 4.

Unity of Livonia

VegMichigan Thanksgiving Potluck Celebration features traditional and festive fare that is free of meat, dairy and other animal products noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. Vegetarians, vegans and anyone trying to eat less meat are welcome to attend this celebration of the season's abundance. In addition to the feast, the day features gratitude readings by children, origami demonstration, children's coloring contest, a planist and other entertainment. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own instruments and talents and join in the celebration. Admission to the event is a vegan (no animal products) dish sized for 8, or first-time attendees may bring \$10 in lieu of a dish though food is preferred to ensure a day-long feast. VegMichigan, formerly Veggies in Motion, promotes awareness of the health, ecological and ethical benefits of a plant-based lifestyle. The group hosts the local Great American Meatout each spring and sponsors numerous educational classes, lectures, potlucks, dinner club and social outings plus a monthly e-newsletter. For details, visit www.vegmichigan.org or call (toll free) (B77) 778-3464.

Lighthouse cafe

7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville, Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call (248) 374-5920.

Anniversary kick off

Garden City Presbyterian Church celebrates its 175th anniversary in February 2007. To kick off the observance, the church will have marchers and floats in the Santaland Parade on Saturday, Nov. 25. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration in 2007. For information, call (734) 421-

Church fund-raiser

Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road in Canton, is having a Fund-raiser 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25. Several vendors will be selling their products. What a great time to shop for Christmas gifts or birthday presents for your loved ones. No charge. Refreshments and Bake Sale are avail-

able. For more information, call (734) 495-0035.

Messiah

4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at the historic Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodbridge at Trowbridge, Detroit. The concert is performed by the Archdiocesan Chorus and orchestra. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at door, Call (313) 865-6300, Ext. 227, or visit www.aod.online and click on calendar.

Celebrate Christmas season

At Detroit First Church of the Nazarene in Northville 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, a Red Sweater Night starts the Advent season with Christmas music, fellowship and refreshments (nursery available for children from newborns to 36-months; 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 the Children's Choir presents A Christmas Carol based on the traditional Christmas Carol storyline; 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 Baby's First Christmas invites families to include their baby in the morning worship service, call (248) 348-7600 by Dec. 3, children's programs will be available for birth to elementary age; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, and 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 the Sanctuary Choir, instrumentalists and drama team present Journey to the Manager, a musical drama, the nursery is available for children birth to age three for both dates, and 10:50 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service includes communion and ends with a traditional candlelight service, nursery available for children birth to 36-months, at the church, 21260 Haggerty. For information, call (248) 348-7600.

Toy train show

11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at St. Albert the Great School, 4855 Parker, Dearborn Heights. Admission is \$3 per person, \$6 per family. The kitchen will be open with food and refreshments. For information, call (313) 277-2419.

Blood drive

Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth, Call Carolyn Libeau at (734) 455-5395 to make an appointment of just drop in

Christmas luncheon

Fellowship luncheon 12:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at Farmington First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, second block east of Farmington Road at Warner. Cost is \$7, reservations required. Call Betty Haines by Tuesday, Nov. 28 for reservations and if babysitting is needed. Program includes the Cass Ambassadors Choir, installation of Church Women United officers, and Right Family Christmas game (bring wrapped new \$5 gift to exchange during the game). 8ring canned and boxed foods for local food

Christmas Hope tour

The Nov. 28 concert, which was to be presented at Faith Lutheran Church in Troy, has been canceled by the promoter.

Worship service

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Expérience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

St. Nicklaus Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Church of the Savior, 38100 Five Mile. There will be a pancake breakfast, craft table and a program by St. Nicklaus himself telling about the origins of Santa Claus. Free will offering. RSVP to (734) 464-0527 by Nov. 29. All ages welcome.

Bridging the holidays

A program designed to help families work through the holidays and special occasions without their loved on, includes a small memorial 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, at St. Cletus Catholic Church, 26256 Ryan, Warren.

Winter memorial 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Best Western Hotel, 16999 South Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Come to honor and celebrate the lives of your loved one. All programs are nondenominational. No charge, RSVP requested by Nov. 27; at (800) 770-9859. Refreshments provided.

Grief and the holidays

Workshop focuses on facing the holidays after the death of a loved one 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile, Northville. Registration at the door, no fee. For information, call (248) 374-

Hanukkah gift shoppe

Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood Hanukkah/Judaic gift shop opens from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 10. Selection includes holiday gift wrap, chocolate coins, dreidels, candles, electric and traditional menorahs and many Judaic gift items. Congregation Beit Kodesh is located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.

UPCOMING

Concert Performance by Andy Chrisman, one

of the founding members of the group 4HIM, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, pre-concert dinner for singles only at 6 p.m. in Parlor C317, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$10 for dinner and concert (must be purchased in advance), and \$5 for concert. For information, call (248) 374-5920.

Irish Christmas Craft Bazaar

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at AOH Hall, 24242 Grand River, one block west of Telegraph, Detroit. For information, call (313) 565-3317.

Classic senior singles

Get-a-way to Olde World Canterbury Village, Lake Orion, departs at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 from Ward Presbyterian Church Parking Lot 7, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Tickets are \$20 and includes transportation and lunch. For details, call (248) 374-5920. Monthly dance

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Dec. 2, at Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (eastbound I-96 service drive), east of Inkster, Redford. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716. Covenant Players

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday,

Dec. 3 during 10:30 a.m. service, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. For information, call (313) 255-6330.

Crafters wanted

For the St. Thomas a' Becket Church Christmas Craft Show to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 555. S. Lilley, Canton. The church is accepting applications for handmade crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

Christmas craft show

Featuring more than B5 crafters 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley at Cherry Hill, Canton. Admission is \$2, under age 12 free. Bake sale and funch available. Call

(734) 981-1333.

Christmas concert.

Presented by the Friends of the Opera of Michigan and features Karin White, soprano, and Ouinto Milito, baritone, accompanied by pianist Jeanne Muraski 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. No charge. Donations are welcome. For information, call (313) 582-0997.

Christmas music

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m. Oec, 3, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For details, call (248) 374-7400. Through Scripture and beautiful music, this quiet and reflective candlelight service will help prepare your heart for Christmas. Childcare provided to age 4. No charge.

Choral concert

Concert of Advent and Christmas music including part I of Handel's Messiah Featuring Kirk in the Hills Chancel Choir and the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 students, and available by calling (248) 626, 2515, Ext. 109, or at the door.

Vespers and Nativity concert Sponsored by the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan: Detroit (COCC) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, 19600

Ford Road, Dearborn. The evening begins with a Vespers service concelebrated by priests from COCC member churches and sung by the COCC's Inter-Orthodox Choir. Following the service, the choir will sing a concert of Orthodox liturgical and para-liturgical music for the Nativity season and selected Eastern and Western European Advent and Christmas carols. The story of St. Nicholas and gifts for children will follow the concert. Refreshments will be

served. The evening is free of charge and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected. For more information, call (313) 366-0677 or send e-mail to KopistianskyVickie@sbcglobal.net.

Traditions of Christmas Multi-event open house with carols, stories, musical performances, model train layouts, cookie decorating, crafts, displays, film, and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever 3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at First

Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, 8irmingham. A gift to the community. No tickets, donations or reservations necessary. Call (248) 644-2040.

A special night of worship featuring Christmas songs, spirituals, hymns, traditional and contemporary, original music, and arrangements performed by Men of Grace from Grace Centers of Hope (Pontiac) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, one block east of 8eck, Plymouth. Free will offering will be taken to benefit seminary study Scott Eberlein. Call (734) 453-5252.

Crosstalk

Men of Grace

A lively discussion for singles on a topic of current interest 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville, Learn how the Bible approaches modern day events, Free childcare provided, For details, call (248) 374-5920.

Cookie walk

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 13th Annual Cookie Walk takes place Saturday, Dec. 9, at 36075 W. Seven Mile, 3/4 mile east of Newburgh on south side of street, Livonia. Doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until we are sold out. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and over 50 different varieties of ethnic (kiefle, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia, biscotti, finzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale.

Christmas çookie walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound.

Live Nativity

During open House noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40D00 Six Mile, Northville. Please join us for cookies, juice and coffee in Knox Hall as the Live Nativity is displayed. Call (24B) 374-5932.

Christmas play Journey to Bethlehem returns for a

sixth year, a walk-through play of the birth of Jesus 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Call (734) 421-1760. Christmas music

Christmas Jazz Vespers Service 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400. Jazz in the Spirit, from First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, will present a musical, poetic and prayer filled worship experience. Child care provided to age 4. No charge.

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Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Malboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Weter F. Halboth, Assistant Paeter

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7:00 p.m

11:00 a.m.

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Saturday - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
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First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Traß, Plymouth, M1 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.

734-453-0970

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734-421-8451 Wednesday 9:30 A.M., ...Holy Eucharist Saturday 5:00 P.M.Holy Eucharist Office Hours 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

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Observer & Eccentric WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication. To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

CHINA

FROM PAGE A13

children speak both English and Chinese. Clearly the Chinese value education and see the connection between a solid education and a strong economic future."

Price, vice president of the Northville Board of Education, added, "We can be proud of the quality of the education we offer, but the Chinese are obviously driven to learn and improve. As educators, we need to understand that our children will be competing against the children of the world, and staying even is falling behind."

EYE-OPENING TRIP

Our days began at 7 a.m. and often ended the day with lavish banquets with our Chinese hosts. The food was good, different (when is the last time you ate jellyfish, sea urchin or chicken feet?), and plentiful.

The trip also included time for shopping and touring. We took in the awe-inspiring Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, a pagoda, the Temple of Heaven and the Terra Cotta Warriors, not to mention the eye-popping education you can take in with a walk around the block or simply using a Chinese squat toilet.

Ask yourself why, if China has the fastest-growing economy and is likely to surpass the U.S. as the largest economy in the world over the next two decades, its language, culture, history and language are not taught in more of our schools today?

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the promotion of Chinese language throughout the world. In order to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and peoples of the world, the Chinese government has embarked on "efforts to promote economic and trade cooperation as well as scientific, technological and cultural exchanges between the Chinese and other counties."

China's achievements since Deng Xiaoping have opened the country to the world and are remarkable and universally acknowledged, particularly when put in a historical perspective. Deng Xiaoping is credited with providing the political support to help remake China into the giant it is today.

Yet, while Deng set the stage, it is through the hard work and focus of the Chinese people and academic, professional, economic, cultural and scientific exchanges that China has flourished. Some Americans still harbor ill feelings toward the "communist" government that brought the horrors of the Cultural Revolution and massacre in Tiananmen Square in 1989. Yet it is my firm belief that it is through the open exchange of ideas and interaction between Chinese and western people at multiple levels that freedom and democracy will find fertile ground to

With this exchange group, we have planted seeds that will take root in both Chinese and Michigan soil that will provide a bounty of knowledge to benefit our children for centuries to come.

China is a giant that has awakened. Its educational and economic systems are on steroids and they are moving aggressively to catch up with the West. Their goal is not simply to be the cheap factory for the world, but to be the innovators, creators and entrepreneurs of the world. They know that their future is inextricably tied to the quality of the educational system.

"We all know what a tremendous impact China's manufacturing sector is having on our economy. This was a great opportunity to get a firsthand look at their education system which will ultimately have an even greater impact on the American and world economy," said Gregory Handel Sr., director of Workforce Development for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

KNOWLEDGE COMPETITION

Michigan will never be able to compete with China on cheap labor. However, we can and should compete with China by making our children the best-educated students in the world. Michigan will succeed when we are exporting knowledge, creativity and innovation on the world stage. We cannot do that by thinking our past success is a predictor of future success. It is only through hard work, innovation and seeking new knowledge that we can truly prepare our children for the future.

Former state school board member and current Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael David Warren Jr. sums it up best when he says: "China is clearly undergoing a fundamental economic and related cultural transformation. They undoubtedly are attempting to become a new superpower.

"Unlike the other threats we currently face, we can confront this one best by engagement and building bridges. They appear to be anxious to learn from and about Americans, and to become cooperative partners. By such engagement, we can foster in China the way of life we cherish here - freedom, representative democracy, and justice. The opposite approach - building walls will only exacerbate our differences and degrade our influence."

There are naysayers that fear the rise of China. I believe it is important that we engage China and the rest of Asia on a economic, cultural, scientific and educational level in ways that will benefit Michigan and America.

The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the persons doing it. — Chinese proverb

Go online at www.hometownlife.com to read Watkins' full report. Look for the second installment of the China experience next week on these same pages and online. Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant and the former state

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant and the former state superintendent of schools. Read his internationally recognized report: (now translated into Chinese) The New Education (R)evolution at www.nacol.org.



