

11-26

READY REFERENCE

Newspaper classified sections are available at the Reference Desk



Charities sell cards to fund programs



HOMETOWNlife

Chat or comment on stories and issues in today's Observer at www.hometownlife.com

Group helps parents make safe toy selections

HEALTH - C6

READY REFERENCE Newspaper classified sections are available at the Reference Desk

SUNDAY

November 26, 2006

WESTLAND Observer

Your hometown newspaper serving Westland for 42 years

75 cents

WINNERS OF OVER 100 STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS SINCE 2001

www.hometownlife.com

Westland teen rebounds from head injury

Franklin student talking, moving, could return home soon

BY DAN WEST STAFF WRITER

Nathan Carlin's eyes were closed and he was unable to speak as he rested in an intensive care unit at the University of Michigan Hospital early Thursday morning.

The Franklin High School sophomore, who loves to joke around and tinker with cars, suffered serious head

and neck injuries after a confrontation that ended with an assault at the school Wednesday morning. The 16-year-old Westland resident was unconscious when he was airlifted to the Ann Arbor hospital.

Nick Carlin, 20, worried that he would never be able to talk to his younger brother again. Then, at 3 a.m. Thursday, Nathan opened his eyes and uttered some words.

"He was convinced it was all a bad dream, he was going to fall back asleep and he would wake up in his bed," Nick Carlin said Friday. "He didn't remember going to school that day."

Nathan was anxious during those few minutes he was awake, but it was a tremendous moment of hope that teenager would survive.

"I was thrilled he remembered who

I was and I was able to calm him down," Nick Carlin said.

On Thanksgiving Day, the Carlin family was thankful Nathan was able to move his arms and legs and even crack a few jokes in between some lengthy naps. By the end of the day, he was moved from the ICU into a patient room.

"He was speaking in complete sentences and he even smacked me in the

face after I made a comment," Nick Carlin said. "That really lifted our spirits. He was starting to be himself again."

Nathan suffered hairline fractures to the base of his skull and spine. Nick Carlin said his brother has a "hellacious headache," but the injuries have not limited his motor skills. He added it is possible Nathan could come home this weekend.

"He's still very groggy and on a lot of medication for the headache, so he

PLEASE SEE INJURY, A4

Letters let kids hear from Santa Claus

BY SUE MASON STAFF WRITER

It's about to get very busy around Kristy Robinett's house. As an official correspondent for the Big Man, she's getting ready to write to good boys and girls and some naughty and nice adults.

Welcome to Sent By Santa, a home-based Santa's workshop specializing in personalized Santa letters.

"People provide me with the information, and I do the letter, I personalize every one," said the Westland resident. "Children are amazed Santa really knows so much about them — good things, as well as areas that need improvement. The letters are a great way to build self-esteem by commending the children of their accomplishments."

Robinett signed on as Santa's correspondent in 1997 and has done it every year except 2005 when she took time off for health reasons and a move from Garden City to Westland.

The letters are written with information provided by the sender. They cost \$8 each, with a portion from each letter donated to Wide Smiles, an organization for families with children who have clefting.

Oral-facial clefts are birth defects in which the tissues of the mouth or lip don't form properly during fetal development. They are the fourth most common birth defect, and the first most common facial birth defect. One child in 700 is born with clefting.

Wide Smiles — www.widesmiles.org —



PLEASE SEE SANTA, A5 Kristy Robinett of Westland gets her elf ears at night when she writes her Santa letters to children of all ages.

Residents plead to keep agency in apartment building

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

For 12 years, a Medicaid-funded agency has quietly rented a ninth-floor apartment in Westland, providing crucial services to a handful of mentally and physically impaired residents.

The problem is, the Neighborhood Service Organization never sought city approval to have an office atop the high-rise Hunters West building, on the northwest corner of Hunter and Yale.

NSO care providers, who also treat patients from outside the building, never had a threatening situation until police officers and firefighters were recently summoned when a non-resident became combative.

Now, Westland city officials face a difficult decision to either force NSO out — a move that its in-house patients say would devastate them — or let the agency stay and impose restrictions, such as limiting care to Hunters West residents.

Currently, 14 patients occupy five of the building's 426 apartments. They pay their own bills, and they receive such services as psychiatric therapy, help with their medications, and rides to places like their doctor's office, the grocery store and election polls.

"They do things for us we can't do for ourselves," 75-year-old patient Norma Sprecher told the Westland City Council last week, pulling her oxygen tank with her to the podium.

"They are family to me," Sprecher said. "If you take them from me, it will be a very traumatic thing."

Several elderly patients pleaded with city officials not to force NSO to move its office, which is housed in a two-bedroom apartment. One resident, Helen Foy, said care providers took her for radiation treatment for cancer.

"To me, it's my security blanket," she told the council, adding later, "I feel it has saved my life, and I feel they should stay there."

NSO has a therapist, a psychiatrist, a nurse, a case manager and direct care workers who staff the office. The hours are 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., but the agency's unit director, Mary Neff, said workers will respond to patients at any hour they need help.

"We bring the services to them," she said.

PLEASE SEE AGENCY, A4

LPS board to talk funds, graduation policy

BY REBECCA JONES STAFF WRITER

Livonia school board members will talk about finances and high school graduation requirements at Monday's committee of the whole meeting.

No decisions will be made at the study session, but board members promise it will be a good dialogue.

"Please listen and tune into that meeting if at all possible," board President Lynda Scheel said. "We'll probably have some good discussion regarding things like enrollment numbers, funding from the state, programs and fund equity."

Sheila Alles, director of academic services, will present a recommendation on how to align the district's curriculum with the state's new high school graduation requirements that take effect for freshmen entering high school next fall.

LPS students will have to take an additional half-credit of English, one and a half credits in math, a half-credit in science and additional

social studies classes. The district will also have to change its requirements to include visual, performing and applied arts, add two credits for world language and incorporate an online learning component.

Budget amendments will be introduced as well.

Supt. Randy Liepa estimated a \$2 million shortfall in this year's budget because enrollment fell by 500 students, twice what the district anticipated. He has suggested balancing the budget from the district's \$10.9 million fund equity.

Some parents and board members have raised concerns about spending down the fund equity.

"We need to keep those funds for those times when the state takes away funds that they have promised us," said Trustee Robert Freeman.

"The state promised a \$210 increase in our foundation grant. ... The news out of Lansing is that they didn't have the revenue that they expected."

During a Michigan Association of School Boards conference, Freeman heard that the

state may announce a midyear reduction in state per-pupil revenue that could be anywhere from \$90 to \$120 per student.

"Either one of those numbers hurts a lot. That's half of what the state promised us," Freeman said. A \$90 per student reduction amounts to more than \$1.5 million.

Trustee Steve King said the district can't keep blaming the state for its money woes.

"There is no money tree at the state," he said. Tough decisions are coming, he said. "It starts with transparency and putting everything out on the table."

At a retreat meeting Nov. 13, board members discussed how to work better together and with the community.

"I hope in the next few months, you'll see progress out of our board," Trustee Tom Bailey said. "If there's a hiccup, a small snafu, a big snafu, we will fix it. We are a good district. We're going to work together as a team."

The committee of the whole meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the board office on Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile.

For Home Delivery call: (866) 887-2737

© The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS TO GET THE HOLIDAY CASH YOU WANT!



Check out PCCU's Holiday Home Equity Line of Credit!

Introductory Rate: 5.99% APR*



INDEX	
APARTMENTS	E4
AUTOMOTIVE	E7
HOMETOWNLIFE	C1
CROSSWORD	E6
CLASSIFIEDS	D2-E10
JOBS	D2
NEW HOMES	E1
OBITUARIES	C4
PERSPECTIVES	A7
REAL ESTATE	E3
SERVICE GUIDE	D3
SPORTS	B1

Coming Thursday in Filter



Let it snow Filter highlights shows bound to usher in the holiday spirit.

Concert series lines up folk acts, gathers a following

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Original folk music has found a home and it's gathering a following in Livonia.

The nonreligious series has featured fiddlers and folk singers in recent months, but next Saturday's performance includes new music inspired by boys serving jail time.

"It's pretty powerful stuff," said singer/songwriter Josh White Jr., who will perform those songs and others at his Dec. 2 concert, part of the Unity Acoustic Coffee House concert series.

The series brings artists before a coffee-fueled, family-friendly audience at Unity Church on Five Mile.

Livonia resident John Alexander lines up the talent, including national acts.

"You hear a lot of songs that you never heard in your life," said Alexander, a performer himself who also works as a handyman.

Initially the idea was met with resistance at the church, but Alexander pushed, and the monthly series now has a following.

"I knew he could bring in the talent. The question was would the people come?" said the Rev. Dennis Skiles of Unity Church. "What we have established is a venue in Livonia that reaches as far as Troy and Ann Arbor. We even get people from Toledo that come tripping by."

White, son of the famed guitarist singer and blues artist Josh White, put on the first concert at Unity two years ago.

White, a Novi resident, also attended the church from time to time.

Saturday's show, which begins at 7 p.m. features some



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Concert organizer John Alexander (left) listens to folk singer Josh White Jr. as he talks about performing in the Unity Church coffee house concert series Dec. 2.

songs that he and fellow artist Mike Ball wrote after meeting this summer with incarcerated youth at the WJ Maxey Boys Training School through a program called Project Roots.

One of the songs, "Bar to Bar," features the chorus: "Metal locking doors, three hots and a cot and a cold dark floor."

A collective song with a blues influence is called "Eddie's Choice" about a young man just released from lockup who has to decide whether to go back to a life of crime or to heed the advice of an old man he meets at a bus stop.

White put the jailed inmates' lyrics to music and introduced them to what he calls root music, also known as folk music.

The Unity concerts attract families and seniors who are put off by a bar atmosphere.

A \$15 suggested donation at the door includes coffee and snacks. Artists are compensated, and profits benefit

the church's youth department.

Ann Camp performs Jan. 14. The Rev. Robert Jones is the featured artist Feb. 10.

Last month's concert featuring The Cats and the Fiddler stole Marilyn Wells' heart.

The trio of 11-year-olds from Milford put on a "foot-stomping fun" show, Wells said. They perform folk, gospel and bluegrass on a variety of instruments.

"I bet they're going to be No. 1 on the country charts one day, as soon as they're discovered," said Wells, 67, of Plymouth, a regular concert-goer who sometimes brings her 92-year-old mother to the shows. "It is so full of energy. The music is absolutely outstanding. You couldn't get that kind of entertainment for that money anywhere else."

For information or to reserve tickets call (734) 421-1760. Unity Church is at 28860 Five Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster.

rrjones@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS TO GET THE HOLIDAY CASH YOU WANT.

- Low monthly payments
- No closing costs*
- Pay holiday/winter vacation expenses!
- Consolidate higher interest debts into one, low payment!

Payments as low as \$179.00 per month*

*Payment based on \$25,000 loan. **APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Introductory rate of 5.99% for 24 months on loans of \$25,000 or more. Closing costs waived on initial advances of \$25,000 or more. Regular rate is as low as Prime - 1% for loan to values up to 80%, and as Prime for loan to values from 80.01% to 100%. Regular minimum rate is 5% and maximum is 25%. Closing costs must be repaid if loan is paid in full and your credit line is closed within 3 years, collateral, income, credit qualifications and other terms and conditions apply.

'tis the season to go shopping.

Get the cash you need this holiday season with a Home Equity Line of Credit from Priority Community Credit Union. It's perfect for buying all of your holiday gifts this year!

Apply Today! Our home equity lending professionals are here to help you every step of the way!

LOCK
your interest rate for the first 24 months at **5.99%**

APPLY NOW!



Priority Community Credit Union

www.priorityccu.com

37250 Ford Road
(just E. of Newburgh)
Westland, Michigan

1-888-388-LEND



Membership Open to all who live, work or worship in Westland, Detroit, Southfield and Lathrup Village.

Your reward for switching to Flagstar

Simply transfer your checking account to Flagstar and you become eligible for the following:

6-month CD at

10% APY*

Maximum deposit \$2,500

Convenience you can count on. **Flagstar Bank**

(800) 742-0000 www.flagstar.com

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 11/15/06. Minimum opening balance requirement is \$500. Additional deposits are not allowed during CD term. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal on CD. A \$100 penalty will be imposed against CD balance if checking account is closed before initial 6-month CD term expires. CD available for new checking account customers (no existing Flagstar checking account) or existing Flagstar checking account customers not previously enrolled in, but now joining, the Flagstar Loyalty Program by establishing a monthly ACH payment or direct deposit. Rate effective for a limited time only. Offer cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers. Account fees could reduce earnings. Not available for public units. Certain restrictions may apply. Please contact your local Flagstar banking center for more information.

World Class Service. Unmissable Value. Unbeatable Prices.

Queen Bed, Dresser, Mirror, & 1 Night Stand \$1499

Large Selection of Lighting, Fans and Outdoor Lighting

Over 500 Fabrics Available

Table and 4 Chairs \$899

MILAN HOME FURNISHINGS

From Traditional to Contemporary

Hours: MON-THU 10-8 SAT 10-6, SUN 12-5

20292 Middlebelt • Livonia • South of 8 Mile • 248-473-2600

AROUND WESTLAND

Gingerbread class

Looking for a unique Christmas experience to share with your child? Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe is offering Art of Gingerbread Houses 6-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27, at her shop at 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

It's a one-day class for a child and an adult team to create a special gingerbread house. The shop will supply all of the gingerbread, frosting, candy and equipment that will be needed, so each team will take home a completed house at the end of class.

The cost is \$30 for one child and one adult team to make one house. If a second house is needed for an additional child, add \$15. All adults must be accompanied by a child.

For more information, call Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe at (734) 261-3680.

Holiday music

The sounds of the season will echo through Westland Shopping Center with musical performances by local groups.

The five-piece Phil Gram All Stars will perform classic holiday music 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, in the East Court, while 3 D's & W, a barbershop quartet, will perform throughout the mall 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13 and 20, and Friday, Dec. 15 and 22.

Also performing will be Plymouth Baptist Church Choir 8-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in the J.C. Penney Court, and Our Lay of Good Counsel Choir Group 11 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 15, also in the J.C. Penney Court.

Youngsters can stop by and see Santa 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. now through Saturday, Dec. 2, Dec. 4-9 and Dec. 11-14. Additional hours will be 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 10 and 17, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 16, 17 and 23 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the mall will be open a variety of hours during the month. It will be open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. now through Thursday, Dec. 7. Other hours include 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 8 and 17, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dec. 11-15, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Dec. 16, 18-23, and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24.

The mall will be closed Christmas Day, but will re-open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 26. It will return to normal hours Dec. 27-30, then open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

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-, second- and 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.

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.

SANTA

FROM PAGE A1

offers support, inspiration, information and networking for families dealing with the challenges associated with clefting, Robinett said.

The first year Robinett did Santa correspondence, she sent out 20-25 letters. The number inched up with referrals, and she now does 700 to 1,000 letters each holiday season.

"They all come in at once," she said. "I have 35 now, but they'll all pile in the first week of December."

She puts in a lot of late nights,

writing letters. Although she can do generic letters, she prefers to personalize each one, trying to make them more of a feel-good letter created especially for the recipient.

She makes sure she uses different paper for youngsters who've gotten letters from her in past years and estimates that she does "about 30 a night, if I'm on a roll."

Admittedly, there's a concern about the letters getting to their recipients in time, especially when some of the destinations are Ireland, England and South Africa.

"I've only lost one or two in the last 10 years, but it's always scary they won't make it in time," she said.

The international letters also are difficult because Robinett must research the traditions in those countries, so that the child can believe the letter is truly from Santa Claus.

Robinett gets help from her two children, ages 9 and 12, who help make magic reindeer and magic and snowflakes that are included in the letters.

Her 9-year-old son last year told her there's no Santa, but "still believes I'm on Santa's payroll."

"I'm not sure if he's pulling my leg or if he's serious," she said. "I tell him I'm an elf and that I only get elf ears at night when I'm writing."

Robinett has done letters for

all ages. She's done the letters to children from parents and grandparents, has had grandmothers send letters to their husbands, "if they've been naughty," and even ones containing marriage proposals.

"There's endless possibilities and some of the requests have been doozies — some where they know the recipient's been cheating on them," she said. "I send those back because they're not appropriate."

As for those naughty or nice boys and girls, visit Kristy Robinett's Web site at www.sent-bysanta.net for more information or to order a letter from Santa. But don't delay, her deadline for orders in Tuesday, Dec. 5.

HOLIDAY STORE HOURS: OPEN TODAY 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM; MONDAY 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

ALWAYS APPEALING. ALWAYS FITS. NEVER EXPIRES. ONLY THE PARISIEN CARD AVAILABLE FOR \$100 AND UP THROUGHOUT THE STORE OR PURCHASE ONLINE AT WWW.PARISIAN.COM

HOLIDAY SALE TODAY AND TOMORROW

2-DAY SHOPPING PASS

extra 20% OFF

on ALL sale and clearance purchases, including fine jewelry

Valid Sunday, November 26 and Monday, November 27

PARISIEN



FREE GIFT WRAP - PERSONAL SERVICE



Lovely and Polo Black fragrance sets with descriptions and prices.

Grid of clothing items with 'ENTIRE STOCK' labels and discount percentages (30% off, 40% off).

Grid of clothing items with 'ENTIRE STOCK' labels and discount percentages (30% off, 40% off).

Grid of clothing items with 'ENTIRE STOCK' labels and discount percentages (40% off, 50% off, 60% off).

Advertisement for Lennox furnace with contact information and financing options.

PARISIEN advertisement with store location and account opening offer.

Book tells dramatic story of softball, prison

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

In 1978, a group of teenage softball players wandered into Clarence "Bud" Hucul's sports store in Madison Heights to order some team T-shirts.

That chance encounter would change the life of Hucul and the young women. He found out they didn't have a lot of money and he helped with T-shirts and supplies.

He also found out they were inept on the field, a source of amusement for the folks in the bleachers. He told them so and when they asked him to become their coach, the success of the team and its players took over Bud Hucul's life.

In blunt, direct, matter-of-fact language Hucul tells a story in which personal disaster and team success are wound tightly together on the road to a national softball championship. In *22 Yellow Roses*, Hucul doesn't spare himself, but it's the success story that Hucul wants to emphasize.

"It's a true story. Seventeen of 22 girls from eight different high schools received full-ride scholarships. In that period,

that was more than all the high schools in Michigan put together," said Hucul, now a resident of Plymouth.

The girls were students at Shrine, Birmingham Groves, Marian, Southfield-Lathrup, Novi and East Detroit. Some came from broken homes, some had only marginal softball talent.

Hucul had played some pro ball and was a scout for the St. Louis Cardinals. When he and his wife at the time moved to Michigan to work at Beaumont Hospital in the mid-1970s, he coached a team of hospital employees.

But this team was different and his single-minded interest in their success would damage his marriage, his business and contribute to decisions that landed him in prison.

"A lot happened in those years. I think I wasn't too proud of some choices I made, but then I am of some," he said. "When I decided to keep bankrolling this thing and fudging my balance sheets, I had to make a choice and I bonded with them."

ROAD TRIPS

Hucul's sports store was



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clarence 'Bud' Hucul with his book, '22 Yellow Roses.'

already doing weak business. But he began to spend money on team uniforms, shoes and equipment. And he began taking his young charges on trips

to demonstrate their skills to college coaches.

"They didn't have money to visit schools, they couldn't go to Western Florida or Tampa. They didn't have any cars," he said.

He knew what coaches wanted to see. He told his young team they had to take pride in what they were doing.

"I knew the game, baseball and softball have a lot in common. The fundamentals are the same," he said. "When they saw by changing the habits they had to doing the right thing, they were succeeding in batting and everything else. I was very disciplined and strict with them. We practiced hard, very hard and some girls cried."

In the process of financing the team and the out-of-state trips, Hucul began falsifying financial reports to keep his business afloat. His business activities drew the attention of the Internal Revenue Service and the FBI. While his team was winning ballgames, Hucul was indicted for mail fraud. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a year in prison and five years probation.

As his team was ready to play in the national championship round of games, Hucul sent 22 yellow roses, one to each player, and then left with his daughter to drive to Duluth, Minn., to begin serving his time.

LONG DISTANCE COACHING

The final part of the book tells of how Hucul coached his team by phone long distance from prison. To do this, he was able to get 60 other prisoners to relinquish their weekly phone time to him on the permission of the warden.

"They (the prisoners) were so happy to be part of something in the outside world. A level 1 (minimum security) prison, they think it's a play school where you have fun, with tennis courts, but a paradise it's not," he said. "You're secluded, you're told when to do this, when to do that. When they get up, when they shower, when to eat, when to go to the mailroom. It's a federal prison. You work."

The team won the 1978 championship and many of the young players did go on to college.

Hucul served just over nine months in Duluth. He returned to coach the team to a third place in 1979 and another championship in 1980 and devoted 21 years to coaching softball.

His efforts on behalf of his players included a successful suit against the Michigan High School Athletic Association rule forbidding high school softball team members from playing with recreational teams.

He is currently working on a booklet advising college-bound student-athletes on what to do and not to do.

Hucul's book is available through the publisher online at www.immortalinvestments.com or at the Book Cellar and Cafe on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2149

We don't DOUBLE our prices to say they're 50% OFF!

MICHIGAN MATTRESS

STOP IN AND EXPERIENCE THE NEW 2007 4 SEASONS MATTRESS LINE FOR YOUR LUXURIOUS REST NEEDS! COMPARE WITH THE COMPETITIONS TOP OF THE LINE AND SAVE \$S-THOUSANDS \$S - LITERALLY!

QUEEN 2PC SETS STARTING AS LOW AS \$179⁹⁹

SPRING AIR'S 3 BEARS! \$599⁹⁹ QUEEN 2PC SET

YOUR CHOICE OF FIRM, PLUSH, OR PILLOWTOP ALSO TWIN/FULL/KING



LIMITED QUANTITIES OFFER/BULK PURCHASE! ADD ON A WHITE TWIN BOOKCASE HEADBOARD FOR \$20 WITH PURCHASE OF TWIN MATTRESS SET \$279.99 OR ABOVE!! TWIN BARRISTER WHITE HEADBOARD (REG. \$79.99) MUST MENTION COUPON

***Free delivery *Free removal! *Free frame!! *We pay your sales tax!! *Advertised bonuses applicable to sets \$499⁹⁹ and above for 1, \$999⁹⁹ for 2. Call store for details. N.E. corner of Ford Rd. & Lilley (Near Bed Bath & Beyond and IKEA) 42134 Ford Rd. • Canton • 734-844-6600**

www.michiganmattresslimited.com

FALL/WINTER HOURS: 10-8 M-F, 10-6 SAT, 12-4 SUN.

DEPT. 88372

bcbasm.com
MiBCN.com

Commitment to the Community

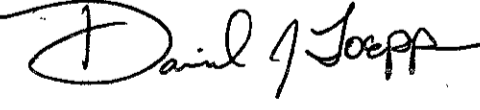
Since 1939, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has honored our nonprofit commitment to the people of Michigan by providing unparalleled access to health services, working in partnership with physicians and hospitals to improve health care quality and supporting initiatives to expand access for people in need.

Today, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network together provide more than 4.7 million people with the security and peace of mind that come from knowing they will have access to quality health care, wherever and whenever they need it.


We are proud of our partnerships with the state of Michigan to expand health coverage to lower-income children and ensure seniors are fully covered under Medicare. We are dedicated financial supporters of free community clinics across Michigan, providing access for the uninsured. We are partners with the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's acclaimed Keystone Center, working to improve quality through evidence-based medicine.

At Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, we dedicate ourselves every day to honoring our nonprofit heritage and commitment to Michigan. We also commit ourselves to providing affordable health benefit solutions that meet the needs of our customers, information and assistance to meet the needs of our members and innovations to improve service and reduce cost.

As we welcome Jeanne Carlson as the new President and CEO of Blue Care Network, we look forward with excitement to playing a more prominent role in your community. As we go forward, you have our commitment that we will approach our business with the integrity you demand, the service you expect and the commitment we all share to improving health care for everyone.



Daniel J. Loopp
President & CEO
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan



Jeanne Carlson
President & CEO
Blue Care Network

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

There can be no winners from war and occupation

Suffering from chronic nosebleeds as a child sometimes required medical help. Under the Israeli occupation, my minor medical problem resulted in my parents enduring repeated humiliation to beg the occupying army for permission to seek medical help.

One particular evening, I watched as my mother and father took turns pleading with army officers for permission to leave our house. After what seemed an eternity, my parents were finally granted permission to take me to the nearest clinic for help.

It took several hours after being treated for us to get permission to return home. Under the Israeli occupation, little daily routines were dangerous and exhausting. My father risked his life and the life of his family by venturing out of the house to seek help for his child. One never knew when a jittery soldier would pull the trigger.

Most of my family survived and escaped the occupation and now are observers not of one, but two occupations, Palestine and Iraq. Both occupations are vicious, hazardous and inhumane. Young distrustful men and women are trying to maintain peace in foreign places through the barrel of their guns. They patrol the streets in fear and that, coupled with their high adrenaline, makes an already volatile situation dangerous and deadly. The occupation interrupts and robs everyone of a basic and normal life, and robs soldiers from their innocence.

But to hear the occupiers talk, one would think they are benevolent and kind to the people they occupy. President Bush consistently talks about freeing the Iraqis from Saddam Hussein and his tyranny. He talks about democracy and the rights of Iraqis to be free. Consecutive Israeli leaders talk about their kindness toward the Palestinians.

Yet in reality, the occupation of a whole society is the worst form of human violation a country can impose on its subjects. What the occupation provides is a life where an individual has now lost the ability to perform life's most basic tasks, such as walking to a neighbor's house or driving to the next town without checkpoints and permission from a stranger in uniform.

According to John Hopkins University, more than 650,000 people have been killed in Iraq since its invasion by U.S. forces. If this number is true, it is the equivalent to the number of people living in Livonia, Westland, Troy, Farmington Hills and Redford. Regardless of whether they were killed by coalition military action or insurgents, those individuals killed are more than just

statistics. They are someone's mother, father, son or daughter. Families in Iraq are forever scarred, not only by the death in their families, but the destruction of their country and the uncertainty of their future.

We have disrupted their lives under the pretense of bringing democracy and freedom to them. Their daily lives are now full of violence, fear and frustration. Peace, tranquility and normal living are now something in the past. Like the Palestinians, the Iraqis are now on a path of struggle that will not end until they become free to rule their destiny — a destiny that must be free of occupation.

If the Iraqi tragedy does not stir our hearts, maybe we need to think of our soldiers and work to save them from the frontline of this calamity. The human cost to our young soldiers is immeasurable, having lost over 3,141 lives and over 20,000 lives altered by the injuries they sustained. This month alone, we have lost more than 45 soldiers, including two from Michigan. These numbers do not include the lasting psychological affect on people serving the occupation.

By enlisting, our service men and women have given up their voices because they are bound by the Code of Military rules. They are willing to die to keep us free, but fighting to continue an illegal occupation of a country should never be part of our military services. With the new election, we must commit ourselves to finding a true solution to the Middle East problem. Our next step is to find a constructive way to rid ourselves of the shackles of occupation and its corruption.

To honor our soldiers, we need to remind the president to exert the same will and stubbornness to end this war precisely like it was started. Just as he reminds us that we cannot cut and run until we win the war, we need to remind him that in war and occupation, there are no winners.

We are disillusioned if we think that we can ever restrain people who are fighting to be free. The longer this war and occupation are prolonged, the more death, destruction and hate will become the norm. The only winner in this war are individuals and former public officials, like Former CIA Director James Woolsey, Neil Livingstone, Randy Scheunemann and others who pushed for the war and are now making millions in profit from this war.

As the holiday season approaches and our soldiers and the Iraqi people are put in harm's way, we must test our courage by using our voice for peace and justice for the victory we seek. Nothing is won by force.

Terry Ahwal is on the executive committee of the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine and an advocate for non-violence. She lives in Canton.

Terry Ahwal

life and the life of his family by venturing out of the house to seek help for his child. One never knew when a jittery soldier would pull the trigger.

U-M can encourage diversity through outreach programs

Regular visitors to these pages might recall my letters among others supporting Proposal 2, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, during the campaign. Thus I welcome Hugh Gallagher's Nov. 23 assessment that "Support of Proposal 2 opens door for dialog on race."

But not without quibble. Mr. Gallagher's continued insistence that Proposal 2 bans affirmative action, rather than a narrow subset of affirmative action programs involving race and gender preferences, is disproved by the proposal's ballot language. And Proposal 2's opponents didn't steer away from the race issue as much as they conjured imaginary threats to women's programs in an orgy of scaremongering.

I prefer to think that all that is behind us now, save for another sad, sorry lawsuit filed on the day after the vote by the radical group By Any Means Necessary and its fellow travelers disdainful of the unmistakably expressed popular will. Instead, I join Mr. Gallagher in endorsing forward-looking efforts to launch a dialogue on issues of race (as well as gender — why not?) leading to progressive change, as exemplified by the workshop he cites that is being planned by Toward a Fair Michigan (<http://towardfairmichigan.org/>).

Further, an online "Advisory" dated Oct. 19 from the U-M News Service concerning the university's 2006 enrollment listed several outreach measures already under way to encourage minority applications: "application workshops for prospective students and counselors, personal invitations by current students and U-M alumni, on-campus events to introduce students to the opportunities at U-M, and visits by President Coleman to African American churches and community events." Mr. Gallagher opines, and I agree, that such programs are not banned by the constitutional amendment that Proposal 2 has put in place.

I find the Advisory extract very instructive, for it casts doubt upon U-M President Coleman's contention that the new amendment marks the end of diversity; it underscores the importance of distinguishing what Proposal 2 bans from what it does not; and it puts Proposal 2 advocates, including me, to our proof over our assurances that affirmative action will survive. Having worked toward the proposal's

passage, we own it in the sense that we cannot and should not walk away from it.

So where do we go from here? Mr. Gallagher accurately recalls "the long, tortured history of race relations in this country and in this state," but almost as if that history should form an obstacle to fresh thinking about race relations. I'm not a social scientist, just a citizen, and if I had my druthers, diversity would not be orchestrated but would simply happen as my fellow citizens of all races, creeds, etc. participate in producing America's good things and preserving America's goodness. This is what I observed in the Army, where the mission is paramount. Rather than wallow in grievances, it might be more rewarding to take the situation as we find it and apply the fixes where they're needed.

Certainly, public education needs fixing, and, as it bears on state university admissions, has been the flash point for Proposal 2's own tortured history. I'm not an educator, either, but I have an idea to utilize the state universities' commitment to diversity even more directly than appears in the U-M Advisory.

It might be called Adopt-a-District, whereby a state university would set up a resource and liaison center in a public school district found by measurable criteria to be underperforming.

Because the program would be predicated on performance, not race or gender, it should raise no concern under Proposal 2. Through its direct presence as long as needed, the university could provide cutting-edge expertise to district administrators, mobilize university staff and alumni to address specific concerns or tasks, invite dialogue with aspiring students and showcase an empowering option for life after high school. If successful over time, such a program could assist the district in producing university applicants fully competitive on the basis of merit. All very pie in the sky as proposed, but perhaps worth a look or even a pilot program.

A friend of mine who attended the MCRI Committee's victory party in Lansing on election night told me that Ward Connerly of the American Civil Rights Institute stated that "Now is the time for the heavy lifting." I hope that participants on both sides of this long and bruising campaign will lift together toward healing.

Paul M. Seibold is a translator, Army retiree and member of the Michigan State Bar who lives in Birmingham with his wife, Patricia, and daughter, So-Jin. The views here expressed are his own.

Paul Seibold

passage, we own it in the sense that we cannot and should not walk away from it.

Buy 1 Pair, Get a 2nd Pair* 50% OFF



Savings are waiting.
Let's go.

Give your kids all the support and confidence they need. Whatever adventures lie ahead. Treat them to the unrivaled fit of Stride Rite shoes. And we'll treat you to special savings.




44427 W. Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth
734-459-1070
Mon. - Wed. & Fri. 10 am - 6 pm
Thurs. 10 am - 8 pm • Sat. 10 am - 4 pm









stride rite
Life's waiting. Let's go.™

*Sale good on in-store merchandise only—special orders, winter boots and Stride Rite Natural Motion® shoes are not a part of their sale. 50% will be taken off the lesser priced pair. Offer good through Saturday, December 2, 2006.



Introducing
Botsford's Newest Doctors

listening2life

 <p>Dennis A. Bandemer, Jr., D.O. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Rehabilitation Physicians, P.C. 28100 Grand River Ave., Suite 200 S Farmington Hills 6255 Inkster Rd., Suite 307 Garden City 248 615-0060 (Both Locations)</p>	 <p>Robert E. Reid, M.D. Internal Medicine The Oakland Medical Group 27301 Dequindre Ave., Suite 314 Madison Heights 248 399-4400</p>
 <p>Mohamad H. Kabbani, M.D. Cardiology Cardiovascular Clinical Associates 23822 Ford Rd. Dearborn Heights 313 359-0200</p>	 <p>Saima Salim, M.D. Family Medicine Sheikh Medical Center 22821 Orchard Lake Rd Farmington 248 615-6600</p>
 <p>William L. Kestenberg, M.D. General Surgery Kestenberg Surgical Group 7001 Orchard Lake Rd., Suite 120 B West Bloomfield 248 539-3027</p>	 <p>David M. Schwartzfeld, D.O. Family Medicine Millennium Medical Group West 6149 N. Wayne Rd. Westland 734 728-4141</p>

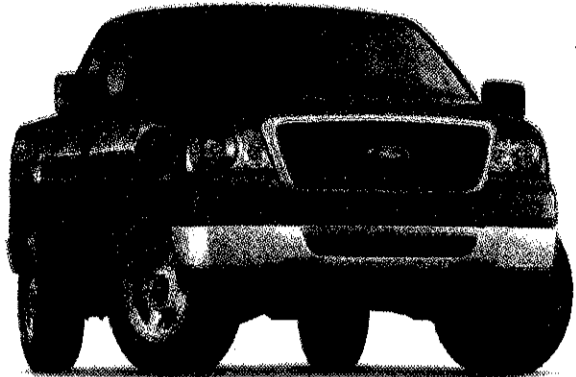
Botsford General Hospital's skilled, board certified medical staff consists of primary care physicians supported by a wide range of specialty physicians.

For a Botsford physician, call HealthMatch free at 1-877-442-7900
28050 Grand River Ave. | Farmington Hills, MI | www.botsford.org

YOUR SUBURBAN FORD DEALERS

GET **0%** APR Financing* or up to **\$3,000** Cash Back*
on selected 2007 models...

OR LEASE ONE OF THESE VEHICLES



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 F-150 SC 4X4 XLT

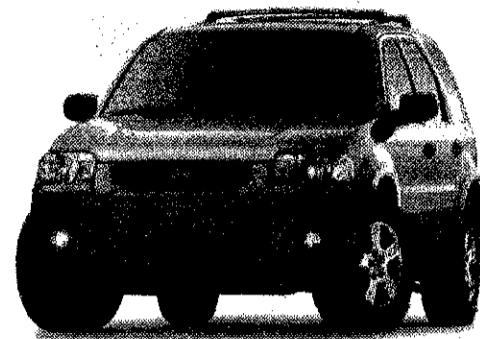
For as low as

229

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,799 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,500 RCL cash back and \$1,000 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Escape XLT FWD

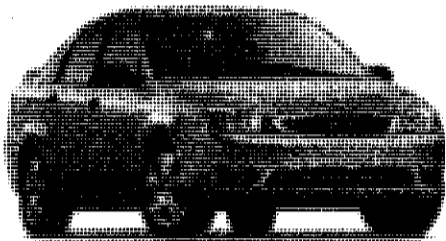
For as low as

198

A month(1) with a 36 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$2,143 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,500 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Focus SES 4dr

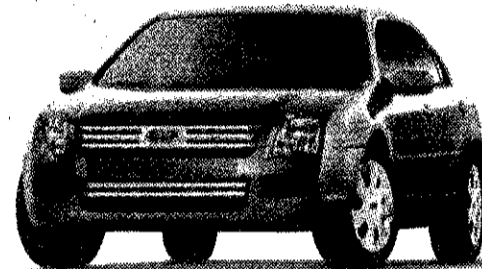
For as low as

169

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,464 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee and security deposit. Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,000 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Fusion SE 14

For as low as

178

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,523 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$500 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer 4x2

For as low as

229

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$974 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$2,500 RCL cash back, \$1,000 bonus cash and \$1,000 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Freestyle SEL

For as low as

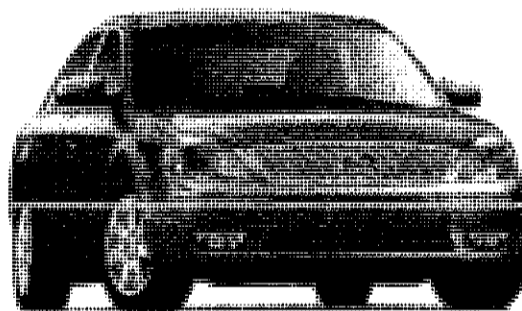
218

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Lease.

With \$1,913 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,000 RCL cash back and \$1,000 A-plan bonus cash.

SIRIUS Satellite Radio is now available as a factory-installed option on the 2007 Ford Five Hundred. Get more than 125 music, sports, news and talk channels at your fingertips



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Five Hundred SEL Chrome Edition

For as low as

229

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$2,259 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$495 Chrome Package bonus cash and \$500 RCL renewal cash.

Chrome Package Includes:

An all new Chrome-Mesh Grille...
And 18 inch Chrome-Clad Wheels...



fordvehicles.com

BOLD MOVES
Your Suburban Ford Dealers

(1) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet Lease. Payments may vary. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employees and eligible family member Lessees. Residency restrictions apply. For special lease terms, RCL Cash, and bonus cash, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 11/30/06. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Customers must finance through Ford Credit. **Not all buyers qualify for Ford Credit limited term financing, limited term financing or cash back, available on selected 2007 models only. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 11/30/06. ** Security deposit waived. Lease renewal cash only available to customers terminating their Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 24 months by 1/2/2007.

VARSITY
3480 Jackson Rd. 1-800-875-FORD
ANN ARBOR

ATCHINSON
9800 Belleville Rd. 734-697-9161
BELLEVILLE

GENE BUTMAN
2105 Washtenaw 734-482-8581
YPSILANTI

BRIARWOOD
7070 Michigan Ave. 734-429-5478
SALINE

HINES PARK
I-96 at Millford Rd. 248-437-6700
LYON TWP.

FRIENDLY
2800 N. Telegraph, 734-243-6000
MONROE

OPEN SATURDAYS