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THURSDAY
October 11, 2007

WESTLAND Observer

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1, 2, 3 ... economy takes toll on enrollment

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The job losses that have swept across the state of Michigan are now having an impact on public schools, with many districts experiencing significant drops in enrollment for the 2007-08 school year.

"The economy has definitely hurt us," Wayne-Westland Supt. Greg Baracy said. "We know a number of families have left the state for other jobs. This is a sign of the crisis this state is facing."

The district is in the process of auditing figures from the annual student count done Sept. 26. It's one of two counts done each year to yield a blended enrollment — 75 percent of the September count and 25 percent of a count in February are

used — for state school aid purposes.

According to Baracy, the school district has experienced a loss of 200 students since the 2006-07 school year and there is "no rhyme or reason" to it. Some schools in the district have seen enrollment increase, while others have seen their numbers drop.

Elementary schools like Walker-Winter Elementary in Canton and Wildwood and P.D. Graham in Westland had increases. Walker-Winter, one of two blue ribbon schools in the district, had 45 more students, while Wildwood had an increase of 50 and P.D. Graham 53.

But across town at the district's other blue ribbon school, Edison Elementary, enrollment dropped by 34 students.

Stevenson Middle School picked up an additional 60 students and Adams Middle School

also saw an increase; however, Marshall Middle School lost 12 students, Baracy said.

The biggest disappoint was in the kindergarten enrollment. Last year, the district had its highest enrollment — 1,100 youngsters — in years due in part to a pilot all-day kindergarten program it rolled out at four elementaries. But even with an expanded all-day program, the district saw the kindergarten enrollment drop by 100 students.

"We're really disappointed in the drop in kindergarten enrollment. Those are the students who stay with you year after year," Baracy said. "It also reflects the fact that young families are leaving the state."

The district did pick up more than 50 students through its schools of choice program, but that increase had already been factored into the enrollment projection.

"What we've seen is a lot of families going south to Tennessee and a number of parents with children have moved in with relatives," Baracy said. "We also had a number of folks going to North Carolina and South Carolina. Apparently, there are areas there that are booming."

Wayne-Westland isn't the only district to lose students. Baracy said he has talked to at least a dozen superintendents in the past two weeks "and to the one, their projections are down."

"Even those districts projecting growth have not met their projections, not one district has had an increase or exceeded projections," he added. "Everyone is saying similar things, that families are moving out of state to where the jobs are."

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Say hello to Broadway

Shannon Salisbury is comfortable on stage or at home belting out a song, and if the teen gets her way, she'll be doing it on Broadway. See Page A4 for the story and more photos.

Ceremony unveils historical marker at Eloise property

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Hardly a week goes by that Westland historian Jo Johnson doesn't receive inquiries by phone or e-mail about Eloise, a former poorhouse and asylum that became one of the country's largest public health care facilities.

Eloise sprawled for 902 acres on both sides of Michigan Avenue between Merriman and Henry Ruff roads, and it housed 10,000 patients and employed 2,000 workers in the late 1920s.

Although Eloise closed in the early 1980s, partly due to mental health reforms, anyone who doubts the interest level in the complex need only perform a simple Google search online to find page after page of information — from the historically significant to creepy tales about supposed ghosts of those who died there.

Some fans believe that every day is Halloween on the Eloise property, so it seems fitting that a new state historic marker will be unveiled Tuesday — just 15 days before that scariest of days.

"It's amazing," Johnson said, referring to the level of interest in Eloise.

The public may attend a small ceremony at 5 p.m. Tuesday next to what is now the Kay Beard Building on the Eloise site, on the north side of Michigan Avenue between Merriman and Henry Ruff. The building was renamed years ago in honor of the longest-serving Wayne County Commission member.

Now reduced to just five buildings — and only two in use for county offices and a homeless shelter — Eloise once had 75 structures and its own farm, cannery, bakery, cemetery, employee housing, police and fire departments, and trolley and train stations.

Even so, few people wanted to end up there. Depending on the time in history, being sent to Eloise could mean being poor beyond any semblance of self-sufficiency or being declared insane.

Eloise doctors pioneered the use of X-rays for diagnostic purposes, and psychiatric patients underwent such treatment as electroshock.

The \$3,000 needed for the state marker was largely raised by the sale of a book by author Patricia Ibbotson titled *Eloise: Poorhouse, Farm, Asylum and Hospital 1839-1984*. Ibbotson worked in nursing at Eloise.

Tuesday's ceremony will culminate a long process for getting the state marker. Those who attend may go inside the building for cider and doughnuts after the unveiling. Johnson said the museum honoring Eloise will be open.

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Reeves: Goal is to improve city

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council appointee Dewey Reeves pledged when he was chosen for a council seat in January that he would work tirelessly to help all city residents.

Since then, he has made the rounds in city departments to educate himself, and he has been lauded for becoming involved in community projects such as helping to boost restoration efforts at the Westland Historic Village Park.

Please see REEVES, A3



Reeves



CITY COUNCIL

Eight candidates are vying for four council seats. The top three vote-getters will earn a four-year term; the fourth-place finisher will get a two-year term. The job pays \$12,515 a year.

Rodriguez: City needs more rec

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council challenger Mark Rodriguez has never strayed from his belief that the city will have to improve its recreational facilities if it hopes to improve its image, attract young families and boost property values.

Rodriguez has long been a proponent for Frontier Park, a vast recreation complex that he wants to see built west of what is now a closed-off, contaminated Central City Park. He believes his vision could even coincide with cleanup



Rodriguez

Please see RODRIGUEZ, A3

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Go Rockets

John Glenn juniors had the spirit at the Homecoming pep rally. More photos can be seen on the Westland home page at www.hometownlife.com.



Reigning over the Homecoming festivities were queen Skye Jones and king Ryan Lopez who were crowned during halftime last Friday night.



John Glenn junior Katelyn Persh, on her way to the tricycle race victory, is chased by seniors at the Homecoming pep rally.

Volunteers turn out for Norwayne cleanup

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Garbage trucks hauled out 92,000 pounds of trash, and volunteers and residents filled another 33 Dumpsters during a massive cleanup Saturday in Westland's Norwayne subdivision.

"It was a major cleanup," said Westland Public Service Director Kevin Buford, who provided the numbers. "It was tremendous. I think anybody who drives through Norwayne will notice a difference."

Scores of residents, city workers, court program workers and volunteers, including recovering addicts involved in Safe Step, pitched in during a seven-hour cleanup effort organized by Mayor William Wild. The city's trash hauler, Midwest Sanitation, provided trucks and workers.

"I think it was a very successful event," Wild said. "I think it was even better than we had anticipated."

Landlords encouraged their tenants to participate, and residents urged each other on during what was billed as the largest neighborhood



Volunteers load up trash during a massive cleanup in Westland's Norwayne neighborhood.

cleanup ever in Norwayne. The subdivision is bounded by Wildwood, Merriman, Palmer and Glenwood.

Workers also cleaned up vacant properties that had been littered with debris.

City officials set up a main staging area near the Dorsey Center and secondary areas at Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns elementary schools, where residents could go for help moving heavy appliances and other items.

Officials said the cleanup came after some investors already have renovated homes in Norwayne, which has many duplexes, four-residence buildings and some single-family houses. The neighborhood was built by the federal government in World War II to house wartime workers employed at places like the Willow Run Bomber Plant.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Homecoming

The Westland Meteors will celebrate their homecoming Sunday, Oct. 14, at Wayne Memorial High School. The event will start with a 10 a.m. junior freshman game with other games to follow. A parade will go from the Palace market parking lot to Wayne Memorial. All former Meteors players, cheerleaders and coaches are urged to attend.

Psychic fair

Take a look into your future at a psychic fair that will be held noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21, at AMVETS Post 171 Hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill. Admission is \$2. There will be reading and a bake sale.

Last chance

Don't miss a chance to party and tryout the Concrete Jungle Skate Park at the Bailey Recreation Center at an end-of-the-season party noon-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13. The cost is \$5 per person and includes food and drinks, raffle drawings and live bands. Skateboarders and inline skaters only. For more information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620.

FISH meeting

Organizers of the F.I.S.H. Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County

will hold an organizational meeting at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12, at the Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood west of Merriman in Garden City. Volunteers are needed to provide free rides for senior citizens and the disabled in Westland, Garden City and Livonia. A commitment of one day a month is requested. People interested in volunteering can call Simon at (734) 751-4101 or by e-mail at GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Petticoat Ladies

The Westland Historic Village Park will present the historic-minded Petticoat Ladies in a program called "Charmers & Cranks" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at the city's senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. It's a program about Victorian-era women who were ahead of their time on issues. Cost is \$6 per person or \$5 for seniors. For information and tickets, call Jo Johnson at (734) 522-3918, Georgia Becker at (734) 729-1605 or the Friendship Center at (734) 722-7628. Advance tickets are recommended.

Candidate forum

Southeast Westland Homeowner Association and the Westland Democratic Club will present a Westland Candidate Forum at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12, at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, between Palmer and Michigan Glenwood and east of Venoy.

Music program

The public is invited to attend a free musical program, "The History of the Saxophone," presented by Steve Thomas 7

p.m. Monday, Oct. 15, in the library's community rooms of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. Children under age 6 should be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call the Children's Desk at (734) 26-6123. The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford.

Casino trip

Enjoy an afternoon at the Greektown Casino Sunday, Nov. 18, to benefit St. Damian Youth Group. Tickets are \$25 which includes charter bus transportation to and from the casino and a \$15 coin voucher to use at the casino. Bus departs from St. Damian, 30055 Joy in Westland, at 1 p.m. and will return back to the church at 7 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (734) 421-6130.

Free class

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is offering a free 60-minute infant massage class 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13.

Parents are invited to bring their babies, from birth to 9 months old, to learn the art of infant massage. Certified infant massage therapist Carol O'Brien will lead the class and share how infant massage can relieve baby's discomforts and strengthen bonding.

Discover how infant massage nurtures a child's mental, spiritual and physical development. Register at the Children's Desk or by calling (734) 326-6123. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland.

Driver seriously injured after vehicle hits house

A Jeep Cherokee crashed through a wall of a house near the Berkshire-Westchester intersection Saturday morning, according to Westland police reports.

No one inside the house was injured, and police reports indicated that the driver was treated at a hospital for serious injuries.

The intersection is near Palmer and Henry Ruff roads.

The driver, a 49-year-old man, apparently lost control of his Jeep while having a medical problem, according to police.

A witness told police that it appeared the driver had a seizure, accelerated across Westchester, crossed a driveway and struck some landscaping before hitting the east wall of the house.

No other information was immediately available.

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WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

The following vehicles have been deemed and abandoned and will be sold at public auction October 16, 2006 at 11:15 A.M. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY	VIN#
1995	CHEVY	CORSICA	4-DR	1G1LD55M8SY154091
2000	FORD	FOCUS	2-DR	3FAFP3131R200516
1992	CHEVY	LUMINA	S/W	1GNDU06L0NT113080
1986	TOYOTA	CELICA	2-DR	JT2MA67L5G0175607
1995	PONTIAC	BONNEVILLE	4-DR	1G2HZ52114220095
1991	HONDA	CIVIC	2-DR	2HGED6353MH508390
1993	CHEVY	BERETTA	2-DR	1G1LW13T6PY227480
1989	BUICK	CENTURY	4-DR	1G4AL51NXX6434747
2002	MERCURY	COUGAR	2-DR	1ZWFT61LX25600472
1989	BUICK	LESABRE	4-DR	1G4HP54COKH454569
1995	DODGE	AVENGER	2-DR	4B3AU52N6SE077394

Publish: October 11 & 14, 2007

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 10/26/2007 at 9:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

1004 Jessica Verhille- mattress,couch,totes
1014 Deborah L. Carr- couch,dresser,tv
1025 Nicole Hellem- bags,boxes,shelf
106- Deanna Harper- bed,sofa,tv
1101- Lashunda Miller- boxes,shelf,bags
223- Robert Burns- boxes
233- Debra Hitta- boxes,totes,decorations
417- Kenneth Hitts- sofa,mattress,bags
422- Rikki Manning- bags,boxes,air conditioner
524- Debra Higgins- boxes,fishing poles
654- Raymond C. Dennis- refrigerator,toolbox,golf clubs
720- Carla Johnson- refrigerator,stove,boxes
813- Amanda Costa- washer,dryer,cabinet
834- Eleni M. Segos- boxes,totes,chest
905- Michelle Mitchell- mattress,boxes,fan
927- Yianni Stathis- desk,cabinet
940- Jeffrey Woodward- tv
945- Leantre Terry- refrigerator,boxes,totes

Publish: October 11 & 18, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The City of Westland will hold its public accuracy test on the ES&S M-100 voting equipment for the November 6, 2007 Special/General Election on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the ballot results count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Eileen DeHart
Westland City Clerk

Publish: October 11, 2007

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 10/26/2007 at 12:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

B028- Deborah Coe- couch ,chair,boxes
B085- Daniel Loesch- table,chair,box
B121- Venessa Williams- boxes
B182- Cecilia Anderson- boxes
B239- Natalie Beard- bed,washer,dryer
B271- Stacey Amis- chair,table,boxes
B274- Alicin Bell- trunk,boxes,fan
B292- Sylena Nieves- refrigerator,toys,boxes
B320- Rachelle Dillard- tv,bike,totes
B367- Sharmanya Jamison- box,chair, couch
B381- Romare Redden- tv,boxes,totes
B384- Janie Clark- boxes
B394- Elgena Rivera- mattress,table,boxes
C012- Ashley Woodside- flooring,totes,bikes
C015- Alaina Silagy- boxes,shelf,bags
C022- Renee Esteen Ware- tv,totes,microwave
D006- Celestine Henry- boxes
D009- Cynthia Kari- stove,couch, chairs
D020- Darren Ford- bed,hutch,box

Publish: October 11 & 18, 2007

Johnson uses reward to find missing signs

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

It happens every election season: Campaign signs are stolen, and angry candidates point accusing fingers at their opponents.

What's different this political season is that one Westland City Council candidate is offering a \$1,000 reward for sign-theft information leading to an arrest.

Council appointee Bill Johnson, in his first election bid, is offering the reward after

he said more than 400 signs were swiped last week, Wednesday night and Thursday morning. He said supporters put the signs out for him, council running mate Dewey Reeves, Mayor William Wild and City Clerk Eileen DeHart, who is Johnson's sister.

Johnson said the thefts mostly occurred in an area bounded by Cherry Hill, Palmer, Wildwood and Merriman.

"I don't have a clue who it was," he said. One supporter had a surveillance camera outside his house that caught one suspicious car driving by at the time signs were stolen.

Early this week, police officials confirmed that the videotape hadn't yielded any information that could lead to an arrest.

Johnson and others confirmed that Fox 2 Detroit was trying to glean information from the tape. Eight candidates are competing for four council seats. They are Johnson, Reeves, incumbents James Godbout and Michael Kehrer and challengers Christine Cicirelli Bryant, Gary Bulson, Harold Dunn and Mark Rodriguez.

Wild is competing against Charles Pickering — Westland City Council presi-

dent and former mayor — for the mayoral post.

DeHart and challenger Bruce Paige are vying for the clerk's job.

Meanwhile, police Lt. Daniel Karrick said many candidates or their supporters routinely violate a city ordinance by placing political signs in city rights-of-way, such as on corners of major intersections.

Karrick advised candidates and their supporters to refrain from such activity, saying that city workers are taking down such signs and disposing of them.

Man charged in robbery at Landings

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

One man is facing a court hearing and police are seeking a second suspect following an armed robbery at The Landings, a sprawling apartment complex in Westland's north end.

Two male tenants moving out told police that two suspects robbed them at gunpoint about 11:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, in a parking lot near Warren, east of Central City Parkway.

"They were loading a truck when they were approached by two suspects," police Sgt. Steve Borisch said. "They were robbed of money, wallets and a cell phone."

Police arrested one suspect after a passerby at The Landings notified authorities that he saw a man matching the description near Showcase Cinemas on Wayne Road.

The defendant, described as 34-year-old transient William Copeland, faces a preliminary hearing today in Westland District Court on two counts of armed robbery. He is charged as a habitual offender with a prior drug-related conviction, Borisch said.

Copeland remains jailed in lieu of a \$100,000/10 percent bond set by Judge Sandra Cicirelli, who placed a not-guilty plea on record for the defendant.

Police are continuing to seek a second robbery suspect, described as a black male, 5-foot-7 to 6 feet tall wearing a red hoodie. Anyone with information is urged to call Westland police at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

That suspect also may have been involved in another robbery that Borisch said happened about 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, at Country Court Apartments, on Wildwood north of Ford.

A pizza delivery driver told police he was robbed and struck on the head by a suspect who was wearing a red hoodie, Borisch said.

that cities like Westland will benefit.

Since he became a council appointee, Reeves said he has worked hard to study the issues and make the right decisions. He personally initiated meetings with department heads and leaders of some community organizations.

He also has learned that he will have to gain political ground to remain on the council. In the August primary, he ranked fifth in votes received. In the Nov. 6 election, only the top four vote-getters out of eight candidates will win seats on the council.

Reeves said he has learned from the primary and that he has adjusted his campaign accordingly. Even in August, he had vowed, "the best is yet to come."

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REEVES

FROM PAGE A1

"I don't have a personal agenda," Reeves, 54, said during an interview. "My main goal is to improve the quality of life and the standard of living for all the citizens of Westland."

"My heart," he said, "is in the right place."

Reeves, a Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department retiree and self-employed wardrobe consultant, hails from the historic Annapolis Park, nationally known as one of the first U.S. suburbs in the 1950s to welcome black homeowners. Reeves has received accolades from the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association, but he also has drawn support from a cross-section of the community.

His supporters note that Reeves has been a quick learner in his council position and that he has kept his pledge to represent everyone. Some residents also believe it's important that city government should reflect the diverse community it serves.

Reeves became only the second African-American ever to serve on the council — and the first since former Councilman William Anderson left his position 32 years ago.

"It's a good time for change," Reeves said, "and I am change."

Reeves and another council appointee, Bill Johnson, are campaigning as running mates. They won their council seats in January when the council chose them to fill two vacancies.

Responding to questions, Reeves said the city will

need to keep a close watch as its trash hauler, Midwest Sanitation, tries to emerge from a financial reorganization in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. While it isn't known whether Westland will need to switch companies, Reeves said he is well aware that such a move would cost more money.

To that end, Reeves called it financially prudent that the city decided not to reduce its trash-disposal tax, because the money may be needed depending on what happens with Midwest. Reeves said Westland still needs to strive to find a way to move ahead with a curbside recycling program that a vocal group of residents has demanded.

Even if the city is forced to hire a new trash hauler, Reeves said, "there may be an opportunity to turn lemons into lemonade" with curbside

recycling.

When asked about potentially deeper cuts in state-shared revenue, Reeves said Westland has managed to hold its own financially while other cities have been hard hit.

"Westland continues to attract new businesses," he said, "and developers still want to develop property here."

Reeves also suggested that Westland should seek to attract new kinds of businesses, including those that are more high-tech.

He said he hopes that a reduction in the prime rate will boost home sales and reduce foreclosures, and he said the city's rental-inspection ordinance is starting to show results with the sprucing up of rental properties.

Moreover, Reeves said he believes that Michigan's economy will begin to improve and

RODRIGUEZ

FROM PAGE A1

efforts at the existing park.

Rodriguez called it inexcusable that a city of 86,600 residents has one public gymnasium, one sheet of ice for hockey and figure skating, and not nearly enough soccer fields. He has been disappointed that city leaders appear to have largely ignored his ideas.

"It's really gone nowhere," he said. "If I get on the council, at least it's going to be addressed."

Rodriguez, 50, worked in the custom cabinet business for 25 years and is now studying for his builder's license. He is one of eight candidates competing for four council seats in the

Nov. 6 election.

For years now, Rodriguez has urged city officials to address parks and recreation needs to move the city forward. He has long been active in the Westland Youth Athletic Association.

"I know that we don't have the proper facilities," he said during an interview.

Rodriguez said efforts to improve recreation wouldn't just benefit young people. He also said a new complex would include such amenities as indoor swimming for senior citizens.

City officials have insisted that moving ahead with a new recreation complex is virtually impossible without a tax increase. Moreover, they have

said local residents aren't likely to plunk down more money amid tough economic times.

But, Rodriguez said he has done his homework and has found a possible solution. He said he believes the city's 3.35-mill tax rate for the police and fire retirement fund can be reduced yet keep the fund healthy with proper investments. He said he believes voters would approve a tax increase for Frontier Park as long as they get a tax cut elsewhere to balance it out.

Not only would Frontier Park improve the city's image, draw new families and boost property values, but Rodriguez also said construction of the recreation complex would create local jobs. He said the complex

would be centrally located for Westland residents.

Rodriguez also responded to questions about other issues during an interview. To boost recycling efforts, he said the city might want to research possible involvement in programs like RecycleBank, a program in places like Philadelphia. It lets people who recycle earn points that they can redeem for discounts at participating restaurants and other businesses.

People who participate in RecycleBank use a single bin that has compartments for materials. New curbside recycling efforts are "something we have to look at," Rodriguez said. "Everyone's going green."

As for coping with potential

cuts in state-shared revenue, he said the city may need to postpone some projects inside city buildings to save money. He said police and fire services shouldn't be cut.

"I don't see how the state could realistically cut that much from the cities and expect them to survive," he said.

Rodriguez said new recreation facilities could help offset state revenue cuts. He said the new facilities would allow the city to host tournaments and other events that it currently can't accommodate. That would bring in city revenue and also might draw customers to other local businesses, he said.

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Teen sets sights on Broadway

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Shannon Salisbury isn't quite your typical 13-year-old. Sure, she has As and Bs and is in drama and the chorus at Marshall Middle School.

But the Westland teen also knows how to belt out a song. Standing in the living room of her parents' home, she lets loose with an a cappella rendition of *Cabaret* that rivals the Liza Minnelli version of the Broadway hit.

It's a strong indication where she wants to be when she grows up.

"I want to be on Broadway," said Shannon matter-of-factly. "I want to make to Broadway and do any kind of performing ... or have a long recording career."

Shannon's career got its start accidentally when she was a toddler. She was in speech therapy for a stutter when her mother realized that her daughter could sing without a problem. According to Shannon, the therapist told her mother, "That's therapy."

That's all it took to get her entertainment career going. She made her stage debut in first grade in the Kettering Elementary School spring show, singing *Little Mermaid*, and by the next year was a featured performer. By fifth grade she was a soloist. She now takes private lessons with Robin Moore and spends time in the Talent Live recording studio in Canton, working on a CD.

But there's more, according to her mother, Janet Salisbury.

The talented teen has traveled to New York, California, Florida, and Las Vegas to perform in competition. In April, she was on stage at the Music Hall in Detroit as a featured performer in "Stars of Ballet and Broadway." She has performed with Billy Joel's band and as her backup, and when she was younger, she opened for the band Rare Earth.

That's not all. She's appeared in the Village Theater in Canton production of *High School Musical*. She also recently did a weeklong Camp Broadway summer camp in which she worked with actors and directors from Broadway. At the end of the week, the campers did "a huge show" for the families to show how far they'd progress, Shannon said.

"I learned a lot about acting techniques. I learned to be more comfortable on stage, but my forte is singing," she said. "They took me out of my forte and made me act. They knew I could sing, so it was, 'OK, let's see if you can act.'"

"It's exciting. I always like the kids doing positive things, but to see her on stage ... it's exciting," said her father, Shawn Salisbury Sr. "The more she does, the more comfortable she looks up there. She looks like she belongs up there."

Shannon has honed her musical skills at events like the Westland Summer Festival and the Calhoun County Fair. She also performs at



Shannon Salisbury has plenty of trophies and ribbons from years of competing in sports and music competitions. Her biggest challenge, however, may be landing a spot in the Arts Academy in the Woods in Fraser to further her musical ambitions.

senior residences like Waltonwoods in Canton and Wyndham in Livonia.

"My wife keeps her pretty busy," said Shawn Salisbury. "But when she started recording, it started costing money. It takes years for a CD to happen, she could spend five-six years in the recording studio."

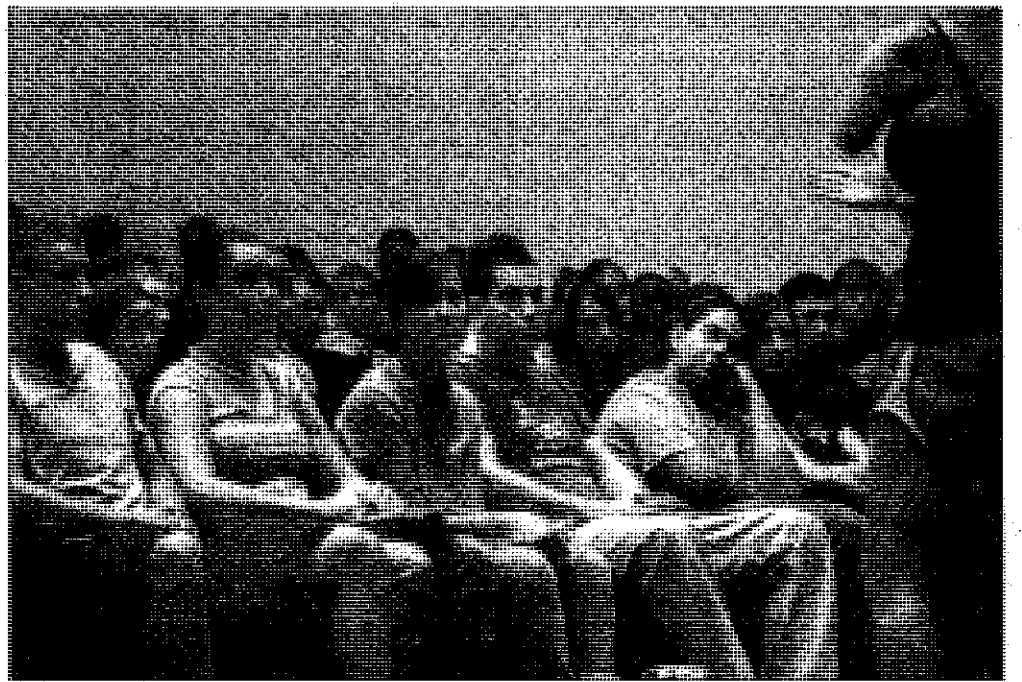
"I started early, but it's going to take a while to get a whole one," Shannon said. The two songs she has recorded are originals — *No More Tomorrows* by Rick Young and Jerry Dodson and *Line Up*, a song sports that she wrote, with music by Rick Young.

Shannon is looking ahead to high school and possibly enrolling in the Arts Academy in the Woods in Fraser. She has to do an audition that includes a monologue and songs. She says her chances are slim, but that won't deter from her career plans.

She'll keep performing in a trio with friends Kelsey Young and Jessica Gray and working on her CD. That's OK with her sister, Amanda Salisbury.

"I'm very proud of her," said Amanda Salisbury. "I'm the shy, quiet one. I look up to her. I'd never have the guts to do what she does."

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



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin High School students listen to Illinois native Sarah Panzau talk about the drunk driving accident in which she lost her left arm and suffered several other life-threatening injuries.

'I chose to drink and drive,' speaker tells Franklin crowd

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Sarah Panzau used to tell people that if she didn't quit drinking and driving, she was going to kill someone.

She was almost right. Panzau, a volleyball star from Illinois, rolled her car driving home from the bar after a night of heavy drinking in August 2003.

The impact from the crash ripped off her left arm, above the elbow. It fractured her jaw in seven places and tore out parts of her tongue. She was ejected through the rear windshield and lay on the highway "pretty much dead." Doctors gave her a zero percent chance of survival. That was 36 surgeries ago.

"I chose to drink and drive," Panzau told Franklin High School students on Monday. Her blood alcohol level was 0.308 at the time of the single-car accident.

"I cannot take this back," Panzau said. She wore a black tank top and red gym shorts, leaving her scarred neck, chest, shoulder, back and legs uncovered. Her once-powerful left arm is a stub. She wants people to remember her name and what she looks like. "I can never go through life looking normal again because of my decision. ... I've learned a lot the hard way."

Panzau, who turns 26 next week, visits high schools to share her story. Central Distributors of Romulus, an Anheuser-Busch wholesaler, teamed with Franklin's Students Against Destructive Decisions group to bring her to the school.

The auditorium was filled to capacity. SADD president Lauren Shomsky said speakers like Panzau elicit mixed reaction from students.

For Araena Crossey, a senior, the story hit close to home. "It was tough for me not to cry," Crossey said.

Her sister, Carlotta Crossey, died in 1995 car accident at age 19. She had alcohol in her system and collided with a drag racer in Florida.

Crossey said she drank heavily after her sister's death, but has gotten help and sworn off all alcohol until she's 21. "I'll make a decision from there," she said.

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Sarah Panzau talks to students at Franklin High School about her decision to drink and drive, and the car accident that left her disfigured.



Sarah Panzau goes over photos of the accident scene where she lost her left arm and suffered several other life-threatening injuries. Behind her is the guardrail she hit while driving drunk.



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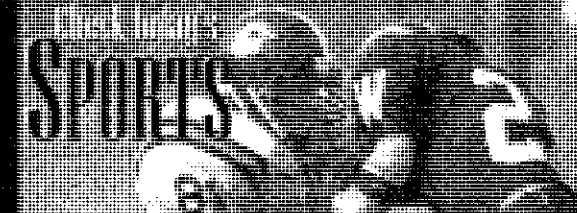
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Cider and doughnuts

Kiwanis sale benefits community projects

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Cider and doughnuts — that's what members of the Garden City Kiwanis Club will be selling Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the end of the month at Barson's Greenhouses in Westland.

The sale kicks off tomorrow (Oct. 12) at the greenhouses on Merriman at Maplewood in Westland. Hours will be 3 p.m. to closing Friday and 9 a.m. to closing Saturday. Sunday sales will be dependent upon having any cider or doughnuts left. The other sales dates are Oct. 19-21 and Oct. 26-28.

"The fresh cider we'll pick up at the farmers market early Friday morning

and sell it by the glass and the jug to take home and hopefully candy apples," Kiwanis member Peggy Burklow said.

Members are hoping that Barson's pumpkin patch will create sales at their tent.

"We're hoping to sell out by the end of Saturday," club President Pete Tavormina said.

Money raised by the club goes back to the Garden City community. It helps fund projects like the annual Christmas party for Garden City school students Kiwanis puts on in conjunction with the Garden City Rotary Club.

The club maintains Kiwanis Park in Garden City and helps with the annual Santaland Parade. It also partnered with the Garden City Fire Department

in sponsoring a fire safety circular that will be given to children at the Fire Department open house Saturday.

The club holds fund-raisers throughout the year. Last month, members sold peanuts at major intersections in the city. They also plan on having a poinsettia sale in November and selling gourmet nuts for holiday gift giving.

The nuts are a popular fund-raiser, according to Tavormina, who recalled a woman once leaving her name and telephone number with him while he was selling peanuts at the Kroger store on Middlebelt.

"She wanted me to let her know when they arrived because she gives them as Christmas presents," he said. "You need to contact club members quickly to



Members of the Garden City Kiwanis club show off pumpkins at Barson's Greenhouses in Westland. They hope the pumpkins will lure people in to buy the fresh cider and doughnuts they'll be selling Fridays through Sundays until the end of the month at Barson's.

order, they're always a sellout."

And that's what members are hoping will happen with the cider and doughnuts.

"This is a first time for us," Tavormina said.

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

Pole-A-Thon benefits 3-Day

Three local businesses teamed up recently to help raise money for women who are walking in this weekend's Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk.

The Fit Zone, Guardian Martial Arts and Fitness and The Pole Dance Factory held a Pole-A-Thon Sept. 6 to help sponsor employees and clients who will be walking in the event that ends The Henry Ford in Dearborn today (Sunday).

Held at the Fit Zone in Livonia, some 30 women learned to Pirouette, Slide, Dip and Back Arch as they helped raise almost \$600 for the walk.

Participants learned basic Pole Dance moves from instructors Patricia Pelto and Kelly Perkins. Two one-hour sessions were held.

"What a great time!" Fit Zone spokeswoman Dannette Carroll-Mateyak said. "The ladies really enjoyed themselves and we appreciate Patricia and Kelly donating their time for this worthwhile cause."

For information about Pole Dance classes or in-home parties call Guardian Martial Arts and Fitness at (734) 266-0565 or The Pole Dance Factory at (734) 306-0909.

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734) 729-7095 on 10/30/07 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
1088 - Kenneth Ellis - 10 totes, 5 boxes, misc items
1252 - Stacy Lanning - 2 Trunks, 20 Boxes, Bed Mattress
3050 - Marian Minor - Leather Couch, Chair, Table
3116 - James Craft - Dresser, 5 Boxes, Misc Items
3140 - Lyssa Wilson - Couch, Loveseat, Misc Items
4106 - Amber Wise - Couch, Loveseat, DVD player
5040 - Gwendolyn Brownlee - 2 Boxes, 3 Bags, misc Items
5096 - Fayvian Watts - Coffee Table, Mattress, 30 Boxes
5118 - Cindy Fowler - TV, Wheel Chair, Dresser
5124 - Mark Ketchum - Refrigerator, 4 Chairs, Couch
5172 - Jacquelyn Billingsley - Couch, Table, Chairs
1086 - Yolanda Charleston - Speakers, 5 Totes, Office Chair
4016 - C Hughes - TV, 10 Totes, DVD player
4148 - James Tuttle - Bed, 4 TV's, Misc Items
4118 - Sheila Walker - 10 Boxes, Microwave, Mattress

Publish: October 11 & 18, 2007

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

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Personal property described below in the matter of:
3020 - Help U Flip 1- Totes, Tools, Boxes
3064 - DeQuan Thomas - Mattress, Bags, Tv
5108 - Janet Davis - Boxes, Totes, Chair
6191 - Janice Moffat - Tools, Toys, Bags
7107 - Kevin Cotton - Vacuum, Boxes, Chair
3014 - Ebonyse Perry - totes,bags,mattress
4061 - Deloris Mowrer - totes,bags,boxes
5106 - Rebecca Fritz - boxes,bags,totes
5108 - Janet Davis - table and couch
6050 - Natalie Jenkins - boxes,bags,mattress
6052 - Holly Knight - boxes,bags,totes
6084 - Carol White - bags,boxes, table
7040 - Rebecca Grauman - boxes,totes,bags
7029 - Mansfield Sports Cards - boxes
7008 - Jonathan Sanders - mattress,couch,table
7009 - Danielle Van Dixon - boxes

Publish: October 11 & 18, 2007

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 on 10/25/07 at 9:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
1288 - Martha Williams - boxes,bags,mirror
1544 - Be Da 1st inc - salon equipment
1550 - Be Da 1st inc - boxes,bags,totes
2164 - Holly Rundels - boxes
2304 - Nina Costello - mattress,dresser,tv
1082 - Mayer Sherman - boxes,bags,totes
1224 - Sammy Williams Jr - boxes,bags,mattress
1322 - Mousa Ghattas - luggage,crates,bags
1358 - Kenisha Mabone - boxes,bags,totes
1348 - Michael McClain - boxes,bags,table
1350 - Bernice Garrett - boxes,bags,table
1418 - Max Horvath Jr - boxes,bags,totes
1442 - Michael Brown - boxes,bags,totes
1462 - Jason Cherry - couch,table,dresser
1506 - Michelle Jackson - totes,bags,mattress
1526 - Marnie Montroy - boxes,table,mattress
2038 - Jean Kirby - boxes
2226 - Arlethea Hall - boxes,bags,bike
2262 - Timothy Elliot - couch,boxes,mower
2283 - Tammy Butler - boxes
3010 - Samco Facilities Maintenance - boxes

Publish: October 11 & 18, 2007

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ORDINANCE NO. 101-D-1

AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE OFFERING FOR SALE OF VEHICLES IN PARKING LOTS AND ALLOWING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT THE AUTHORITY TO TOW VEHICLES PARKED IN VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 98, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 98, ARTICLE I, TO ADD SECTIONS 98-5 AND 98-6 OF THE WESTLAND CITY CODE

Section 1. That Chapter 98, Article I, Section 98-5, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

That it shall be unlawful for the owner of a vehicle to use a parking lot to store or park any vehicle for the purpose of displaying such vehicle for sale.

Section 2. That Chapter 98, Article I, Section 98-6, of the Westland City Code is hereby added to provide as follows:

(a) Whenever any vehicle shall be found parked in a place or in a manner that is against the provisions of this Code, it shall be deemed a nuisance; such vehicle may be removed and conveyed, by or under the direction of the Westland Police Department, by means of towing, same or otherwise to a place of safekeeping. The owner or operator of such a vehicle may be ticketed for a violation of this Chapter or other ordinances of the City.

(b) Whenever the police department tows a vehicle that is parked or placed in violation of this Code, within twenty-four hours after the vehicle is taken into custody, the police department shall notify the Secretary of State that the vehicle has been taken into custody.

Section 3. That all other provisions of Chapter 98 of the Westland City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.

Section 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication as required by law.

Eileen DeHart
Westland City Clerk

Adopted: October 1, 2007
Effective: October 11, 2007
Published: October 11, 2007

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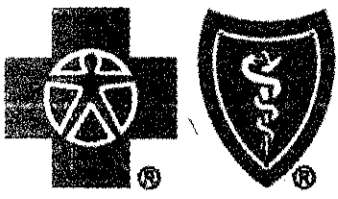
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OUR VIEWS

Who we support for City Council

There are plenty of issues facing the city of Westland. The trickle down effect of the state's fiscal problems will have an impact on the city, especially if there is a further loss of state shared revenue. There's also a concern about the city's trash hauling service and the cleanup of Central City Park.

They are weighty issues that residents should keep in mind when voting in person or by absentee ballot in the Nov. 6 general election.

Eight candidates are vying for a seat on the City Council. Only four will be elected. The choices are incumbents James Godbout and Michael Kehrer, appointed incumbents Dewey Reeves and Bill Johnson, and challengers Christine Cicirelli Bryant, Gary Bulson, Howard Dunn and Mark Rodriguez.

To their credit, this group of individuals has a lot of community involvement under their belt. Many have spent years working as volunteers for the betterment of the city. But in looking at the issues and based on individual interviews, we believe residents would be best served by re-electing James Godbout and Michael Kehrer and electing Dewey Reeves and Bill Johnson to the City Council.

The makeup of the current council is balanced. There is enough room for disagreement among the members and enough room for agreement to get things done. Godbout and Kehrer have lengthy service on the council that has given them the knowledge and skills to make the tough decisions. Reeves and Johnson have proven to be quick learners after being appointed to the council in January.

Pluses for Godbout, Kehrer and Reeves is their stand against rolling back the city's trash disposal tax and voicing support for using the money to jump-start curbside recycling. That stands as a smart decision in light of Midwest Sanitation's attempt to reorganize under federal bankruptcy laws.

Another plus for Reeves and Johnson is their being proactive in learning about the city services. As new council members, the two men made it their job to visit every city department to find out what they do. They also have done their homework when it comes to issues facing the city and the council.

Reeves also brings much needed diversity to the council, something that has been missing since William Anderson left some 30 years ago. The makeup of the city is changing and his presence on the council provides representation for a growing segment of the Westland's population.

We urge residents to vote for **James Godbout, Michael Kehrer, Dewey Reeves and Bill Johnson** in the Nov. 6 City Council election. We believe these four candidates have what is needed to move this city forward in these difficult times.

We also encourage residents to get to know all of the candidates. Attend the Westland Candidate Forum, sponsored by the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association and the Westland Democratic Club, at 7 p.m. tomorrow (Oct. 12), at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, between Palmer and Michigan and east of Venoy. A knowledgeable electorate is the best kind of electorate.

Budget wrangling not over

If you thought efforts to reach the state budget agreement were troublesome, hold on. Chaos is about to ensue.

While the governor and legislators touted the agreement, the fact is it's only a temporary, continuation budget. A permanent agreement must be reached by the end of the month. If reaction to the taxes agreed upon is any indication, things are about to get a whole lot more rancorous as legislators try to cut \$440 million from the budget.

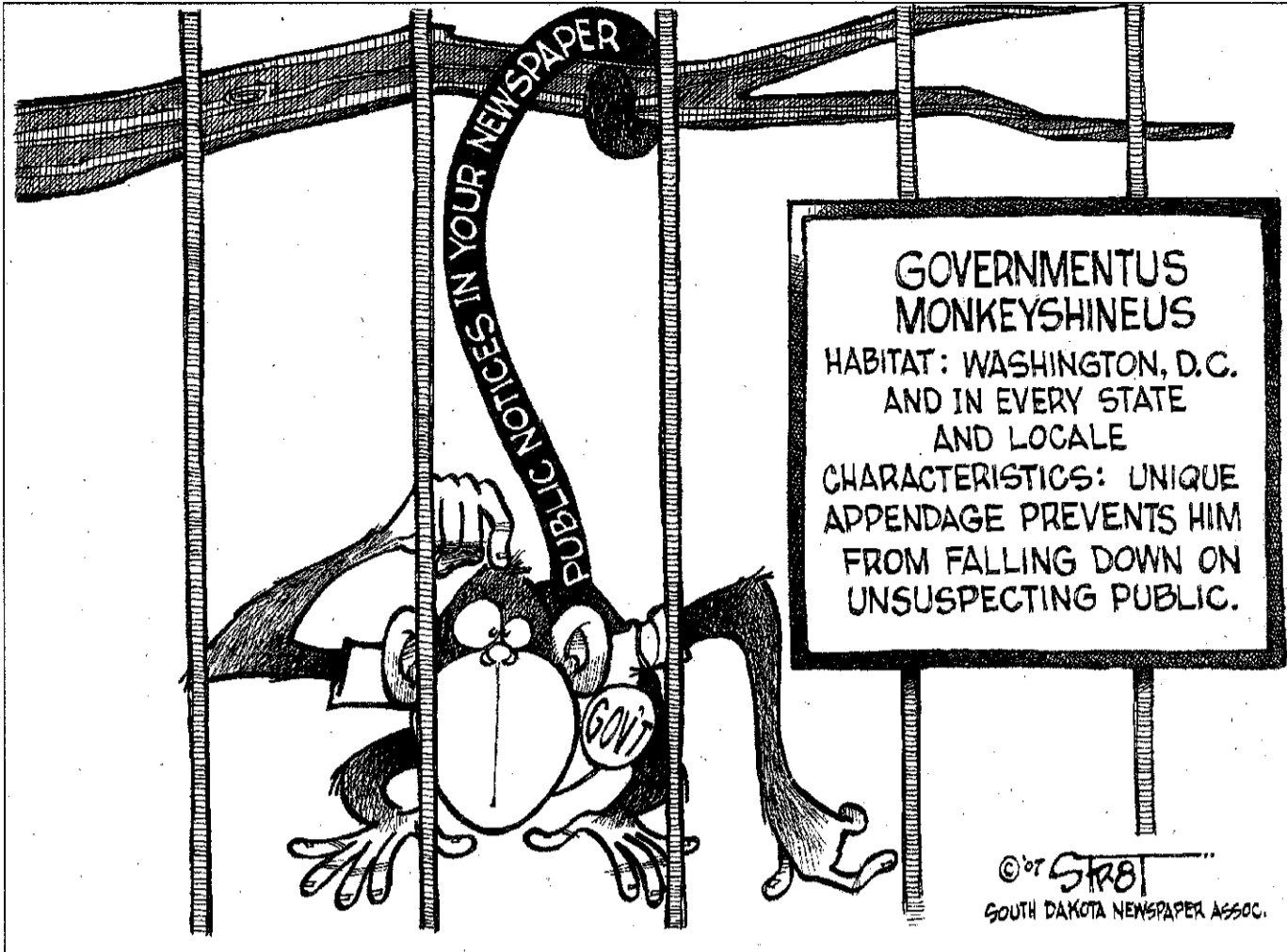
An increase in the state income tax from 3.9 percent to 4.35 percent and an extension of the state 6-percent sales tax to some services passed with the narrowest of margins.

The Legislature has known that passing a budget that addressed the state's revenue and spending problems was its No. 1 priority, and yet real forward motion came down to a hectic weekend that included a threatened shutdown of state services and careful deals to protect vulnerable legislators from voter wrath.

The results of all this drama are inconclusive. In a speech last week in Troy, Tom Clay of the respected nonpartisan Citizens Research Council pointed to two problems with the agreement, the phasing out of the income tax increase back to 3.9 percent by 2015 without reference to economic conditions and the uneven and arbitrary application of the new tax on services.

A movement within and outside the Legislature is already making headway on working toward repeal of the service tax that goes into effect Dec. 1. We question a tax that exempts golf fees but taxes skiing, among other arbitrary decisions. Critics also complain that the tax penalizes some services that are important to the state's economic recovery. Speaker of the House Andy Dillon has floated the idea of a ballot proposal to raise the sales tax to 7 percent across the board in return for reducing the tax on services and giving homeowners a bigger income tax credit.

Moving forward, it is important that the Legislature identify areas where substantive reforms can be made, including state health care and pension programs and the Department of Corrections.



LETTERS

Financial self-sufficiency

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps would like to reach out to individuals in the community in need of assistance with financial planning. Our goal is to encourage financial self-sufficiency and decreased reliance on public assistance.

We are sponsoring a seminar 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Oct. 15, at the corps, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer in Westland. In addition to financial planning/budgeting, community experts will explore job training, education and such family issues as parenting. Attendees will eat lunch with speakers and have an additional opportunity to ask questions.

We'll need reservations for planning purposes, and are asking residents to call (734) 722-3660. Space is limited to one person per household. We are grateful to our community supporters for their help, and hope for a strong community response to our "Independence Day" seminar Oct. 15.

Capt. Malinda O'Neil
Salvation Army,
Wayne-Westland Corps

Thank you, ninth-graders

We had another successful homecoming this year at Wayne Memorial High School. Again, parents volunteered in unbelievable numbers; however, there was something else that was really apparent (not to mention fantastic!). Our ninth-graders participated in unusually large numbers.

They were so spirited and ready to participate in the pep assembly, games and activities. Mr. (John) Albrecht and I could hardly believe our eyes when the parade line literally bulged because we had so many ninth-graders participating!

I just wanted the ninth-graders to know how amazing they are and how happy we are to have them at our school and helping to make it such a special place to work and learn.

Sandra Morante
assistant principal
Wayne Memorial High School

Not about sacrifice

I disagree, the crisis is a dispute over how much sacrifice (money) can politicians squeeze out of the taxpayers in the name of the needy and for the supposed good of all and still get re-elected and/or protected from recall.

Paul Gruchala
Westland

What an honor

On Oct. 3, I was honored to deliver the Pledge of Allegiance at the mayor's community gathering at Holiday Park. For several weeks I had second thoughts about doing it because I felt there were many more deserving people than myself. After much encouragement from Courtney Conover, I agreed to do it.

Let McCotter hear us

As the Congress is asked again for billions of dollars (\$190 billion this time) to fund the four-plus-year-old Iraq war, it is important that citizens in Michigan's 11th Congressional district let Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R) hear our voice. Since the first vote to authorize mili-

tary action, McCotter has consistently supported this ill-advised and poorly planned invasion of a sovereign nation. He has voted to give this administration a blank check, with no accountability. Now it is time for Mr. McCotter to hear how we feel about:

- The nearly 4,000 U.S. service members who have lost their lives.
- The hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens killed.
- The nearly \$500 billion already spent on this war.
- The tremendous increase in the federal deficit from borrowing that \$500 billion.

Before the next vote in Congress, I urge all constituents to contact Mr. McCotter. Let him know how you feel about the Iraq war.

While you are at it, ask Mr. McCotter why he voted against the renewal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) on Sept. 25, 2007. This is a program that allows states to provide health insurance for poor children across the country. I would find it hard to believe that it is the cost, \$35 billion over five years, since he consistently votes to spend about \$10 billion a month on the Iraq war.

Perhaps he is against providing health insurance to 10 million poor children; I would hate to think he is that callous. Interestingly, I've not received any mailings from Mr. McCotter explaining his position on the CHIP bill, or his position on the increased funding of the Iraq war. I checked his Web site — mccotter.house.gov/HoR/MI11/Home/ — and found no information there. You would think that on these critical issues that face the U.S., and where he has a direct voice, he would be eager to state and defend his positions on these and other important issues, I guess not.

Mr. McCotter likes to say he "works for us." We need to let him prove it! Unfortunately, Mr. McCotter does not list an e-mail address, but you can contact Mr. McCotter in the following ways:

- Washington, D.C. — 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; telephone (202) 225-8171 and fax (202) 225-2667.
- Livonia District Office — 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 216, Livonia, MI 48152; telephone (734) 632-0314 and fax (734) 632-0373.

John Zajechowski
Garden City

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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

Fax:
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E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"It's important for these offenders and the public at large to understand that each police agency involved in this operation is taking a proactive approach here."
- Westland Police Chief James Ridener about last week's Operation LASSO (Locating and Securing Sex Offenders) in which Westland Police officers participated

WESTLAND
Observer

GANNETT

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Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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.

Newspapers play a vital role in keeping government open

Editor's note: The following column is being printed in recognition of National Newspaper Week, Oct. 7-13, and the importance of ensuring open government.

My mom used to have a small, three-legged wooden stool. I don't remember the stool being used for any reason, just something to set a newspaper or magazine on for a minute.



David Thompson

It was small and thus not sturdy enough to hold anything of weight.

But no matter if it was strong and sturdy, the three-legged stool was no good if something happened to one of the legs. It couldn't stand on just two.

You're probably already wondering what a three-legged stool has to do with the newspaper business.

Open government is a three-legged stool.

It takes open meetings.

It takes open records.

It takes public notices.

Any of the three being absent you don't really have open government.

I would wager that the news side of newspapers thinks all of government can be "open" if just its meetings and records are kept public. And I would wager an equal amount that the advertising/business side would argue without public notices, government really can't be open.

In reality, they are both right.

It takes all three. Together. If one of the three is missing, any one of the three, open government is off-balance.

OPEN MEETINGS

Much can go on behind closed doors and much does. The law gives public agencies the right to enter into closed meetings under certain conditions. The law limits the presence of people at those meetings

and nothing can be finalized. Any final action must be done in public.

Open meetings also give the citizens the right to speak on a particular subject. Much like lobbying in some respect but the comments play an important part of a public agency's decisions on most items.

OPEN RECORDS

Much like open meetings, most records are open. Those records can be closed to the public under certain conditions but the records are important for a variety of reasons.

Often, government records will reveal what has happened behind the scenes, with agencies trying to restrict knowledge of what has happened in certain situations. Maybe it's a financial settlement with a fired public agency employee. Maybe it's what happened in a court proceeding. Maybe it's just simple communications between agencies.

Open records are much more than that, I know, but open records are an important part of that three-legged stool.

PUBLIC NOTICES

These probably get overlooked when compared to open meetings and open records. Newspaper editorial departments won't understand the reason for them, why government agencies should pay to have information published. Newspaper ad departments will favor this one over open meetings and open records. Those are good but with public notices certain information has to be published and that information could be very revealing.

On their own, each is important and each plays a role in open government — government of the people, for the people and by the people. True open government can only be open with the three-legged stool in perfect balance.

David T. Thompson is executive director of the Kentucky Press Association.

State's public schools in crisis

With the state's budget situation in dismal condition and after months of discussions the state's legislative leaders and the governor finally agreed on a compromise approach that included some tax increases. Now the individual departmental budgets have to be approved by the House and Senate and signed by the governor.

Virtually every state departmental budget will receive a budget-reduction despite now approved higher taxes. K-12 public education is part of one department that will not be cut with the state budgeting a 1 percent increase as well as a small "equity" payment. For some perspective on this situation we offer the following facts:

- The state has not yet sent any school aid payment to the districts and will not until Oct. 22nd, 3 ½ months after the school districts' fiscal year that began on July 1.

- In two of the last four years the state substantially cut (prorated) the state aid to the schools several months after the schools were in session.

- The state has just passed legislation that reduces the health and retirement benefits for new school teachers.

- More than 200 school districts in Michigan are currently without a contract with their employees, 72 of which are in their second year or longer without a contract.

- The state still provides school aid in differing amounts ranging from \$7,085 to \$12,200 based on the categories first established in the School District Equalization Act of 1973, although partially altered in later years.

- The state, other than a school bond loan program that requires any assistance to be paid back with interest, provides no assistance for the schools' infrastructure needs for their buildings, some of which are over 100 years old. We provided significant data to the state on the serious conditions that exist in the school buildings in many communities with photographic evidence. Efforts for over a decade have gone without any state action. Ohio, our next neighbor, has had a program in existence for over eight years that has major renovated or newly constructed nearly 500 buildings by utilizing tobacco revenue where Michigan has partially sold \$400 million (over \$200 million this year) to speculators in order to help plug current budget deficits.

- Several school districts in this state are fiscally bankrupt (in deficit reduction plans) and several more will join them with the proposed state aid.

- Most school districts have already laid off staff, increased class sizes, have cut back on all of their opera-

tions, including even some of the more endowed school districts.

- Many school districts have established cooperative arrangements with other school districts.

- The state has funded the 229 charter schools with state aid that is higher than the majority of regular public school districts. The majority of the charter schools do not provide bus transportation to the school, do not run athletic programs, do not service the seriously handicapped students with programs, and do not offer the high technical programs that cost more to operate.

- The state deducts from the school aid budget interest costs of the state when their cash flow requires borrowing, although the schools have to pay interests to lenders to borrow at the beginning of the year during the aforementioned three-month Summer/Fall period. This year it will cost school districts over \$26 million. The state, of course, retains the interest on the aid funds during that Summer/Fall period.

- Most of the colleges and universities, who also receive state aid, have dealt with their funding shortfall by raising student tuition rates from 6-14 percent. K-12 districts, of course, have no such option.

- Much, much more could be cited.

So, while newspapers and commentators generally cite the complaints of taxpayers in their coverage, we find little coverage of the crisis in public education.

Certainly taxpayers have some justification for serious concerns in our current economic times yet in view of the tax history in this state:

- Income tax was 6.35 percent as late as 1984, was dropped to 4.6 percent in 1986, was dropped to 4.4 percent in 1994, and finally cut to 3.9 percent in five steps from 2000 to 2004. Now 4.35 percent.

- Michigan ranks 22nd in total taxes nationally.

- Michigan has not effectively taxed Internet sales.

- Michigan has not been taxing services for sales tax, until this partial addition.

- The state in its current budget reform plan of new taxes, reforms and reductions has not fully addressed the basic state's structural needs because they have not fully addressed the three components. Thus, next year the crisis will return in a lesser dimension.

The central point is this 1 percent increase in the K-12 education budget is not adequate to meet the needs to operate a quality school system. Does anyone believe a 1 percent increase will cover the change in gasoline prices to run the buses from last year's prices, or

the change in heating fuel to heat the schools, or to cover the cost of supplies for the schools, and so forth? No! The 1 percent "increase" leaves the cuts to schools at a new dangerous low! This state's citizens and this state's future will pay the price!

Worst of all our children and youths' future will pay the price! We must stand up now for an adequate school aid appropriation. We have less than two weeks to do our part! Contact Gov. Granholm — go to www.michigan.gov/gov to send an e-mail, or (517) 335-6863 to fax — and contact Sen. Michael Bishop (Senate Majority Leader) — e-mail senmbishop@senate.michigan.gov, or fax (517) 373-2694.

Richard W. Wilson,
executive director
School Equity Caucus

(School Equity Caucus is an organization of 200 public school districts seeking adequacy and equity in public school funding.)

Tax hike harm is real

I just heard a few details on the sales tax on services. For me, being self-employed, I currently pay 3.9 percent of my earnings to the state in income tax. Now I understand the state is going to tax my services at 6 percent plus raise my income tax to 4.3 percent.

That's 10.3 percent on my earnings. And no, I can't simply pass the 6 percent on to clients and still be competitive. Eighty percent of my business comes from one national client and if I loose my contract over this, I have four kids to feed. Business does not pay this tax on employees but they will on in-state contract folks like me. This is totally unfair and puts me a tremendous disadvantage vs. my competition living in Ohio and elsewhere.

This tax impacts computer programmers, consultants, contract labor to the auto industry, telemarketing professionals, collection agencies, and many others.

Businesses can and will take their business out of state. The global market is competitive. Programmers and computer graphics folks are already seeing jobs at Ford farmed out to India and elsewhere. In my business of telecommunications, the customer service rep you hear when you call a local number can be located overseas when labor is low cost. And 6 percent is enough incentive for more business to make the switch.

The immediate negative impact of this tax is real!

K. Howse
Technical Management Services,
Livonia

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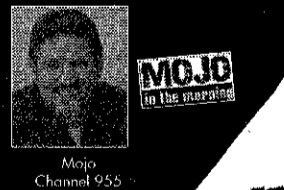
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County holding tree, plant sale

The Wayne County Conservation District is hosting its 39th Annual Fall Tree and Native Plant Sale. The order deadline is extended to Oct. 12 and the pickup date is Oct. 19 at the barn at 5454 Venoy Road in Wayne, Michigan.

If you cannot make this date, alternative pickup dates can be arranged. The order form is available by either calling (313) 418-0700 or (734) 727-7248 or by downloading it from our Web site, www.waynecod.org.

In addition to conifers such as balsam fir, jack pine, red pine, white pine, blue spruce, white spruce, black spruce, and red cedar, the fall sale hosts a large variety of wild flowers for dry soils (such as yellow and purple coneflower, sand coreopsis, spidewort, butterfly weed, lupine, blue aster, compass plant) and wet soils (bellflower, cardinal flower, blue flag iris, marsh marigold, monkey flower, swamp rose mallow, blue verbain, spotted Joe-Pye weed), native prairie grasses (bluestem and Indian grass), and bulrushes and cattails.

Trees and native plants add natural diversity to the landscape, provide habitat for birds and wildlife, assist in carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change, conserve natural resources, increase property values, and save time, energy, and water in plant maintenance. Exotic plants such as the tall phragmites are eliminating our beneficial native plants such as cattails and bulrushes. Eliminating native plants and native habitats is partially responsible for many of our threatened and endangered bird and wildlife populations.

The Conservation District's fall and spring tree sales helps to support natural conservation efforts in Wayne County.

County wins grant

Wayne County's Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded a federal grant of \$3 million over three years to help eliminate the lead poisoning of children in Highland Park and Hamtramck.

Highland Park has the highest rate of elevated blood lead levels in Michigan among children under the age of six, based on state testing. More than 46 percent of the children

tested with levels higher than normal.

In Hamtramck, 29 percent of children had elevated lead levels, among the highest percentages in the state.

The grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development will be used to inspect about 500 houses built before 1940 for lead hazards, including paint chips, paint dust and soil.

Fieger the latest 'Dining With Stars' guest

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Southfield attorney Geoffrey Fieger.

Fieger is one of the most successful and controversial trial attorneys in the country.

According to his Web site, Fieger has won more multimillion-dollar awards than any other attorney in the country. A few of his most well-known trials include the defense of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the *Jenny Jones Show* trial, and the defense of Nathaniel Abraham, the youngest person ever tried for murder as an adult in the state of Michigan.

Fieger has won record awards in Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and Indiana, and many of his trials have generated national attention and set legal precedents.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you'd



Fieger

like to have lunch or dinner with Geoffrey Fieger at Buddy's Pizza.

Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline to enter the contest is 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15. A photograph of you and Fieger will be published in the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* and online at www.hometownlife.com.

"We want our winners to dine with their favorite stars and feel like a star, too," said Marcy Brontman of Buddy's Pizza.

The winner will be treated to a limo ride, courtesy of All Class

Transportation & Limousine Services; a makeover from Beauty Salon by J.Lyle Ltd. featuring stylist and makeup artist Christine Fitzpatrick; a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield; and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Other upcoming "Dining With the Stars" will feature Florine Mark of Weight Watchers, health and fitness guru and *O&E* columnist Peter Nielsen, Ruth Spencer of WDIV's "Ruth to the Rescue" and Trudi Daniels of WRIF-FM.

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top four "fan" letters.

The stars featured for the month will make the final selection. Lunch and/or dinner date is to be determined with the winner and star by Buddy's representatives.

Government notices protect the public

Protecting the public's right to know through publication of government public notices is the theme of National Newspaper Week now through Oct. 13.

Since 1940, the Newspaper Association Managers, an organization of state, regional and national newspaper association executives, has sponsored and supported National Newspaper Week, a weeklong celebration of newspapers in America.

Few things are as vital to a thriving democracy as the free flow of information between government and the governed.

Public notices published in newspapers provide citizens a window into government. Most of the information for the following questions and answers comes from the booklet "Public Notice: An American Tradition, An

Examination of the Role of Newspapers in Public Notice," published by the Public Notice Resource Center and American Court & Commercial Newspapers.

1) What is a public notice?

A public notice is information informing citizens of government or government-related activities that affect citizens' everyday lives.

2) Why do we need public notices?

An important premise found in both federal and local governments is that information about government activities must be accessible in order for the electorate to make well-informed decisions. Public notices in newspapers provide this sort of accessibility to citizens who want to know more about government activities.

3) What is the history of public notices?

The history of public notice begins long before the emergence of newspapers. The concept has existed since early civilizations posted notices in public squares. This crude method was eventually refined with the publication of the first publication of the first English language newspaper in 1665 — a court newspaper called *The Oxford Gazette*.

In America, the Acts of the First Session of the First Congress in 1789 required that all bills, orders, resolutions and congressional votes be published in at least three publicly available newspapers.

Upholding the public's right to know has been essential to our country's way of life since day one. Our government governs with the consent of people, and this consent must be informed.

4) What are some exam-

ples of a public notices?

There are many kinds of public notices. Publication of proposed budgets for local governments, notices of local government hearings, bid notices, board and agency meeting minutes and pre-election notices are just a few examples.

5) Are newspapers the most effective vehicle for public notices?

Public notices published in newspapers ensures readership by those most likely to be interested in or affected by the notices. Plus, the notices arrive at readers' homes or places of work in a newspaper filled with local news and information that compels readership.

Newspapers are paid to publish public notices, which guarantees that valuable newspaper space will be devoted to notifying the public.

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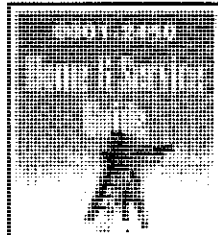
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Location has a minimal impact on fund's performance

I was having a discussion with a group of investors and one of the topics that came up was whether there was any correlation between where a mutual fund portfolio manager was located and returns.

The thought was that managers located in financial hubs such as New York and Chicago may have an advantage over managers located in other areas.

I don't believe there's an advantage and, in fact, sometimes there's a disadvantage. Portfolio managers who are located outside the traditional financial hubs gain a different perspective of the economy. Therefore, where a fund management company is located is only a minor issue.

With the Internet and instant communications, a portfolio manager in Michigan has as much access to information as one located in New York. In fact, many people are



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Funds, www.ave mariafunds.com.

LOCATION A BONUS

The fact these funds are located in Michigan should not be the only reason to consider investing in them. Judge the funds based on performance — the fact that they are in Michigan is a bonus.

The funds are totally different. The Utopia Funds are a relatively new group managed by FIM Group in Traverse City. Although the FIM Group has been managing money for

20 years, Utopia Funds are relatively new.

They are somewhat hard to categorize because they are known as go-anywhere funds. That means the portfolio management team believes the goal is to make money whether that means investing in large companies, small companies or international. The mission is to look for values and opportunities for investors no matter where.

UTOPIA FUNDS

Unlike many mutual fund companies, Utopia Funds are a small family and there is a distinct difference between funds. Utopia includes two growth funds — Utopia Growth and Utopia Core Growth. Utopia Growth is an aggressive fund geared for investors with at least a 10-year horizon, while the core fund is more moderate and geared for an investor with at least a five-year time horizon.

AVE MARIA FUNDS

Ave Maria Funds is a unique group of in that it is a morally responsible family of funds. In selecting investments for the portfolio, the manager, by prospectus, must not invest in companies that violate Catholic values. Determining whether a company is in line with Catholic values is not as simple as you might think. For this reason, the fund family has a board of directors that makes the determinations and the board members include individuals such as Larry Kudlow from CNBC and Lou Holtz, the former head football coach of Notre Dame. Some of the companies that would not be eligible for inclusion in the fund are those that publish or promote pornography, offer same sex benefits to their employees or those that support or promote abortion. Ave Maria Funds should not be confused with socially

responsible funds. Although they both screen out companies based upon set criteria, the criteria they screen for is different. Socially responsible funds, in general, tend to have a more environmentally focused mandate. Many will not invest in defense or cigarette manufacturers and some funds specifically look to invest in companies that offer same sex benefits to employees and their partners. So whether you want a morally responsible or socially responsible fund, it is important to read the prospectus and understand the specific objectives of the fund.

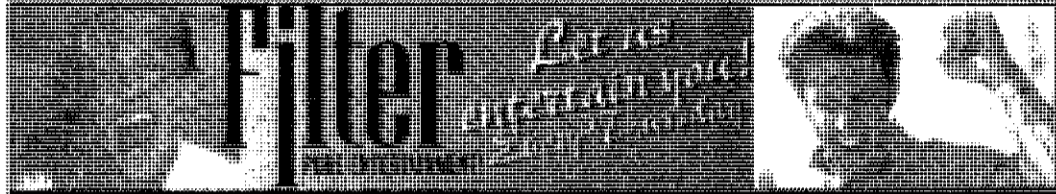
One note regarding the Ave Maria Fund. The portfolio manager, whom I've had on my radio show a number of times, does not feel handcuffed by the criteria set by the board of directors. In addition, just because a fund family like the Ave Maria Funds screens out certain

companies does not mean that performance is not a major factor. It is.

Both the Utopia Group of Funds and the Ave Maria Funds are no-load and can be purchased directly from the companies or from one of the mutual fund supermarkets, such as Charles Schwab, if you prefer a consolidated statement.

Location has little impact on the performance of funds. Whether someone is located in New York, Michigan or Alaska, in today's world they all share the same information. The key to success is what's done with the information.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTN-AM (1400).



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SPORTS



(LW)

Thursday, October 11, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill senior Shannon Warner, a two-time defending Division 1 state champion, broke her own Western Lakes record Tuesday when she fired at 67 at Pheasant Run in Canton to earn medalist honors.

Bittersweet

Warner fires 67, but Chargers share WLAA crown

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill senior Shannon Warner hadn't won the Western Lakes Activities Association girls golf tournament since her freshman year, when she shot a course-record 71.

After a two-year WLAA drought, the two-time defending Division 1 state medalist turned in a blistering 18-hole round of 67 Tuesday at Canton's Pheasant Run to regain medalist honors, nine shots ahead of runner-up Sarah Johnson of Walled Lake Central, who shot 76. Defending champion Alicia Weber of Northville was third with 78.

But despite Warner's 67 and junior Lexi McFarlane's 84, the Chargers were eight strokes off the pace in the team standings and had to settle for second place behind Northville, which finished with 345.

Churchill, the dual meet champion with an 11-0 record, and Northville, which finished 10-1, share overall first-place WLAA team honors.

"We played well, but Northville shot a great score today," Churchill coach Gary Harper said. "A 353 (team total) is a winning score almost at any tournament. We hope to shoot that number Thursday at the (Division 1) regional (at Giant Oak), and if we do that, we'll be all set."

"We had a good year. We gave it a good run at the conference meet and have nothing to feel bad about. We still had a successful year."

'I tried to play well, not force anything, go with the flow and be patient. I wanted to keep it in the fairway and hit greens. That's the key to every course.'

SHANNON WARNER, Churchill senior golfer

Warner had a total of seven birdies on hole Nos. 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 16 and 18. On No. 12, the senior was slightly off the green and chipped in. She bogeyed Nos. 7 and 8.

"I tried to play well, not force anything, go with the flow and be patient," Warner said. "I wanted to keep it in the fairway and hit greens. That's the key to every course. I played well. My one bad drive, I got lucky. It was a centimeter from being out of bounds (on the par-5 No. 4) and I ended up with a birdie."

Even more remarkable is the fact that Warner is juggling two sports during the fall season. She plays as a back-row defensive specialist for the defending Class A volleyball state champions. Warner had to miss volleyball practice Tuesday, which goes normally 3-5 p.m., to play in the WLAA golf tournament.

There's only one drawback.

"Sometimes I have to rush (to volleyball) when I have league matches," Warner said.

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Sidelines

Flames' Moss on IR

Calgary Flames forward David Moss, who suffered an arm injury during the preseason, has been placed on the injured reserve list.

The 26-year-old Moss, a native of Livonia and graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School, scored 10 goals and added eight assists in 41 games last year with the Flames in his inaugural NHL season.

The former University of Michigan standout was a seventh-round draft pick of the Flames in 2001.

Misiak-Hall resigns

Livonia Churchill is seeking a new varsity girls softball coach following the sudden resignation of Meghan Misiak-Hall, who recently accepted a full-time teaching position in Florida.

The former Churchill All-State pitcher and Wayne State University standout guided the Chargers to a 17-15 record last spring in her only season as varsity coach.

Misiak-Hall spoke with returning team members on Monday, according to Churchill athletic director Marc Hage.

"We will miss her tremendously, but fully understand the reason for her decision," Hage said. "Meghan is a very conscientious person and she did a nice job for us last year."

Hole-in-one club

■ On Oct. 8, Dave Morrill of Westland used an 8-iron to ace the 144-yard, No. 17 hole at Whispering Willows.

Morrill, who shot an 88, recorded his first hole-in-one in 36 years of golf.

■ On Sept. 29, Westland's Linda Kearney gave herself an early birthday present when she used a 7-wood to ace the 125-yard, No. 7 hole at Westland Municipal Golf Course.

It is Kearney's birthday today.

Lady Ocelots turn up the heat, rule own invitational

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Scorching weekend weather didn't slow down Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team, which outraced and outscored opponents 15-3 en route to a pair of non-conference wins at the annual Lady Ocelots Invitational.

Schoolcraft routed Heartland (Ill.) Community College, 8-1, Saturday and followed that Sunday afternoon with a 7-2 drubbing of the University of Michigan-Dearborn club team.

Leading Sunday's victory with two goals and two assists was sophomore Margaret Mayer, usually a defender who played significant minutes up front.

Mayer, the oldest player at age 30, needed just a couple of short breaks to cool down from the heat. But the former Livonia Churchill player emphasized that the way head coach Deepak Shivraman preaches fitness and nutrition pays off during such hot days.

"Deepak really believes in fitness," said Mayer, a

Westland resident. "We've been running a lot, and we've been really pushing ourselves since August. We run about three and a half miles a couple times a week."

According to Shivraman, what that does is get players in such good condition that they don't lose their edge or confidence under the kind of conditions they played in Sunday.

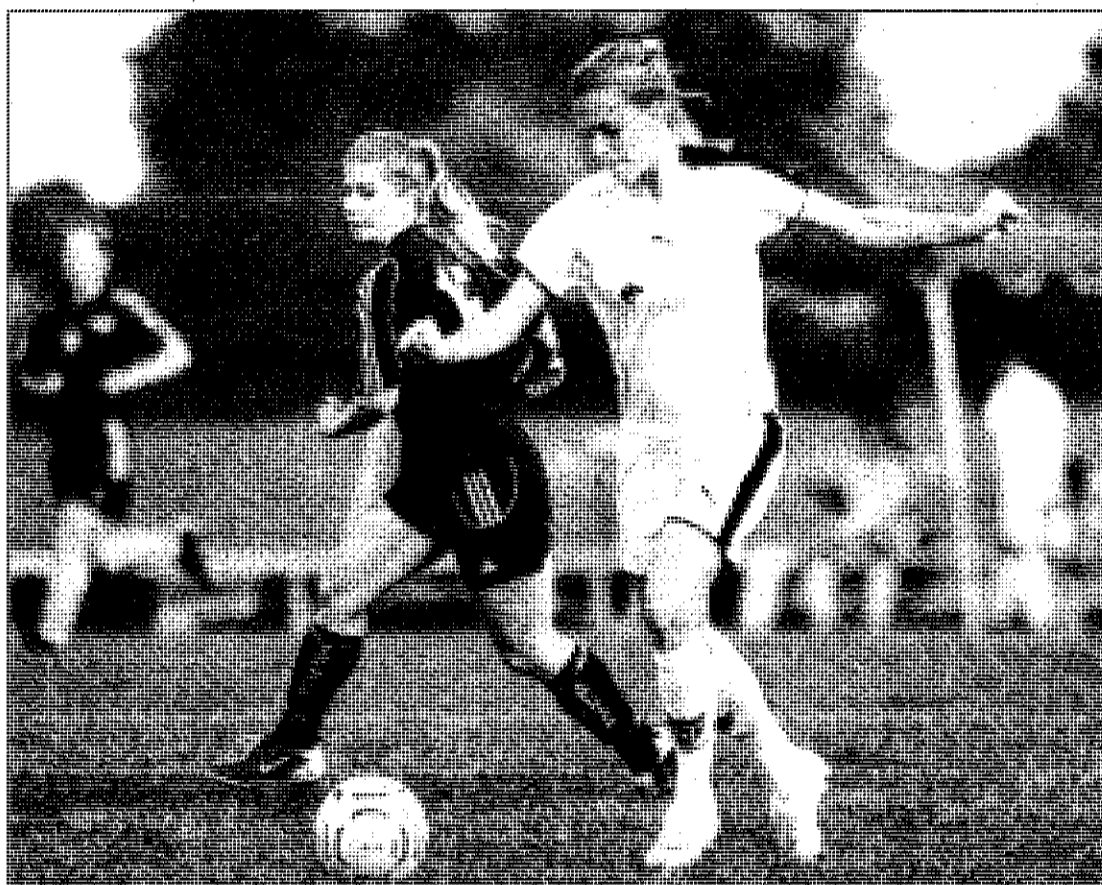
"You can tell (by) the second half" he said. "We were rotating people in every six to eight minutes and we were on our toes, just moving a little more sharper and quicker."

The Lady Ocelots (7-2-0) got off to a quick 1-0 lead when forward Jessica Austin (Livonia Franklin) found the net behind UM-D goalkeeper and Livonia Stevenson alum Brittany Vella.

The Wolves knotted things up when midfielder Diana Birda (Franklin) scored on an assist from Redford Thurston product Ruth Sable.

But midfielder Megan McCabe restored Schoolcraft's lead and Mayer drove a shot

Please see **OCELOTS, C2**



RENA LAVERTY

Schoolcraft College forward Jessica Austin (right) moves the ball past University of Michigan-Dearborn midfielder Annie Slagle during Sunday's match at the Ocelot Invitational.

Rules of the game: Test your football knowledge



Grid Picks

Brad Emons

So you think you know your high school football rules?

Before you yell at your local referee at the next game you attend, see you if can correctly answer these two sample questions (as provided recently by the Michigan High School Athletic Association).

Question 1: On a field goal attempt, the snap is muffed and the ball is rolling near the 10-yard line.

The kicker, who also plays soccer, kicks the rolling ball off the ground and through the uprights. The correct ruling on the play is ...

A. Successful field goal; score three points.

B. Foul for an illegal kick; if the penalty is accepted, penalize 15 yards from the previous spot and replay the down. If the penalty is declined, the field goal is good,

score three points.

C. Foul for an illegal kick; if the penalty is accepted, penalize 15 yards from the previous spot and replay the down. If the penalty is declined, the result of the play is a touchback by virtue of the illegal kick.

D. None of the above.

Question 2: MHSAA playoff game. The visiting team runs a play,

which is followed immediately by the home team's band playing the school fight song. The band must stop playing ...

A. Whenever it feels like it; there is no regulation that deals with bands.

B. When the visiting team breaks the huddle or when the ball is

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Used car prices take hard tumble New car incentives push used car marketplace to record low

by J.L. Sims Independent ad features

Livonia, MI - A Livonia dealer is selling 2007 vehicles for about one-half of the original manufacturer's list price. And they're offering many other models far below normal market values.

How does 0% financing on a new model do in a heads-up comparison to a pre-owned 2007 model? In the instance of the Buick LaCrosse, financing \$21,960 plus tax vs. \$9995 plus tax, the payments on the new car at 0% interest would be \$392 monthly for 60 months, but only \$269 monthly at 5.9% for 60 months on the program model.

John Rogin Buick sold over 150 Buick LaCrosse & Pontiac Grand Prix's in the first 30 days of their sale.

A "program" car is a vehicle that has been leased by a premium rental company through a special "program" from the manufacturer. Strict maintenance is required, and all vehicles are carefully inspected upon return.

John Rogin Buick-Livonia has long been known as Michigan's "bargain hunting" dealer. Currently, they're selling more 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix than any

other dealer in the nation. (Over 150 Pontiacs & Buicks were sold during the first 30 days of their sale.) Last year, they sold the most pre-owned 2006 Impalas and Pontiac Grand AMs in the nation from their single location.

Today's real bargain can be found at John Rogin in the pre-owned 2007 vehicles. The low financing on new 2007's has left the used models unnoticed and overlooked.

So, once again, John Rogin has gone shopping for the vehicles with a huge car. They have just made a multi-million dollar purchase of these units from General Motors, bringing in truckload after truckload from



Bargains abound in pre-owned 2007 program vehicles all with 100,000 mile warranty.

filling their giant used car facility to the brim, John Rogin had to lease additional storage lots to accommodate their massive acquisition of vehicles.

Inventory of 2007 program cars in Michigan with a 100,000 mile warranty.

The purpose of 0% financing is to clear out the remaining new 2007's. In another week or two, these vehicles will all be gone,

along with the incentives. In the meantime, the 2007 program vehicles are truly today's "sleeping" bargain...

John Rogin Buick is located at 30500 Plymouth Road, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. Their used car superstore may be contacted directly at (734) 525-0900 Monday - Friday during normal business hours.

A Beautiful Buick

The 2001-2007 Buicks were the highest ranked Premium Midsize Car in J.D. Powers and Associates Initial Quality Study. This study was based on a total of over 64,900 consumer responses indicating owner reported problems during the first 90 days of ownership.

Equipped with a powerful 175-horsepower V-6 boasting 20 mpg city and 29 mpg highway fuel economy, the Buick LaCrosse will capture your heart from the moment you slip behind the wheel. There won't be any need

for a salesperson to explain how to operate "all the buttons," because this LaCrosse will greet you like an old friend, or a comfortable pair of slippers. The cabin is exceedingly driver friendly, with all controls neatly laid out before you like an elegant table setting.

The Buick LaCrosse still retains all the traditional value you've come to expect from Buick. From its luxurious well-appointed interior to the clean, flowing exterior design, LaCrosse makes a stylish impression.

The standard features provide evidence that the Buick still remains just one step down from the Cadillac in GM's lineup. Dual (driver and passenger side) heat and air conditioning controls, six-

position tilt steering wheel, cruise control, power windows, locks, and seats, remote key fobs operating doors and trunk, rear window defroster, plus a stereo system that will blow you away.

Children aren't forgotten with the rear seat upper and lower latch system for compatible child safety seats and rear door child security locks.

Four-wheel independent suspension provides for solid handling and the ride of a magic carpet.

Best of all, the new LaCrosse requires just a little more maintenance than a rock garden. 100,000 miles between spark plug changes. 100,000 mile transmission service intervals under normal driving conditions. "WOW".



See the 2007 Buick LaCrosse at John Rogin Buick in Livonia.

It's no wonder that John Rogin Buick-Livonia considers the pre-owned 2007 LaCrosse to be the most car they've ever been able to offer for the money. And for the past several weeks, they've silently amassed hundreds of these wonderful units from

throughout the country and brought them to Livonia. Best of all, today you can purchase a pre-owned 2007 LaCrosse from John Rogin for nearly half its original value of \$24,000 list price new. While they last.

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GRAND MARQUIS 2005, got it all, solid gold, must see me!

G6 2005, V-6, silver, 30K, \$14,495. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

ION 2 2004 4 dr., black, auto, 38K one owner, extra clean, \$10,440.

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FORD ESCAPE 2004, FWD, loaded, certified, \$12,640. Stk #P20313

TAURUS SE 2006, 5 passenger, 30 to choose, from \$11,998.

Jeep 8535 X TYPE 2004, 3.0 AWD, black, 38K, one owner, extra clean, loaded, moon, \$18,950.

Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030 A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classified!

G6 2006, auto, air, gray, certified, 19K, \$14,995. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

ION2 2007, burgundy, low miles, all the goodies, \$13,495.

SEBRING LXI 2002, leather, auto, moonroof, chrome wheels, \$11,950.

FREESTYLE LIMITED 2006, Leather & loaded! Certified, \$17,890.

MUSTANG 2005, V-6, certified, \$13,803. Stk #709276A

TAURUS SE 2007, red, full power, 24K, alloys, was \$14,995, special, \$13,998.

LIBERTY 2004, V-6, 4x4, burgundy, 24K low one owner miles, sharp, \$14,990.

SABLE LS 2005, premium, leather, loaded, \$12,995.

G6 GT 2007, 28K one owner, moon, premium wheels, loaded, like new, \$17,480.

SL1 1999, white, 103K, very clean, auto, power pkg, inspected serviced, \$4,450.

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GRAND AM SE 2002, see the moon, galaxy silver, only \$7,950.

JETTA 2006, 2.5, auto, leather, MP-3, ABS, trac. control, alloys, dark blue, extra clean, 37K, \$16,450.

ESCAPE, XLT 4x4, 2001 Dark Green/ Tan, leather interior, well equipped, \$7,700.

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GRAND AM SE 2002, see the moon, galaxy silver, only \$7,950.

JETTA GL 1999, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, manual, gas saver, \$7,950.

FOCUS 2003, Clean, auto, air. The Right Price! \$5,995.

TAURUS 2007, 10 to choose, from \$11,995. All colors.

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ACCORD SE 2002 Coupe, black, 86K, extra clean, sharp, \$10,890.

WRANGLER 2004, both tops, rear seat, air, like new, won't last, \$12,840.

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GRAND AM SE 2002, see the moon, galaxy silver, only \$7,950.

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