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THURSDAY
April 17, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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Jury: Guilty on all counts in beheading

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What James Sorensen wanted most out of the trial of Jean Pierre Orlewicz was justice for his 26-year-old son, Daniel, whom Orlewicz was charged with killing.

A Wayne County Circuit Court jury Tuesday gave it to him.

After some 11 hours of deliberation over two days, the jury convicted Orlewicz, 18, of Plymouth Township, of first-degree murder, felony murder and mutilation of a corpse. Judge Annette Berry had given the jury permission to consider second-degree murder and voluntary manslaughter, but after taking another look at several exhibits, the jury found Orlewicz guilty as charged.

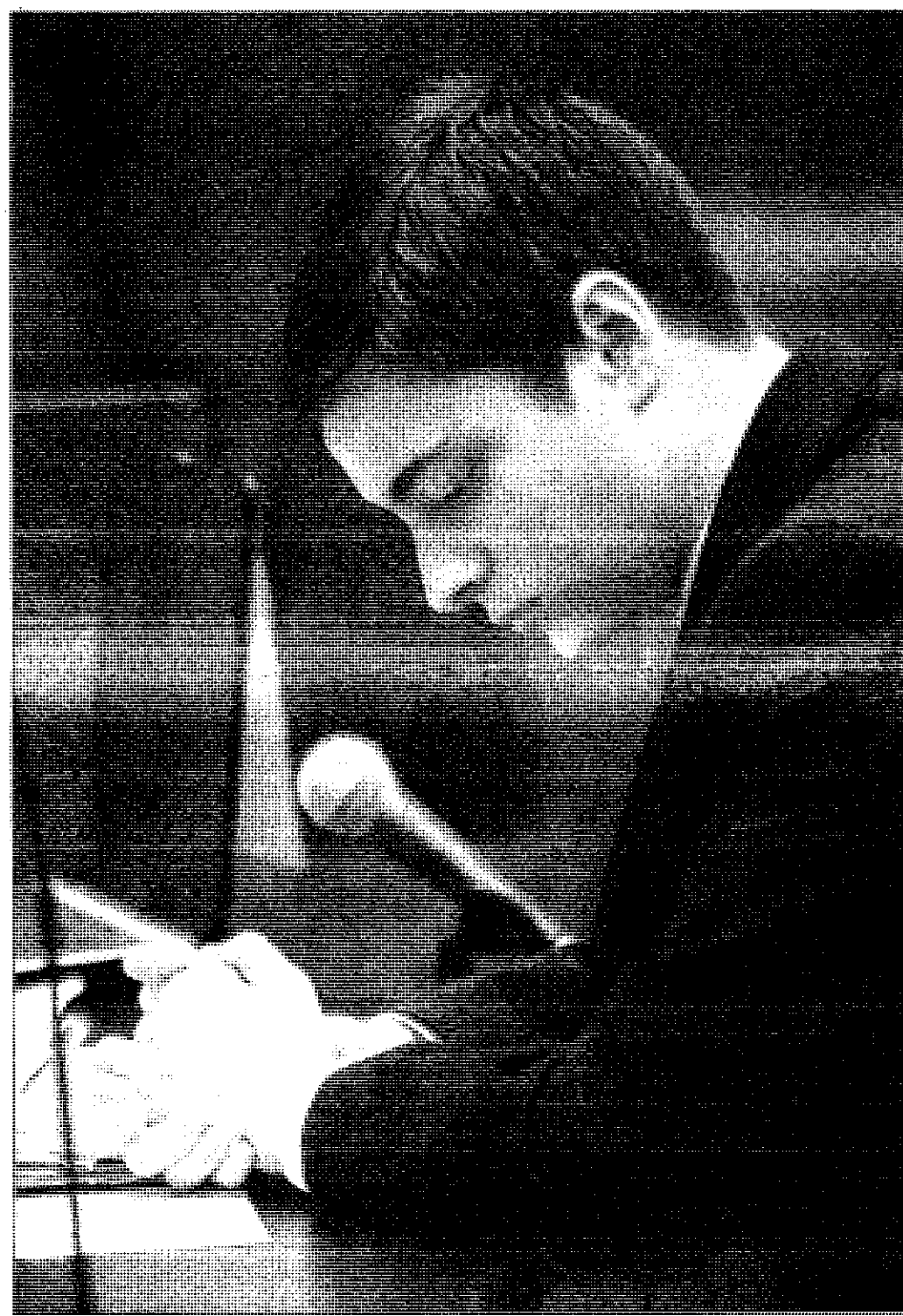
"I'm grateful our son received the justice he deserved," said the elder Sorensen, of Westland. "There's relief that everything worked out, but very sad, too. There's another family (Orlewicz's) that was sitting in this room, and their son is going away for the rest of his life. We have to keep that in balance."

The jury was handed the case Tuesday afternoon, after defense lawyer James Thomas, who wasn't in court for the verdict, rested his case. They deliberated for nearly four hours Monday before Berry sent them home. They were back at it at 9 a.m. Wednesday, and returned the verdict shortly before 5 p.m.

Berry set May 12 as the sentencing date. Orlewicz faces a mandatory life sentence without possibility of parole.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Robert Moran said he thought the gruesomeness of the crime, and the tender age of the defendant, caused the jury to take a long, thorough look.

"They took their time and didn't rush to judgment,"



Jean Pierre Orlewicz waits for the sixth day of his trial to begin.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Moran said. "I've never seen a murder more (thoroughly) planned out. To me, there was no question it was first-degree murder. The jury took its time

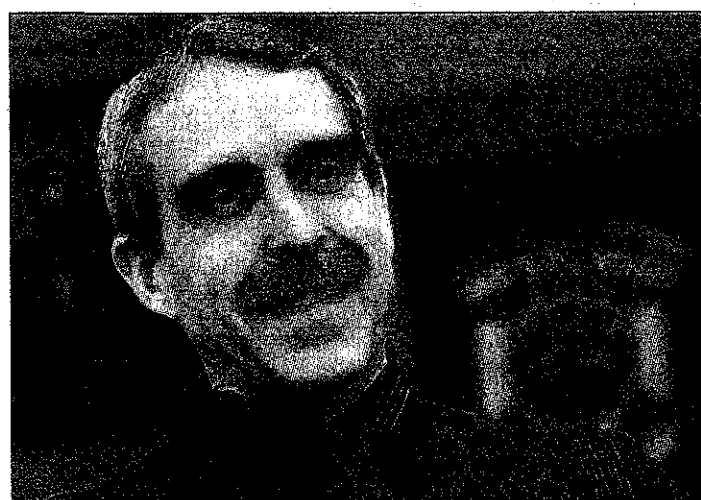
and came to the same conclusion."

Joseph Niskar, another of Orlewicz's attorneys, declined to comment following the ver-

dict. Orlewicz's family passed a phalanx of media without comment.

Please see **VERDICT, A2**

'A view of the bay'



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland police Sgt. David Heater reflects on his career in Westland before leaving for a small-town job Up North.

Veteran police officer trades city lights for small town life

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After investigating murders, robberies, home invasions, violent assaults and other brutal crimes, Westland police Sgt. David Heater is ready for a slower-paced life.

"I've been going at 90 mph for years," he said.

Heater will leave his big-city detective job Friday to become a small-town cop in tiny Harbor Springs, a picturesque place Up North that hasn't had a homicide in almost 50 years. He starts his new assignment Monday.

"Westland's loss certainly is Harbor Springs' gain," Westland Police Chief James Ridener said. "They definitely hit a home run with Dave."

Heater's departure will leave Westland without a polygraph expert, forcing local authorities to rely on other communities. Humble though he seems, Heater is a thinking man's detective.

He grew up in Lansing, the son of a father, William, who was a psychology professor, college administrator and minister, and a mother, Mary Ellen, who had a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan. They didn't want him to become a police officer. They had loftier goals for him.

Heater, 44, studied photo-journalism and received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. He also earned a master's degree in liberal studies from Eastern Michigan University. Still, his heart tugged

him toward police work, and he eventually enrolled in the same Lansing police academy as his then-new friend, Ridener.

As a student journalist, Heater recalled taking pictures when a local officer was shot dead. He also covered the funeral and won awards for his work, but the story only drew him closer to a career in police work.

Heater's first job in law enforcement came in Westland, where he has cherished his nearly 21-year career. He has worked as a patrol officer, in drug-related special investigations, as a plainclothes officer, as a SWAT team member, as a polygraph expert and as detective bureau sergeant.

JOB PRIDE

"Being a sergeant was very important to me," said Heater, a Canton resident. "I was very proud to be a sergeant."

Police Lt. Dan Karrick, who is in charge of the detective bureau, said Heater not only has top-notch skills in his job, but he also has compassion for the crime victims he tries to help.

"Dave is going to be sorely missed in the detective bureau," Karrick said. Heater has been involved in high-profile cases and brought some of Westland's worst criminals to justice. He helped investigate a grisly case in 2004 in which a Garden City man's body was unearthed in a Westland back yard, seven years after he was murdered and buried by a

Please see **HEATER, A3**

Finley: Know how things work in educational process

Editor's Note: This is part of a series of interviews with the five candidate campaigning for two four-year terms on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education in the Tuesday, May 6, school election.

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As Jennifer Finley sees it, serving on the school board is one way



Finley

in the district. She cares about what happens and about its reputation.

she can be involved in the community and the education process.

With seven children enrolled in Wayne-Westland schools, the Wayne resident says she has a "vested interest" in the district. She cares about what happens and about its reputation.

"I care about the kind of kids we're putting out there after high school," she said. "It's important, terribly important, to meet the needs of these kids. It's our responsibility, it's our duty and I think I definitely would be somebody who could help the district improve and move forward."

Finley is among five candidates campaigning seeking a seat on the Wayne-Westland school board in

the Tuesday, May 6, election.

A nurse who works for the University of Michigan, Finley describes herself as straightforward and no nonsense. With children in different programs in the district, she understands how things work and don't work well from an educational perspective.

"I have pretty stable head on my

Please see **FINLEY, A3**

JENNIFER FINLEY

Who: Jennifer Finley of Wayne, a graduate of Clawson High School and the Northwest Ohio Nurses Training Center.

Family: She has seven adopted children, ranging in age from 4 to 11, who are enrolled in the district.

Employment: She is employed by the University of Michigan at the East Ann Arbor Medical Procedures Center.

Community involvement: She is a past member and president of the policy committee at the Stottlemeyer Early Childhood Center.

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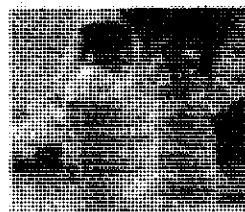


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Coming Sunday in Health



Treatment advances, changes lives of hemophilia patients

VERDICT

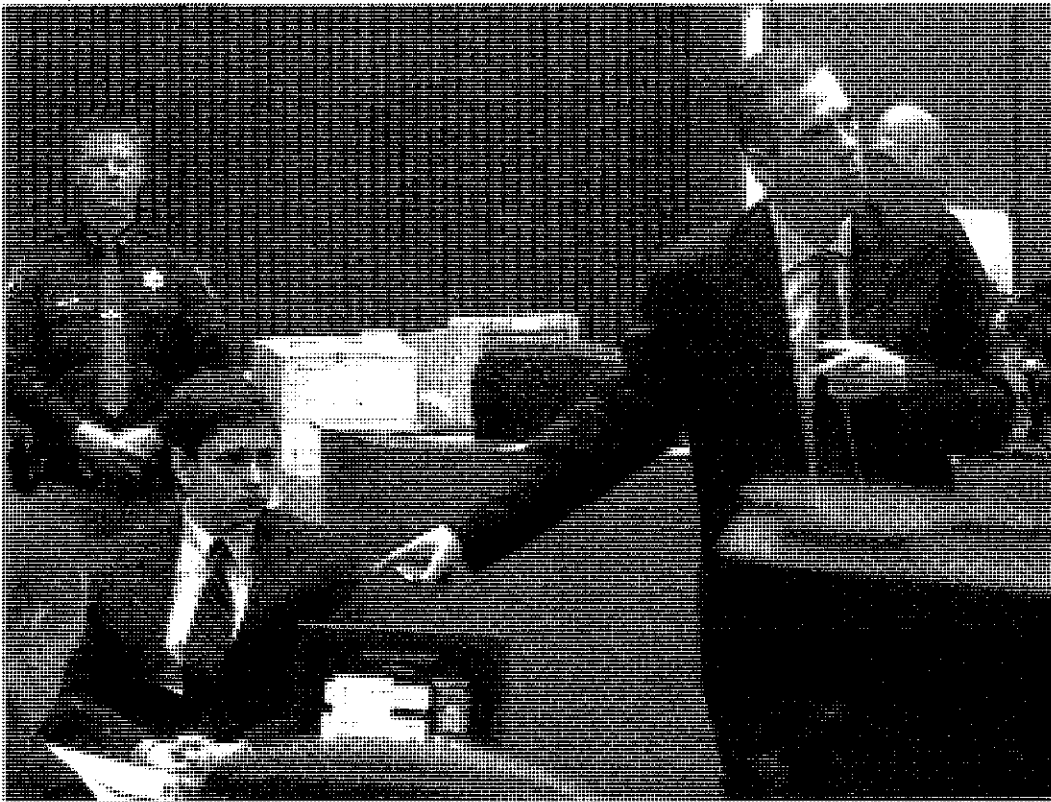
FROM PAGE A1

While the prosecution presented forensic evidence tying Orlewicz to the murder, Moran said Wednesday the testimony of former co-defendant Alexander Letkemann played an important role in the conviction. Letkemann, 18 of Westland, pleaded guilty April 1 to second-degree murder, then described the murder in gruesome detail during testimony last week.

"One of the reasons we agreed to the deal with (Letkemann) was he was cooperating with police," Moran said. "He led them to key evidence, he told the jury what happened."

Moran said though he believed from the beginning it was a case of first-degree murder, the length of the jury's deliberation did give him pause to wonder.

"It makes you nervous," Moran said. "You're on pins and needles. The gravity of the case ... and how horrific the acts, it took the jurors some time to come to grips with the idea an 18-year-old kid is capable of that."



Assistant Prosecutor Robert Moran's closing argument tries to convince the jury that Jean Pierre Orlewicz committed first degree murder when he killed Daniel Sorensen.

Orlewicz took the stand on Monday and claimed he killed Sorensen in self-defense after Sorensen threatened to kill him and accomplice Alexander Letkemann following an

aborted extortion scheme that was supposed to take place in the garage of Orlewicz's grandfather's Canton Township home Nov. 7.

But Moran argued in his

closing statement the self-defense theory is "bogus."

"(Orlewicz) wants you to believe he was afraid of (Sorensen)," Moran told jurors. "Why does he take (Sorensen)



Assistant Prosecutor Robert Moran displays a hacksaw and tarp like the ones he said were used in the alleged crime.

into the garage? Why not say (intended extortion victim Adam Duwe) wasn't coming? Why not do it outside?"

"It's because there was no (extortion) plan."

Thomas argued if Sorensen's death was a planned murder, it would have happened differently. Citing testimony Orlewicz knew Sorensen carried a gun, Thomas argued his client, who used a paring knife in the attack, was woefully under-armed.

"This was a crime where someone brought a knife to a gunfight," Thomas argued.

"This was a crime where (Sorensen) was known to carry a gun."

The jury clearly didn't buy Orlewicz's self-defense claims, a fact for which Sorensen's family and friends were grateful.

"Just, 'Thank you,'" Dena Hasan of Westland, a friend of Sorensen, said of her reaction to the verdict. "I know a family just lost their son, but we lost someone a long time ago at (Orlewicz's) hand."

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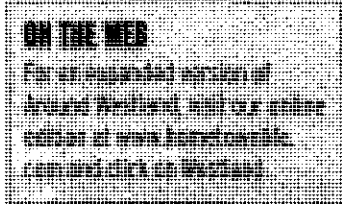
AROUND WESTLAND

Battling cancer

Organizers of Westland's Relay for Life, a benefit for the American Cancer Society, are encouraging people to shop for a cure 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 18, at the American Legion post on Newburgh between Joy and Ann Arbor Trail. Items will be available from The Body Shop at Home, Tastefully Simple, Party Lite, Comfort Zone, Longaberger and Silpada Jewelry. A percentage of proceeds will go to Relay. There will be drawings, specials and refreshments.

Garden Club

The Westland Garden Club will sponsor its plant and seed exchange program at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 18, at the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between



Marquette and Cherry Hill. The public is invited. There will be master gardeners there to answer questions.

Islam seminar

Why Islam-Michigan is hosting a lecture, "Jesus in Islam," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at the Westland public library, on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren. Harry Bissell will talk about Jesus from an Islamic perspective. The public is invited, and admission is free. For more information, call (734) 578-2942 or send an e-

mail to info@whyislammi.org.

Card party

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold a Happy Days luncheon and card party 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 18, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. The cost of the non-smoking event is \$7 per person and there will be table and door prizes and 50/50 raffles. For ticket reservations, call (734) 722-1343.

Park cleanup

Independent Carpet One Floor and Home is celebrating National Green Select Day on Saturday, April 19, by inviting the Westland community to meet at Curtis Woods/Kiwanis Park on Palmer west of Wayne Road to clean up the park.

To sign up and volunteer visit Independent Carpet One

Floor and Home on Wayne Road south of Ford or call (734) 729-6200. All volunteers will be entered into raffle for the chance to win 200 square feet of Shaw's Everlasting Style Carpet.

Free seminar

A one-time highly successful, financial investor who made some very poor choices will speak at a free seminar at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Kirk of our Savior at 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland.

John Borbi who spent 30 months in prison for a "white collar crime," will share his story now in hopes that other will not make those same unethical decisions. A pot luck dinner will precede his presentation.

Both are open to the public, no reservations needed.

Free-will offering only. For more information, call Bonnie Hilberer at (734) 646-2237.

Time to tee off

The Westland Municipal Golf Course is celebrating opening day - Friday, April 18 - with free short game clinics and closest to the pin contest on the indoor golf simulator. There will also be a "Green Fee Special" for \$6 as well as hot dogs for just \$1. Call (734) 721-6660 for information. The Westland Golf Course is at 500 S. Merriman, south of Cherry Hill.

Free movie

The William P. Faust Public Library in cooperation with the Westland Friendship Center are inviting local seniors and their guests to enjoy a viewing of *Without Reservations* at the Friendship Center at 2 p.m. Friday, April 19. The film, a John Wayne picture of the postwar era, also stars Claudette Colbert.

Both the movie and popcorn are free. The Westland Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh, just south of Ford Road.

Chili cookoff

The Westland Democratic Club will have its third annual chili cookoff Tuesday, April

29, at the Dorsey Community Center. Enjoy chili, beverages and dessert for \$5 or enter your homemade chili in the contest. Tasters are welcome at 6 p.m. Cooks should bring their crock-pot of chili at 5:30 p.m. The winner will compete in the 11th District cookoff.

For more information call (734) 729-1605 or (734) 674-7327.

Mayoral bowl

Westland Mayor William Wild is inviting residents to help raise money for the American Cancer Society's 2008 Relay for Life.

One event, "Skate with Mayor Wild," is scheduled for 1-2:20 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena, on Wildwood north of Ford. Admission and skate rental are free and participants will receive a free "Wild's Walkers" Relay for Life T-shirt. Donations may be made.

A variety of teams will be raising money for this year's Relay, scheduled for 10 a.m. May 31 to 10 a.m. June 1 at Jaycee Park, at Wildwood and Hunter.

For more information about Relay, call Holly Soranno at (248) 663-3452 or e-mail her at holly.soranno@cancer.org.

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**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 May 6, 2008 Wayne-Westland and Livonia Schools School Board Elections on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 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.

TERRI BENNETT, CMC Canton Township Clerk
VELIDA SMITH Inkster City Clerk
MARY CARNEY Wayne City Clerk

JUDI DUDZINSKI Dearborn Heights Clerk
LINDA CHOATE Romulus City Clerk
EILEEN DeHART, CMC Westland City Clerk

Publish: April 17, 2008

Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to State Law, a sale will be held at: **Secured Self Storage**, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI, April 26, 2008 at 1:00 pm.

#135	Robert Harris
#138	Lois Prater
#225	Robert Tuczak
#245	Terry Kucharski
#301	Murray Ziedman
#311	Lenard Hodges/Andrew Draper
#340	Roy Watt
#411	Lois Moore
#422	Kory Myers
#520	National Business Machine
#736	Rose Middleton
#827	Tod Komor
#934	Eric Fitch
#1024	Gary Holden
#1122	Willard Strickels
#1230	Amanda Arnett
#1231	David Rogoff
#1425	Ann-Marie Owens
#1438	Dawn Shaw

Units Contain: Miscellaneous Household items

Publish: April 10 and 17, 2008

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1336D - Preliminary Plan Approval for Proposed Nankin Mills Village Planned Unit Development, Part of Parcel #017-99-0048-700 and Parcels #017-99-0027-000, #028-000, #029-000, #047-001, #047-002, South Side of Joy, East of Newburgh Road, Glenn Shaw

Case #2166 - Proposed Land Division, 6504 N. Hix, Parcel #025-99-0041-000, East Side of Hix Road, South of Warren Road, John J. Czyzewski

Case #2167 - Proposed Land Division, Parcel #005-99-0005-000, West Side of Beatrice, South of Joy Road and West of Middlebelt Road, John W. Paris

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7, 2008.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: April 17, 2008

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

The Westland Police Department will conduct an online public auction of miscellaneous seized and forfeited items. The auction will begin on Thursday, April 17th, 2008 and end Thursday, April 24th, 2008. Interested persons should:

- 1) visit www.aitecanton.com
- 2) click on the "Auctions" tab
- 3) in the right column, click on the "Click here for live auctions!"

The following items can then be viewed and are offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Dewalt drills, Canon Power shot camera, Sony PSP, Xbox controllers, Xbox games, Kenwood amp, Kenwood equalizer, Craftsman router, Bang & Olufsen television, Milwaukee saws all, jigsaw, air compressor, Misc cellular phones, Cartier glasses, Coach purse, Louis Vuitton purse, Dooney & Bourke purses, Divinci sound system, blue tooth, and a Phillips Magnavox tv.

All items are sold in "as is" condition. Items may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: April 17th, 2008

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1305C - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Coffee House, 8032 N. Wayne Road, Parcel #015-01-0007-001, East Side of Wayne Road, North of Cowan Road, Gerald Agolli (Elio Giovannone)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7, 2008.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: April 17, 2008

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1336C - Public Hearing for Proposed Rezoning from R-1, Single Family Residential to PUD, Planned Unit Development, Part of Parcel #017-99-0048-700 and Parcels #017-99-0027-000, #028-000, #029-000, #047-001, #047-002, South Side of Joy, East of Newburgh Road, Glenn Shaw

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Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: April 17, 2008

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED
VOTERS WAYNE-WESTLAND AND LIVONIA
PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
MAY 6, 2008**

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

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

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the City Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2008.

Office:

TERRI BENNETT, CMC Canton Township Clerk	JUDI DUDZINSKI Dearborn Heights Clerk
VELIDA SMITH Inkster City Clerk	LINDA CHOATE Romulus City Clerk
MARY CARNEY Wayne City Clerk	EILEEN DeHART, CMC Westland City Clerk

Publish: April 17, 2008

Man cited for gun play that locked down schools

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has rejected felony criminal charges against a 31-year-old Westland man involved last Friday in what police treated as a barricaded gunman incident on the city's south side.

Still, local police have cited the suspect with four misdemeanors, including assault, brandishing a firearm in a threatening manner, illegally hunting fowl and discharging a gun, Sgt. Brian Miller confirmed.

The man surrendered peacefully last Friday morning following a three-hour standoff at Deerfield and Grand Traverse, in the Norwayne neighborhood. He told authorities he didn't

respond to their bullhorn shouts and calls to his cell phone because he had fallen asleep.

The drama unfolded when another 31-year-old man accused the suspect of pointing a 22-caliber pellet gun at him as he drove by shortly after 8 a.m. The suspect called it a misunderstanding and told authorities he shoots birds in his yard.

The suspect went inside his house, and the alleged victim called police. Authorities treated the situation as a barricaded gunman, and Wayne-Westland school officials announced a three-hour lockdown at Wayne Memorial High, Adams Middle School and Lincoln Elementary.

The suspect told police that he had fallen asleep when he went indoors and that he

didn't hear the commotion outside. He said he finally awoke to hear police calling on his cell phone.

Deputy Police Chief Alan Ramsden said no shots were fired and no one was injured during the incident.

Local authorities sought criminal charges, but police Lt. Dan Karrick, who is in charge of Westland's detective bureau, confirmed that Wayne County prosecutors decided against any felony counts.

That left local police with little recourse other than citing the man with the four misdemeanors, and he will have to appear in Westland 18th District Court.

"He will still have his day in court," Karrick said.

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HEATER

FROM PAGE A1

homeowner now serving 23-40 years in prison.

Heater also became a leading investigator in Westland's worst massacre on Sept. 11, 2003, when a gunman shot and killed four people and wounded two others at a party store on Newburgh north of Ford. The killer ultimately took his own life, but his female accomplice was convicted at trial and sent to prison for life.

"People often don't realize that detectives are human beings, and we carry this stuff with us," Heater said, adding that the party store massacre "is one of those cases I'll always have in my head."

Perhaps more troubling are cases that never got solved, like the October 2006 stabbing death of retired jazz musician Raymond Pankau in his west-side home. Pankau's killer was never caught. His family has never found peace.

"I leave the (Westland) department and go on, knowing that his family can't," Heater said, his voice heavy with regret for not solving the case.

It's those kinds of cases — and the overwhelming workload that local detectives often face — that has readied Heater for a slower pace, a quieter place where he and his wife of 13 years, Carol, can raise their 8-year-old twin sons, Nathan and Eric. Heater's stepdaughter, high school senior Brittany, will stay behind to attend Schoolcraft College, and his stepson, Mike, will keep his job in Canton.

NEW HORIZONS

Heater will face major adjustments. He will leave Westland, a city of 86,000 residents, for a town of 1,600 people along the shores of Lake Michigan. He will shift his career focus to duties like issuing traffic tickets, solving petty thefts and settling small disputes between neighbors.

"We're still solving problems," Harbor Springs Police Chief Dan Branson said by telephone. "They're just not murders. They're not robberies. They're not serial rapists."

Branson welcomed Heater's decision to apply for a rare job opening there, saying Heater will be a positive addition to the small department and the tight-knit community.

Heater will patrol Harbor

Spring streets, ride a bicycle through summer festival crowds and maneuver a patrol boat across the shimmering waters of Little Traverse Bay to catch speeders and thwart any potential wrongdoing — not that there is much. On his new job, Heater will even have time to make sure the homes of local folks are locked and secure while they're away on vacations or wintertime getaways.

He will have to adjust to leaving a 100-member police force for a department that employs a chief and four officers. And, until he starts receiving his Westland pension in a few years, his family will live on a salary in the \$40,000 range, much less than his earning potential here. Heater referred to a motto that often applies to Harbor Springs — "half the pay for a view of the bay."

Although he will miss the camaraderie in Westland, he is ready to embrace a small-town way of life.

"Certainly the small-town environment is endearing," he said. "There are few crimes against people. It's a situation where everybody knows everybody else."

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Filing deadline in judicial race is April 29

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With an April 29 candidate filing deadline looming, Assistant City Attorney Mark McConnell has emerged as the lone candidate to replace retiring Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

Despite rumors of other potential candidates, the Secretary of State's office confirmed Monday that McConnell has become the only judicial hopeful to file for the 18th District seat and seek a six-year term.

McConnell, 39, has waged a highly successful fund-raising campaign and has won widespread support from political heavyweights like Bokos, 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli, former Judge Gail McKnight, Mayor William Wild and police and fire unions, among others.

Still, McConnell conceded he isn't taking for granted his apparent popularity as a candidate. Judicial hopefuls still



McConnell

have nearly two weeks to file.

"At this point in time, I'm running as if one or more people will be running against me," he said, adding later, "I will keep working hard until the voters put me into office."

Some political observers had wondered whether attorney Jennifer Thor would campaign again after losing an 18th District race in 2006 to Cicirelli, Westland's former mayor.

"I'm not going to run this year, but I appreciate all the support I got last time," Thor told the *Observer*.

Thor and her husband are caring for a new child, she said, "and I'm going to focus on family right now."

Bokos couldn't campaign for re-election because of his age. He will be 70 years old when the November election is held,

an age that by law will prevent him from seeking another term.

Bokos was appointed as judge in 1992 by then-Gov. John Engler to fill a vacancy, and local voters elected him in 1994, 1996 and 2002.

McConnell has worked as a local prosecutor and as an assistant to City Attorney Angelo Plakas. He has been with Plakas' office since 1995, drafting city ordinances and legal opinions, prosecuting cases and negotiating plea agreements.

After earning his degree from the University of Detroit School of Law, he worked for nearly two years for the Michigan Court of Appeals as a prehearing research attorney. He also has had extensive community involvement with organizations like Youth Assistance, Westland Rotary and S.P.A.R.K. (Sports, Parks and Recreation for Kids), among others.

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FINLEY

FROM PAGE A1

shoulders so I think I'm able to look at things relatively objectively regardless of my personal feelings or circumstances," she said. "I think I have a good perspective as a parent that has a lot of different types of experiences with my kids in the school district."

She also has been involved with the early childhood program at the Stottlemeyer Center, serving as a member and president of its policy committee.

"As far as being more involved, I'd say I'm pretty involved certainly with my students — my children," she said. "There has been a lot of interaction and contact. I'd say I'm known very well on a good note."

Finley also said she has a good foundation in working with budget development and

implementation, hiring, training and mentoring of staff, working with construction and trades through her job.

She sees the role of the school board as setting the standards and policies for the district and, in a broader sense, handling what the district should be doing and what direction it should be going with input from parents, teachers and other community leaders.

"Their job is to guide us in the right direction, keep our kids educated and improve things hopefully as we're going forward," she said.

Finley believes the issues facing the district include funding and declining enrollment. She believes school officials need to look for new sources of revenue, such as grants, and be use that money in the best way possible. An

example, she said, was using grant money to hire teachers to work with younger students to improve their reading skills.

She added that the district needs to find out where students leaving the district are going — whether it's for economic reasons or a move to charter schools or academies in the area.

Finley works three days a week for the University of Michigan at the East Ann Arbor Medical Procedures Center, which will allow her to be available for meetings and functions during the day.

"I think that in four years, if I'm actually elected and if things were improved, I'd like to the part of the reason we improved and were better," she said.

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Cranbrook series provides a rare view of collections

See Cranbrook as you've never seen it before — backstage and behind the scenes.

Cranbrook is presenting Behind the Scenes: Exploring Cranbrook's Collections, a new educational series that puts visitors face to face with rarely seen treasures from Cranbrook's historical and archival collections.

Throughout the year, these programs will give participants an opportunity to explore Cranbrook from a new angle, gaining fresh insight into the vast collections that make Cranbrook's museums, historic homes and archives so distinctive.

Participants will see everything from rare William Morris textiles to vast botanical and mineralogical collections to handmade drawings by one of the 20th century's master architects.

Registration is required for each event. Admission is \$35 per person or \$25 per person for members of Cranbrook Art Museum, Cranbrook Institute of Science or Cranbrook House and Gardens. Coming up are:

■ **A Blooming Good Time: Investigating Michigan's Native Spring Flora**, 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 17, at Cranbrook Institute of Science and Cranbrook House Workshop. Michigan's landscape is filled with colorful and rare flowers, trees and plants. Learn how to identify many of these species common to woodland and wetland environments. The program will begin at Cranbrook Institute of Science for a look at the museum's botany collection, then will move on to the bog and wildflower gardens of Cranbrook House for an up-close examination of several early blooming varieties. Event will be held rain or shine. Participants will be walking approximately

one mile over uneven terrain. Capacity: 50 people.

■ **An Artist's Space: An In-Depth Look at the Influence of Cranbrook Artists on Craft In America**, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 29. This summer, Cranbrook Art Museum will host the national traveling exhibition, "Craft In America: Expanding Traditions," a groundbreaking visual exploration of the history and cultural significance of America's craft movement. A number of Cranbrook Academy of Art artists and faculty are featured in this exhibition.

This program will offer an in-depth look at their contribution to the movement and will include a rare, behind-the-scenes tour of the original craft studios in which these artists worked and created. A guided tour of the exhibition is also included.

■ **Natural Impressions: Finding Motifs of Nature in Cultural Relics**, 7-9 p.m. Friday, July 18, at Cranbrook Institute of Science. Fabrics, pottery, architecture — the arts are filled with representations of elements from the natural world. Institute of Science Director and Archaeologist Michael Stafford will present an engaging lecture exploring the natural world as it is expressed in the cultural materials and artifacts of the Great Lakes region. He will be joined by David Pepper of Okame Antiques, who will explore a similar theme from an Eastern perspective including Japanese cultural items through the centuries. The talks will be highlighted by the presentation of special pieces from the Institute's collections. Capacity: 120 people.

Each program is limited to 25 people per session unless otherwise indicated. To make your reservation, please call (248) 645-3142 or register at www.cranbrook.edu.

Having emergency fund vital to investing

I was recently asked about investment liquidity. A man lost his job last year and is still unemployed. His severance pay has run out. He has investments either in retirement accounts or in a variety of insurance-type products, including a variable universal life insurance policy and a variable annuity. He wants to know how to access the money he needs and what he should do in the future to avoid this problem.

The first issue is the need for an emergency fund. It is essential to being a good investor. I recommend at least three to six months of living expenses in a fund that is available in case of emergency.

In an area where the economy is struggling, people need to build up an emergency fund if they do not already have one in place. To be an effective emergency fund, money cannot be invested in equities or volatile investments. Short-term CDs, money market accounts and ultra short-term bond funds are appropriate for emergency funds. In the past, people would use home equity loans for an emergency fund. However, that option is no longer available to many people.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

This individual has life insurance he purchased for a tax shelter. He made a two-fold mistake. The first is letting the tax tail wag the dog. Never make an investment decision based purely

upon tax consequences. In any investment, the key is the economics of the investment. If the economics don't make sense, it will still be a bad investment regardless of tax consequences. Life insurance is not a good tax shelter. In order to collect, you have to die.

The other mistake he was believing that life insurance is an investment. If you don't need insurance to protect loved ones from financial shortfalls in the event of your death, you shouldn't buy it. In most cases, when you combine life insurance and investments, you get the worst of both worlds — high fees and low returns.

Liquidity is an issue that should concern every investor.

Before you buy, always ask how do you get your money out.

In this case, the bulk of his portfolio was tied up in a variable annuity. Since the individual is under 59½, the tax consequences for removing money are heavy. The money would be taxed at ordinary income rate (not the favorable capital gains rate), and there would be early withdrawal penalties.

The adverse tax consequences, the costs and liquidity issues are a few reasons why I am not a fan of variable annuities. We all make mistakes when it comes to handling our money. The key is to learn from our mistakes.

I find many investors never forgive themselves and constantly beat themselves up for the mistakes they have made. The past is the past and there is nothing you can do to change it. Look ahead, learn and make better decisions going forward.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@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 WDTK-AM (1400).

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A6

church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone in the community who is in need of new or like-new clothing. Donations are also accepted. For information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Bethany Suburban West
Monthly Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday May 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost \$10. Doors open 7:30 PM. Call (734) 261-5716.
Cinco de Mayo/Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday May 9, at the St. Linus Annex across from the doors of the Church. Call (734) 513-9479 or (313) 996-8644. Cost will be either a snack, dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet) or \$5 and we will supply the paper products and the coffee.
Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Saturday May 17, at Leon's 30149 Ford Rd., Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome; for details call (734) 513-9479.
Bethany Together Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 31, Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive), east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Admission \$15. For information, call (586) 264-0284.

Rummage sale
1-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham. For information about donating, working, or shopping, call the church at (248) 644-2040, visit <http://fpcbirmingham.org/RummageSale>, or send e-mail to fpc.rummage.sale@gmail.com.

Father Kern award dinner
In honor of the Rev. Clement Kern Thursday May 8 (6 p.m. reception and silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. award ceremony). Tickets \$100. For information and reservations, call (248) 666-1194.

ONGOING

Single Place Ministry
Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.single-place.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church
Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday services
Come to hear about the love of Jesus Christ for you 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Tai chi and strength classes
Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drops in welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Church offerings
Riverside Park Church of God, Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., Wednesday bible classes (child through adult) at 7 p.m. Youth outings held monthly. The senior group (age 50 plus) has lunch together every month. The men get together for breakfast the first Saturday of the month plus we offer choir practice for all singers. All visitors welcome. The church is at 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for details.

Church services
Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for information.

Thursday fellowship dinner
All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrifty store
Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Tai Chi class
Orchard United Methodist Church (30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills) is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for

over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes began 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 14, and continue every Monday thereafter. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Living Water series
Mark McGillvrey leads a 10-week video series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus who claimed to be living water.

Couple prayer series
St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, began 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

Your Invitation To Worship

BAPTIST	UNITED METHODIST	LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
<p>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.) (734) 729-2180 <i>Virgil Humes, Pastor</i></p> <p>Saturday Evening Worship 8:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Service 8:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Clarenceville United Methodist 20200 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 734-474-3444</p> <p>Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 10000 Beech Rd., Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional</p> <p>Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creedon</p>
CATHOLIC	EVANGELICAL COVENANT	NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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ST. GENEVIEVE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST	BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
<p>St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - Pre-K-8 28015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffress) MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a. Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a</p> <p>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a., Fri. 8:30 a., Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a</p>	<p>Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca</p> <p>Meetings on Saturdays for Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.</p>	<p>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program</p> <p>Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!</p>
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PRESBYTERIAN	EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN	WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
<p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire</p> <p>Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 26000 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided</p>	<p>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970</p> <p>Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970</p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M. Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bouquet</p>
LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA	ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
<p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling In Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290</p> <p>Jill Hegdal, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)</p>	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA	<p>St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17810 Farmington Road Livonia (734) 261-1360</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. website: www.stpaulsivonia.org</p>

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

Airport plans three open houses on master plan

The Wayne County Airport Authority will host six additional public informational "Open Houses" to provide local community members with the opportunity to learn more about the details of the Authority's proposed Master Plan for Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

"The Airport Authority has been and remains committed to developing an Airport Master Plan for Detroit Metro that meets the needs of the entire region we serve," said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson. "These additional sessions will help advance our effort to include as much public

input as possible in the planning process and to develop the Master Plan in the most transparent manner possible."

The plan includes building a new runway that would require the removal of housing in a Romulus neighborhood. Romulus officials and residents have objected to the proposal.

The Airport Master Plan Open House sessions will be held 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 23; 9 a.m. to noon and 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 29; and 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Thursday, May 1, at the Metropolitan Hotel, 31500 Wick Road, Romulus.

All six Open House sessions will provide the same resources but the schedule is staggered across three dates and time slots to maximize community participation.

Details about the Master Plan will be provided using informational displays (including large charts and maps) and representatives from the Airport Authority's planning team will be available throughout each session to personally address each participant's questions and concerns. Community members are encouraged to stop-by at any time during any of the Open Houses and to stay until all of their questions are answered.

"By providing 18 hours of availability across three different dates when airport stakeholders can drop in at their leisure, this 'Open House' format will provide community members with several chances to interact one-on-one directly with a member of the Authority's planning team," Robinson said.

At its meeting on March 20, the Airport Authority Board elected to defer action on the Airport's proposed Master Plan to its May 22 meeting to allow additional time for community concerns to be addressed.

The Federal Aviation Administration estimates that

passenger traffic at Detroit Metro Airport will increase an average of 2.3 percent annually. As a result, Detroit Metro expects to see nearly 60 million passengers and more than 800,000 take-offs and landings each year by 2025.

An airport "Master Plan" is required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) from any airport that plans to seek federal funding for airport development projects. The purpose of Detroit Metropolitan Airport's proposed Master Plan is to develop a basic layout of physical improvements that will be needed if the demand and activity increase to the levels expected.

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WSU students offer PR services to nonprofit organizations

Wayne State University, celebrated for its applied curriculum, is taking another step in integrating its practical education to the community through its service learning initiative, CommunityEngagement@Wayne.

One of the latest projects in service learning at Wayne involves a Public Relations COM 7140 graduate course crafted to enrich 24 PR students' academic and practical skills.

The students are working to develop press kits, coordinate events and garner media attention for Detroit nonprofits, including Alternatives for Girls, Covenant House Michigan, Southwest Detroit Development Collaborative (SDDC), Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, as well as a team helping to increase the visibility of the communication studies major at Wayne.

These organizations have found support through CommunityEngagement@Wayne, which is a service learning program dedicated

to advancing students' efforts in the causes of these organizations ranging from drug and sexual abuse prevention amongst young girls to nurturing Detroit's natural resources and environment. The initiative identifies courses that have a practical component and assist eager instructors in implementing real-life skill building experiences. For example, from the nearly \$650,000 WSU has raised toward this project the COM 7140 course was awarded a portion to support their efforts in establishing community partners as clients needing public relations consultation.

The COM 7140 students will continue to assist local area non-profits by supplying a variety of public relations services through the end of the semester. Students hope to equip the organizations with PR resources that will sustain their organizational needs for the future while contributing to their mission.

"I wanted to be a part of something from the beginning and was especially interested

in contributing a strategic plan that will be ongoing and adaptive as the organization grows and changes," said Anne Sesko, graduate student working with SDDC. "I knew that this kind of collaboration existed, but did not realize what an impact it could have."

In addition to students, many WSU instructors believe the service learning initiative enhances classroom learning through real-life skill building, which ultimately provides a competitive advantage for participants.

Since its inception in 2005, CommunityEngagement@Wayne has promoted the university's dedication to its local, urban environment. The initiative provides tangible benefits to communities and unique opportunities for students to apply newly learned skills in a real-world context. It supports the service learning endeavors of WSU instructors and students and welcomes innovative community partnering. For more information, visit www.communityengagement.wayne.edu.

LEKOTEK OPEN HOUSE

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's Lekotek Program is holding an open house 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at 26049 Five Mile Road, Redford.

Lekotek offers play sessions for developmentally disabled children ages birth to 12 years old.

If you would like to attend the Open House, please RSVP to Lana at (313) 532-8524 or e-mail: lanab356@aol.com

You can also visit on the web www.thearcnw.org.

Service offers free ACT, SAT practice sessions

The Princeton Review of Ann Arbor is holding a National Free Test Day for high school students.

This event is open to the public and students may register simply by calling The Princeton Review office at 800-2Review or 734-663-2163. Students may also register by visiting www.PrincetonReview.com/Events.

These full-length practice ACT and SAT practice tests are given under simulated testing conditions. Students will receive personalized score reports detailing their strengths and weaknesses.

The ACT testing will take place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 3. Locations are offered around the State: Ann Arbor, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Grosse Pointe and Utica.

The SAT testing will take place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 17. Locations are offered around the State: Ann Arbor, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Grosse Pointe and Utica.

Students and parents are invited to attend the Scores Back and Strategy Session 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 31 in Ann Arbor, Birmingham and Utica. Students will receive their scores, learn strategies for each test and how to gain admission in a top-notch school.

Learn to manage your money effectively

JVS, a Southfield-based nonprofit, and Detroit Commerce Bank will present Credit and Budgeting for Today, a seminar on personal finance and money management. The seminar will be held 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at JVS, 29699 Southfield Road, Southfield.

Seminar participants will become "Money Smart" by learning how to properly manage their money. Individuals will learn the importance of financial goal setting, how to determine their income and expenses to create a budget, how credit scores are determined and the necessary steps to repair their credit. For more information, contact Clarissa McMillon of JVS at (248) 233-4482 or cemcmillon@jvsdet.org.

The seminar is part of Money Smart Week, a Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago initiative, being held in Michigan April 20-26. During this time, more than 315 Money Smart education classes, seminars, and activities will be held to help people better manage their personal finances. For more information on Michigan's Money Smart activities visit www.moneysmartweek.org/michigan or call (877) MNY-SMRT.

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Children's book takes a shine to lighthouses

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Washington, D.C., has played host to many famous marches — by veterans, civil rights advocates, anti-nuclear demonstrators, fathers for responsibility and mothers against war.

But the capital hasn't seen anything like the vision John Foley conjures in his children's book *Shining on Lighthouses*. In his colorful tale the lighthouses march to demand better preservation.

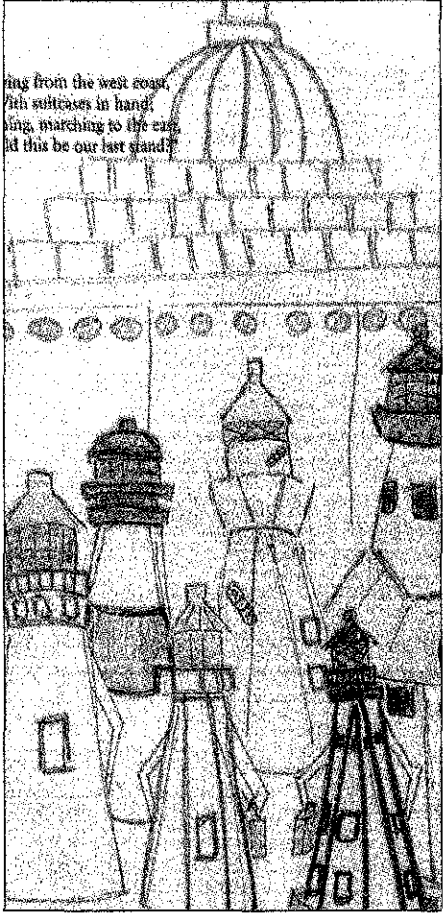
Eighteen years in the merchant marines gave Foley, 50, of Canton an appreciation for lighthouses. He started right after high school graduation with a job on a Great Lakes freighter in 1976.

"In the early '80s, I was on a ship that went from Holland to Spain to Greece, Egypt, Saudi Arabia," he said. "Then I went back to the Great Lakes. From there you get to see all the lighthouses from out in the lake and take points of navigation from them. I've always had a fancy for lighthouses."

Foley works as a security officer at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Pittsfield Township but has dreamed of being an author and lighthouses seemed like a good subject.

"For Christmas one year, I got a book, *Past Lighthouses*, and inside the book is a picture on a lighthouse with a crack at its base. Somebody snapped a picture of it as it was half fallen over and then in the water," Foley said. "Looking at that inspired the first two paragraphs and from there I'd write a little here and write a little there."

At first the idea was to have Michigan lighthouses march on Lansing, but soon Foley broadened his



Erin Dillenbeck of D&M Studios in Canton brings John Foley's lighthouse story to life with lively drawings.

vision and created a fable including lighthouses from both coasts and the Great Lakes in 48 four-line verses.

The book opens: On a cold November morning/My fate came to be;/To stumble toward the shore line,/And fall into the sea."

Writing the book was the easy part. It was getting published that proved dif-

ficult. He sent his creation to eight publishers. Three offered encouragement but all eight rejected his book. The editor of *Lighthouse Digest* suggested he find an illustrator.

Erin Dillenbeck of D&M Studios in Canton brings Foley's story to life with bright, whimsical illustrations that offer a childlike perspective with some sly winks to adults.

"She did a fine job," Foley said. "I had the basic idea formulated for each page and the words that were on each page. I wanted how I had seen it in that book, how the lighthouse falls, and as it travels on through, I wanted a history of lighthouses."

Foley said he wanted to show how lighthouses have been neglected as ships have moved to global navigation that makes lighthouses obsolete.

After his frustration with waiting and being rejected, Foley decided to self-publish. He created several copies of his book at Kinko's and distributed them to family and friends.

"I got nothing but positive results," he said.

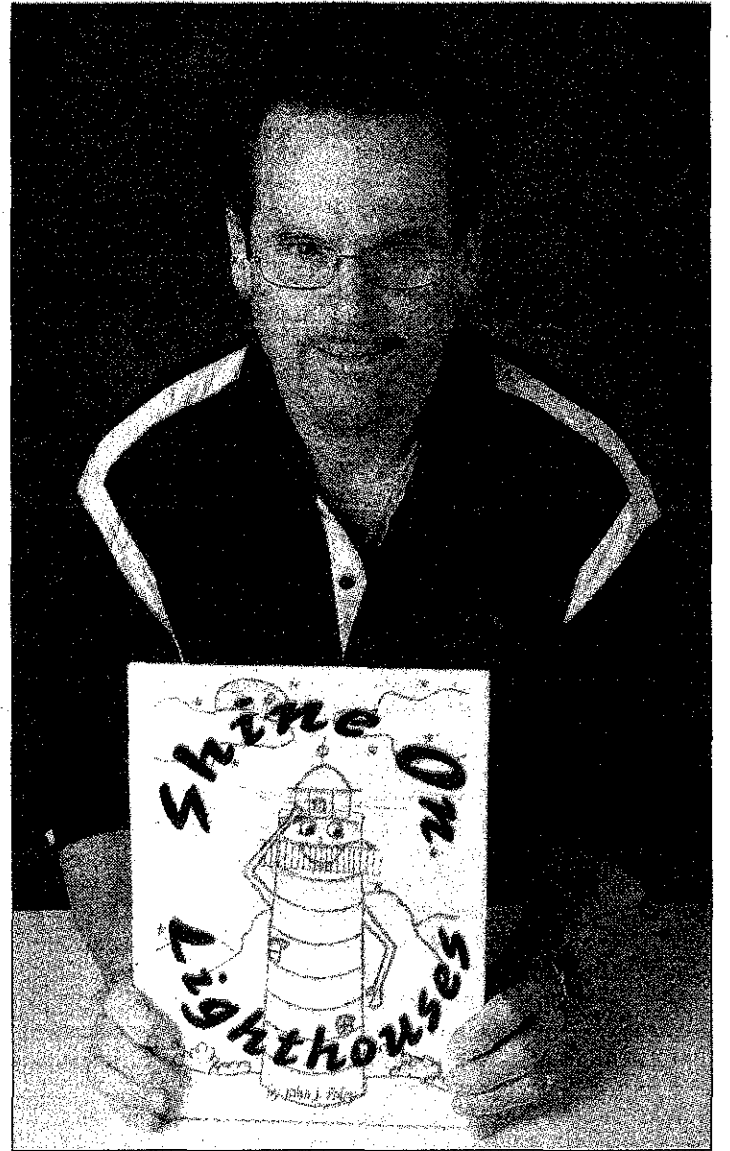
He arranged with Xlibris to print his book. The book is available at xlibris.com for \$21.99 hardcover but Foley is trying to find other ways to get his book and its message out.

"I would like to inspire a march on Washington once a year," he said. "August 7 is National Lighthouse Day and I'd like to see a National Lighthouse Festival in Washington."

This summer, he will attend the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival to sell his books.

Foley is married with three adult children and several grandchildren.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2149



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Foley's 'Shine on Lighthouses' is a children's book promoting lighthouse preservation.

This is the season of storms — and vultures

Vultures soar in majestic flight, riding rising thermals. Chorus frog songs of lust rise from misty marshes. Spring peepers peep under the crescent moon. Catkins glisten on foggy dawns. Whispers in woodland belong to spring breezes. Scavenging opossums shuffle along creeks. Red-winged blackbirds flash their epaulets from every cattail marsh. Sandhill cranes bugle to dawn shortly after owls fall silent. Steelhead run the Clinton.

So it is in the wilder parts of the metro and in protected pockets of parks and wildlands.

In the suburbs, crocus adds splashes of color. Groundhogs search in vain for your gardens. Coyotes hunt rabbits and the occasional carousing cat. Raccoons rustle under decks. And down at St. John Oakland Hospital in the southeastern corner of the county, killdeer strut the far corners of the parking lot, as house sparrows jostle for prime nesting "platforms" in the large "AMBULANCE" bay letters outside the emergency entrance. The A's, B and E are their favorites.

All these natural signs and so many more, are confirmations that spring has smothered winter — almost. A time of greening, a time of peace: not so fast.

Our atmosphere remains turbulent and this week has been designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week with good reason. Nature may whisper at times in her infinitesimal ways of subtle beauty and wondrous ways or she can explode with extreme weather beyond our comprehension. Sadly, we frequently ignore this potential until too late.

This is the season of the gray-green pea soup skies that seem to boil and churn. The season of tornado sirens. Rumbling thunder. Hail storms. Violent downburst of wind. Flash floods.

And many believe this season may be a rocky one of rapidly changing conditions as weather patterns and increased warmth fuels a new norm of increasingly severe storms with less warning. Awareness of Michigan's serve weather potential is your responsibility.

One of the most common and magnificent manifestations of Michigan severe weather are



Nature's Way

Jonathan Schechter

and wildfires and myth: the preverbal "bolt out of the blue."

Never forget if you can hear thunder, lightning is a deadly threat even if the storm seems miles away and the sky is blue. Time to play ball? Think again.

Staying outside is foolish and being stranded outside can be harrowing. For outdoor safety tips for campers, hikers, boaters and climbers that lessen your chance of being hit if there is no safe retreat, explore the NOAA Web site www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm.

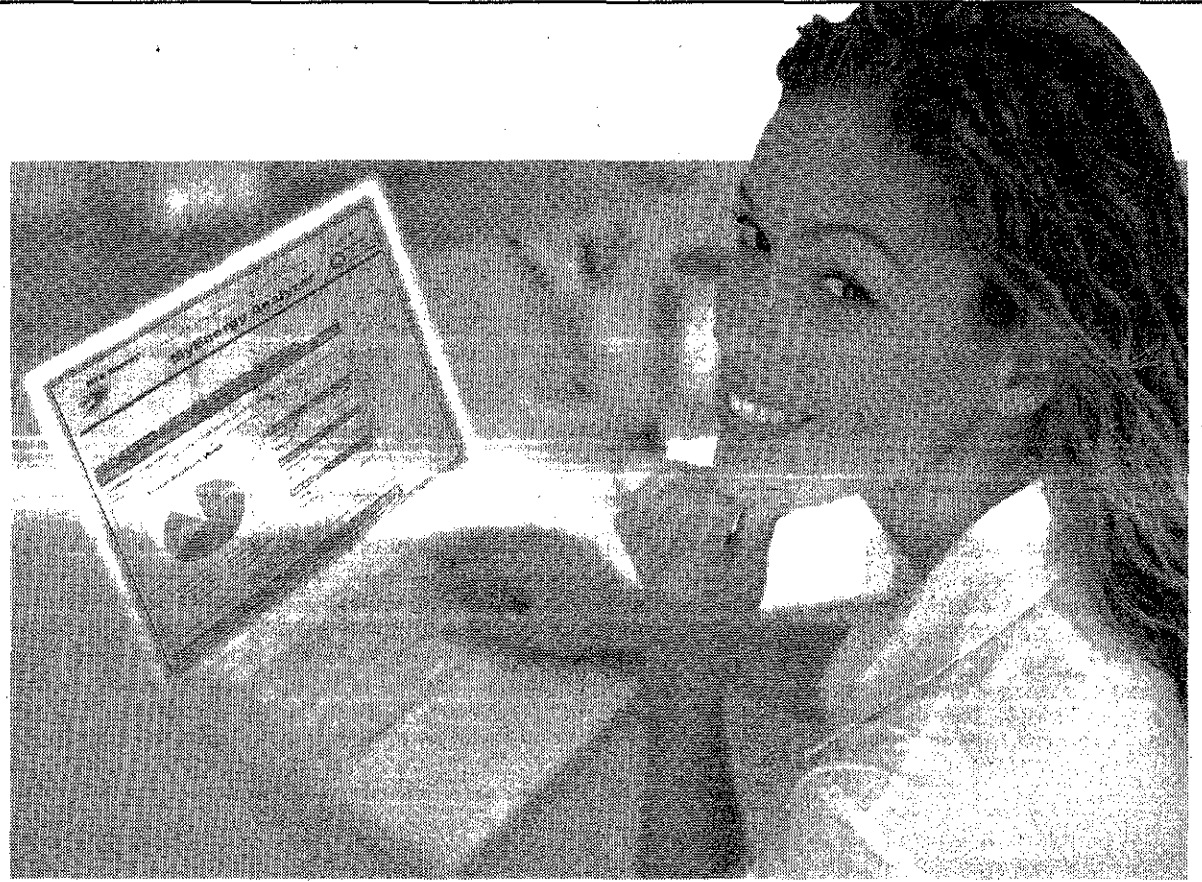
The sobering site is full of cautions and tips and advice that we need to know. Tidbit: There is a reason that if you are trapped outside during a severe storm your safest place of last resort may be under high-tension lines, away from the massive support poles.

Last year Michigan had 22 tornadoes, including our first EF-3 in 10 years. Hail pounded nearby Durand for 30 minutes, damaging almost every building and flattening crops. On Aug. 24, six tornadoes struck Lower Michigan, including one that cut a 200-yard wide, six-mile long swath through three counties, severely damaging Fenton. Be safe. Purchase and know how to use a NOAA Weather Radio with battery backup. We are in the season of silent soaring vultures and supercell storm... nature's way is unpredictable.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. E-mail him at oaknature@aol.com.



A turkey vulture soars on a thermal cell.



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OUR VIEWS

Our board picks: Schofield, Finley

On Tuesday, May 6, voters in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools will go to the polls to elect two members to the Board of Education. If the election is like past years, a small percentage of people will decide who will help determine policies and set objectives for the school district.

But voters should take more of an interest in the election. Five residents of the district have expressed an interest to serve and each deserves fair consideration. Each candidate brings a different perspective of the district and the issues it faces, and each candidate offers different credentials. But they all have one thing in common — they care about the district and they care about its students.

Of the five candidates, only two will be elected. We believe they should be incumbent board member Cindy Schofield and newcomer Jennifer Finley.

Schofield has served on the board for eight years and has a firm grasp of the issues and problems facing the district. She is a proven leader and effective member of the board, which is apparent with her selection by her colleagues as the board vice president for six of her eight years. She also is willing to ask the tough questions and speak her mind.

She also is a parent and volunteer and is actively involved in the schools, including serving on the Zebra Parent Advisory Committee at Wayne Memorial High School.

Like Schofield, Finley is a parent who has experience working with educators and administrators on behalf of children. She has a good understanding of the role of the school board in setting policy and running the district and the importance of education, demonstrated by her five-year stint on the policy committee at the Stottlemeyer Early Education Center.

As the mother of several special needs children, she is knowledgeable about the special education process and the importance of maintaining lines of communication between parents and teachers.

Both candidates have what is needed to keep the district moving forward in difficult times. That's why we urge residents to re-elect **Cindy Schofield** and elect **Jennifer Finley** to the school board.

No matter who you support, let the candidates know you care by taking the time to vote in the Tuesday, May 6, election.

It is time to slay the pop-up tax dragon

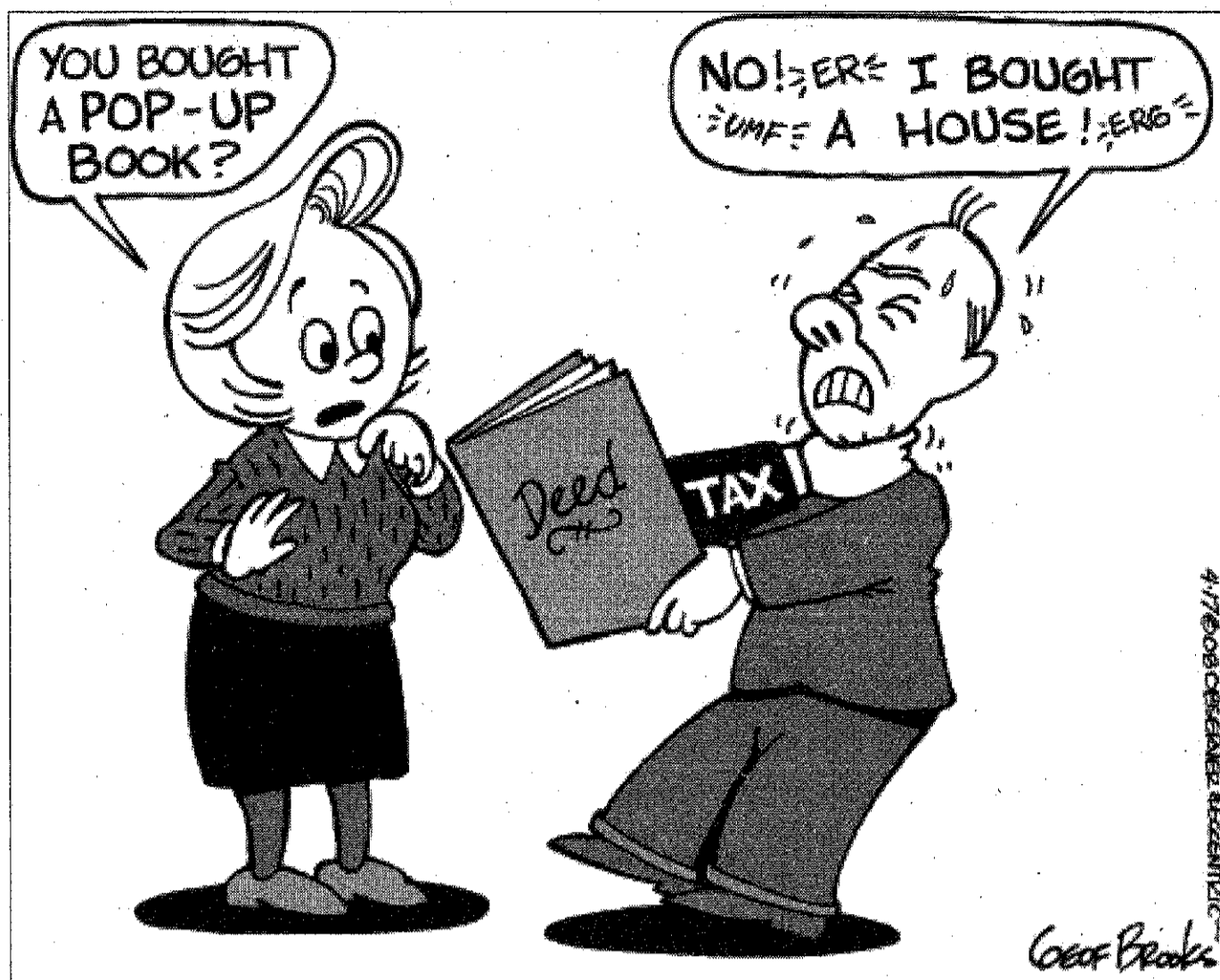
With the real estate market reeling and foreclosures piling up in neighborhoods all across the state, something must be done to stimulate home sales. State legislators took a crack at putting a moratorium on the so-called real estate pop-up tax last spring, but failed miserably. Given the dismal performance of state lawmakers, their failure to address the inequitable property tax situation in Michigan is sadly all too familiar.

Last year, the House and Senate couldn't agree on how best to attack the problem. The House pushed for an 18-month moratorium on the pop-up tax that would have allowed a home buyer to inherit the property tax bill of the previous owner rather than suffer the fate of uncapping and reassessment, which typically adds thousands of dollars to property taxes. At the time, the state was dealing with a massive budget deficit and many Republicans feared the plan would take too much revenue away from schools and local governments. A treasury official all but killed the plan by testifying that it would deplete state coffers by up to \$100 million over three years.

A tax hike temporarily cured the state budget deficit, but the Legislature didn't get around to addressing property taxes over the winter. That's too bad because the traditional spring house-buying season is upon us and the real estate market is worse than last year. A glimmer of hope recently appeared when the folks up in Lansing once again began talking about the pop-up tax.

This time the Senate took the lead by passing a host of bills designed to spur real estate sales and ease the pain for those who can't sell a house.

What the Senate plan would do is shift the burden from local governments to the state, likely precipitating yet another budget deficit. The House plan is a better approach due to its simplicity, but certainly there is room for compromise. Of course, neither the House nor Senate bills do anything to address the artificially high property taxes thrust upon anyone who buys a house in a new subdivision. Fixing that, however, would take a thoughtful and politically risky overhaul of Proposal A — something almost no one believes is within the grasp of our Legislature.



LETTERS

Help for 'clueless' child

Just a few thoughts about the "clueless" girl child:

Having been half of the couple who has "raised" three daughters who are all parents of two children each, just some thoughts.

Without going into any identifying particulars, I think the seminal experience for our offspring may have been the delayed gratification that we as parents stringently practiced out of necessity. I didn't return to full-time employment for which I have a college degree, until they were ages 10 through 15. All three were active in programs through the American Girl Scouts, Wayne County 4H and a Washtenaw County private stable that had one of the first handicapped riding programs.

I know this is a very narrow example and unique for most families. And the road to adulthood was not smooth. But working with those families and the impaired or financially deprived taught empathy and non-judgmental attitudes toward those less fortunate. Not to mention the selfless, not "me-first" attitude needed to work with equine animals.

There are a myriad of fun programs that could enlighten your daughter that material goods are not the essence of self-worth and life.

With 70 years of living behind me, parenting was and remains the hardest role one can engage in. Good luck.

Persistence and patience.

Marti Boitos
Livonia

Confidence in Bowman

I am writing because I was glad to hear the recent news of Ronalee Bowman's appointment as Wayne County commissioner. I believe she will do a great job for our county because she has already served our community in various different capacities.

Ronalee has been involved with the Health and Welfare Advisory Board, the Red Wagon Project in Norwayne, the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority Board, and directed the Westland Youth Assistance Program for many years, just to name a few. Her dedication and service has earned her much recognition, such as the Westland Civitans "Citizen of the Year" Award in 2006, and two nominations for the ATHENA Award in 1996 and 1997.

I feel confident in her ability to do the job well because of her excellent work ethic, honor and caring demeanor, as well as her commitment to, and ongoing involvement in, the community.

Jennifer Bush
Westland

Not everyone can donate

About the article on blood donations: Not everyone can donate blood.

I have high blood pressure, they refused me out right! They said I have to

control my blood pressure better. So, it's nice to donate blood, but not everyone can do it!

So when people write in and make it simple-sounding, like the gentlemen in Westland, it's not that simple.

I thought I could do it as often as I could, but NO.

To think, they have said metro Detroit has a lot of people with high blood pressure. Does that mean we all can't do this?

I don't have that extreme blood pressure, but that is what I keep thinking — that no one can donate with high blood pressure.

Mari Squire
Westland

Right time for part-time

In a drive to pursue a more efficient and economical state Legislature, a bipartisan group, Turn Michigan Around (www.TurnMichiganAround.com), is circulating petitions to place a proposal for a "part-time" Michigan Legislature on the ballot.

At least 39 other states function adequately with part-time legislatures. In fact, the only two states in the past year that faced a government shutdown were Michigan and Pennsylvania, both with no restrictions on time in session. The current ballot proposal limits the number of days the Legislature can be in session to 100 per year and requires regular sessions to be concluded by May 31, providing stability for the 500-plus school districts that need to have budgets in place by June.

Setting limits on the number of days in session and establishing an end-of-session date can improve overall legislative performance in Michigan by requiring lawmakers to focus their efforts on important issues.

Michigan currently has the second highest paid legislators in the nation — \$79,500 plus \$12,000 in tax-free "expense reimbursement" — second only to California, which has 23 percent fewer representatives than Michigan who represent a population three times as large as Michigan. (California's full-time, generously compensated Legislature has missed its state budget deadline for 21 years in a row, proving that more is not always better.)

The proposal sets Michigan legislators' salary at 80 percent of the Michigan median household income plus \$12,000 for documented expenses. Currently, that computes to about \$40,000 per year plus benefits, which is approximately the average compensation paid to legislators in the 10 states closest to Michigan in population. The proposal also eliminates the guaranteed lifetime health benefits lawmakers now receive after only six years of service.

Finally, this proposal eliminates term limits for legislators, a flawed piece of legislation that has resulted in too many inexperienced legislators dealing with difficult and complex issues.

Even though some Michigan lawmakers have expressed an interest in a

part-time legislature, it's unlikely that such a proposal could be passed in the Legislature. However, Michigan citizens can give this proposal a fair consideration by signing the petition to place it on the ballot.

Linda Fields
Rochester Hills

Detroit's failure

Detroit Public Schools not only has the distinction of graduating the lowest number of students among our nation's 50 largest school districts — it has held this egregious distinction for the past three years. Supt. Connie Calloway's "Turn Around School" plan is simply and disingenuously more lip service and spin from a woman who has continued to make the district's chronic corruption and fraud, and not her students' achievement and literacy levels, the centerpiece of her five-year contract.

Connie Calloway's turnaround plan that currently includes the closing and reopening of only five schools is not even a drop in this leaking bucket that in less than 10 weeks will see fewer than 25 percent of Detroit's Class of 2008 graduate.

Equally important, but rarely the topic of polite conversation (especially in our suburbs and the Michigan Legislature), is the devastating reality that among the fewer than 25 percent that graduate, far too few are more than functionally literate and anything but prepared for post-secondary education or the work force.

Detroit Public Schools, its revolving door of leadership and ineffective school board, are gifted at turning out barely literate and unemployable perpetuations of poverty, literacy, homelessness, crime and worst of all, apathy and hopelessness for themselves and the next generation.

And even before Kwame Kilpatrick became permanently embroiled and disabled in what may ultimately be a mayor's crimes of the century — he has not concerned himself with or taken ownership of his greatest failure: his city's children and their schools.

Marcie Lipsitt
Franklin

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"It'll make my heart happy, if I can help a couple of boys and girls, it'll all be worth it. I care about kids, that's my passion. I want them to have fun and not worry about bills."

- Tonia Szabo about the Prom Closet that's sponsored by the United Methodist Women at the First United Methodist Church in Wayne

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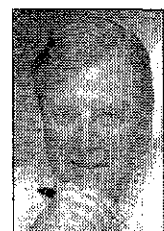
Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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.

Recall efforts equal nothing more than politics as usual

Think Michigan legislative politics are all sweetness and light these days, following last year's partisan bruising budget wars?

If so, you might want to take a look at what's going on in the 17th state House District. It consists of Redford Township, southeast Livonia and north Dearborn Heights. That's the turf that the current Speaker of the House, Andy Dillon, calls home. But it's also the site of an increasingly ugly campaign to recall the 46-year-old Democrat from his seat.



Phil Power

Words like "thug," "liar" and "criminal" are flying around freely, and wads of money are being spent. The recall, one of several mounted by the Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, is supposedly in response to Dillon's vote last fall to increase the state income tax to overcome a billion-dollar-plus deficit in the state's budget.

Initially, six representatives and four senators, including both Republicans and Democrats, were targeted for removal. But it now looks as though Dillon is the main focus of the recall movement. That, in turn, raises the prospect that the right of recall is being manipulated for purely partisan purposes. The Michigan Constitution says that valid signatures of 25 percent of registered voters who voted in the last election for governor are enough to force recall of a sitting lawmaker.

In the case of the 17th district, that comes to around 8,720 signatures, due by May 1. Recall advocates are led by former state Rep. Leon Drolet, now a Macomb County commissioner, and Rose Bogaert, of Dearborn Heights. She is chairwoman of the Wayne County Taxpayers Association and Taxpayers to Recall Andy Dillon.

Bogaert says her group wants to collect at least 10,000 signatures, to make sure it has a cushion; some names are always certain to be invalid or duplicates. According to three sources (who asked for anonymity for fear of harassment), the pro-recall people started out paying \$2 for every signature. That went to \$4 each, then \$6. Now the going rate appears to be \$10 per name.

That's a lot of dough! If they're aiming for 10,000 signatures, that's going to cost a cool \$100,000, not counting other expenses like postage (fliers have been mailed to all houses in the district), newspaper ads, office and legal expenses.

That's big money. All things considered, I wouldn't be surprised if total campaign costs come to more than \$250,000.

So where's all this money coming from? Democrats and Dillon supporters talk darkly about far right-wing, out-of-state moneybags. Lending credence to this suspicion is the fact that the national anti-tax guru — Washington-based Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform — is a member of Drolet's board.

Two long-term Lansing lobbyists, who wouldn't go on the record, told me big GOP money is behind the effort, "because it will be a big feather in their hat if they knock off the Democratic Speaker of the House." They also mention House Minority Leader, Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Novi), although he denies being involved.

When I asked Bogaert directly about the money, she wouldn't tell me. "Companies, individuals," she said. "You can't increase business taxes by 22 percent and expect them to be happy about it."

But why won't she tell me who's paying? "It would give our opponents a leg up on us."

Drolet says his campaign has more than 300 donors, almost all of them from Michigan. With the fog machines turned on full blast, I expect we'll never know for sure where the real money is coming from.

I'm also told that petition circulators are being devious, asking voters if they "want to reduce their taxes" by signing, or even "cut gas prices." One source claimed circulators said the petitions supported stem cell research and universal health care. For the record, Michigan election law (168.957) requires signatures not be obtained "through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation."

One man named Hugh H. Jordan III wrote a letter to the editor of the *Redford Observer* that said, "One of the petition signature collectors came to my door a few days ago and said to me, 'Sign this petition to lower your taxes.' Thankfully, I knew that the petition was actually intended to recall Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, and I declined to sign."

But even though there may be a bull's-eye pinned to his behind, Dillon is fighting back. He's dispatched people to shadow petition circulators and to urge people not to sign.

"I feel bad for the folks in my district," Dillon told me. "If petitions were being gathered based on what I truly did, that would be fine. But they're not."

"And there's an election this November; if people don't like what I've done in office, they can chuck me out then and there." Without spending a pile on special elections, either.

What he didn't add is that even if he wins, he'll be gone forever two years after that, thanks to the curse of term limits.

Term limits are bad enough, but I've always thought that threatening to recall elected lawmakers because they cast a certain vote is awfully close to blackmail. Recalls, if they succeed, solve nothing; special elections cost thousands of dollars and newly elected legislators who come in as part of a recall have no idea what they're up to before they face a regular election in November.

And it seems perverse that local voters, who made their preferences known last November, could be stampeded by a bunch of noisy activists into reversing course just 17 months later.

Recalls — perhaps especially the one now under way against Dillon — only fuel the kind of hyper-partisan warfare we all have come to hate. Elections fueled by shadowy, dogmatic interest groups with fat pocketbooks are hardly what Michigan needs.

Whether you agree with the way he votes or not, Dillon has been an able legislator. He fully deserves to remain in office at least until his term expires in January. And neither he, nor we, should have to put up with any of these silly and obvious recall games.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a centrist think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's and do not represent the official views of The Center. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

Families connected by same pain as trial closes in beheading case

James and Kimberly Sorensen sat in the same spot every day, near the far end of the second bench in Courtroom 402 of the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, surrounded by friends, buffered by love.

They sat up straight, except during the most graphic of the testimony, looking at what's coming straight on, not ducking it, not wanting — unable, really — to miss any of it.



Brad Kadrich

The trial of Jean Pierre Orlewicz, the 18-year-old Plymouth Township teenager accused of killing and mutilating their 26-year-old son, Daniel, has been a difficult one. It stretched for more than a week in the courtroom of Wayne County Circuit Judge Annette Berry, and the Sorensens didn't miss a minute.

They were there as the defense did what it had to do in order to put forth its defense, assailing the character of their son (who no one tried to paint as a choir boy). And they were there when Alexander Letkemann, the 18-year-old former Livonia Churchill student from Westland, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for his role in the killing, described the crime in chilling, graphic detail.

It was difficult to listen to for nearly everyone in the courtroom — those in the gallery and those in the jury — and the Sorensens and their friends wrapped themselves in each other, cloaked in shared loss and grief, and withstood it all.

At one point, Letkemann's story got so bone-chilling at least one juror teared up, and Berry wisely called for a recess.

Instead of using the time to get out of the room, to get away from it all, however briefly, Jim Sorensen did what he felt he had to do, what he felt needed to be done.

He sought out Letkemann's father, Pete, sitting in the far back corner of

the room, kneeled in front of him, and the two spoke.

In whispered tones, they spoke to each other's face; more importantly, they spoke to each other's hearts.

"I wanted him to know we don't hate them, don't hate Alex," Sorensen said. "We don't condone what Alex did, or even understand it, but we feel (Alex) feels real remorse."

Neither man wanted to reveal what was actually said, but the hugs they exchanged and the tears they shared spoke to the emotional nature of the conversation.

"What Mr. Sorensen said to me, and my reply, was parent to parent, father to father," Pete Letkemann said. "Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen have been very gracious and kind to our family. I wonder how many people out there, myself included, could do the same under similar circumstances."

Like the Sorensens, Orlewicz's parents, William and Charlotte, have endured every moment of this arduous trial, usually sitting quietly in the same row as the Sorensens. They've not been as accessible as the other principal families involved in this case, and that's to be expected.

But their grief and pain is no less palpable. Charlotte Orlewicz often drapes an arm almost protectively around her husband's shoulders; his reaction to particularly painful testimony is to remove his glasses and pinch the bridge of his nose, as if trying to chase away a headache.

One young man's life was extinguished, another's is altered forever, with the prospect of at least 20 years in prison, and a teenager's life hung in the balance for more than a week.

Orlewicz's actions put this tragedy in motion. The jury decided his fate.

Two rows behind him, the families sat, and waited, forever intertwined by opposite ends of the same grief, with no one to decide their fate but themselves.

Brad Kadrich is editor of the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at

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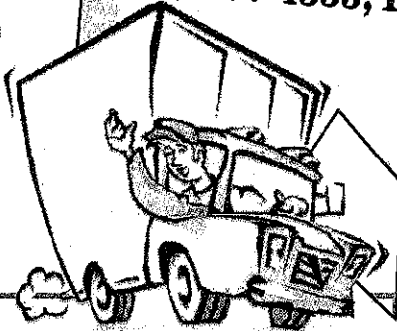
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SPORTS

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Thursday, April 17, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor . (734) 953-2123 . bemons@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Zebras earn Klotz crown vs. RU, 7-5

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A four-run first inning by Wayne Memorial put Redford Union into a deep hole in Saturday's championship game of the second annual Hank Klotz Baseball Classic.

Although the tournament host Panthers tried to claw back the rest of the nonconference matchup, they ran themselves out of rallies and eventually lost 7-5 to the Zebras.

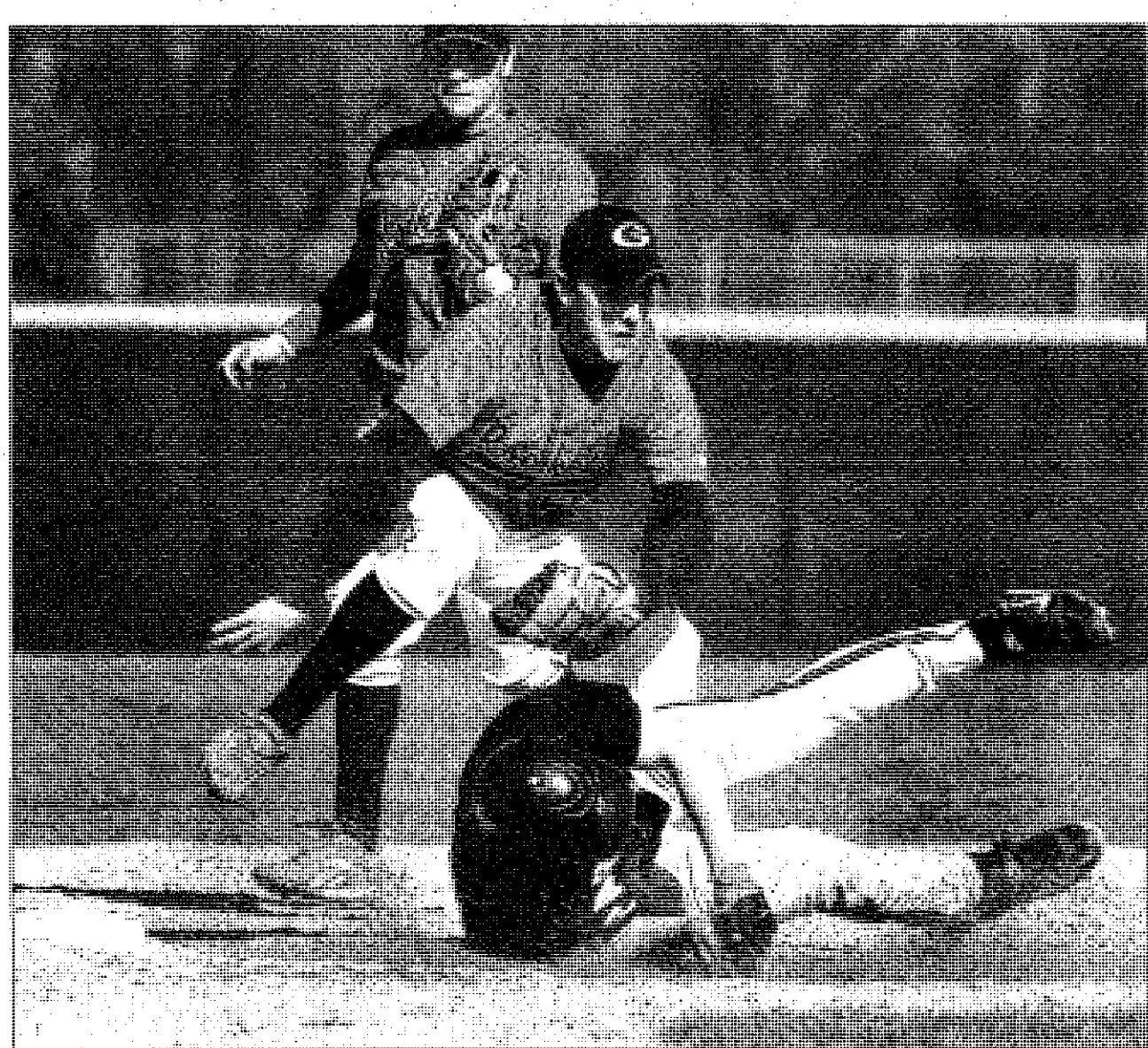
"We made a lot of base-running errors today," said RU head coach Mike Taylor, whose team dropped to 7-1 overall. "We always stress being aggressive, but I think today we were too aggressive in tight situations."

"... We battled back, but we spotted those guys four runs in the first inning. You can't do that against a good club."

The Zebras (4-3), who claimed the Klotz trophy for the second consecutive year, made some solid defensive plays to snuff out rallies and were sparked by the complete-game effort of junior pitcher Rodney Manning (three earned runs).

"That's something I told them at the beginning of the year," said Wayne head coach Paul Cavanaugh. "If we get pitching, throw strikes and play defense we'll win games. Except for one bad inning (the second against RU), they did it today."

Please see **KLOTZ, B2**



TOM HAWLEY STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bang, bang play

Westland John Glenn shortstop Robert Fraser puts the tag on Livonia Stevenson's Jake Wilson, who was caught between first and second base on a pick-play during in the fourth inning of Monday's WLA-Lakes Division opener. Backing up the play is Glenn second baseman Kevin Lafave. Glenn earned a 5-4 victory over the Spartans. See a roundup of area baseball on page B2.

Sidelines

Westland golf day

Westland Golf Course, located at 500 S. Merriman (just south of Warren), will stage its opening day event to kick off the 2009 season on Friday, April 18 with a green fees special of \$6 and \$1 hot dogs.

Also included on opening day will be free short game clinics, door prizes and a closest-to-the-pin contest on the indoor golf simulator.

Call (734) 721-6600 for reservations.

Clement Karate Kid

Livonian Joeey Clement II, 5, a student at Hayes Elementary School, took an age-group bronze medal at the Great Lakes Karate Invitational held April 5 at Riverview High School.

The yellow belt had only been training for 10 weeks.

Joseph judo champ

St. Genevieve Elementary School student Nicholas Joseph, 10, of Livonia, placed first in the lightweight division for ages 11-12 at the Michigan Open Judo Championships held last month at Michigan State University's Intramural West Building in East Lansing.

Joseph also placed runner-up in the 9-10 lightweight division in an event sanctioned by the U.S. Judo Federation.

Demolition rolls

Dawn Adams scored a pair of touchdowns Saturday as defending Independent Women's Football League champion Detroit Demolition downed the Columbus (Ohio) Phantoms, 34-0, in a game played in a downpour and stopped after three quarters at Livonia Franklin High School due to injuries by the Phantoms.

Adams, who gained 72 yards, caught a 32-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Bridget Porter and ran 18 yards for another TD. Other TDs came from Porter (1-yard sneak), Junita Payne (12-yard run) and defensive back Enika Davidson (47-yard fumble return).

Livonia sisters spring into action

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Trampoline made its debut as an Olympic sport at the 2000 Sydney Games and power tumbling will be a demonstration sport at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Perhaps by 2012 or more realistically 2016, don't be surprised if two sisters from Livonia — Cassandra and Natalia Skinner — make the quantum leap.

Following last weekend's showing at the USA Gymnastics TNT State Championships in Warren, the Skinner sisters will be two names to be reckoned with.

Cassandra, 13, placed first in Level 10 power tumbling which enabled her to qualify this weekend for the Elite Challenge Qualifier in Mobile, Ala., where a top-three finish would put her on the National Team and send her next February to St. Petersburg, Russia, for the World Cup.

Cassandra, who attends Holmes Middle School, also placed first in double-mini trampoline and second in trampoline for Level 8 competitors.

Sister Natalia, 11, who attends Riley Upper Elementary, also showed great promise by winning the Level 6 double-mini event, along with the Level 5 trampoline and power tumbling state titles.

Cassandra, meanwhile, got the ball rolling at age 6 when she started gymnastics at the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

"We had a trampoline at home and I used to practice outside," Cassandra said. "I always dreamed of being a gymnast. My mom was a gymnast in (Syracuse) New York, a Level 7. I kind of fell into it (trampoline) and I was looking for a gym to go to the next level."



Cassandra (left) and Natalia Skinner of Livonia combined for five first-place medals in last weekend's USA Gymnastics TNT State Championships held in Warren.

COACH KEY

The Skinner sisters ventured over the east side at All World Gymnastics in Warren, which has only been in existence for three years. The Skinners are coached by Peter Roberts, who currently has five of the 10 National team members, and Valter Meta, who competed in the 1976 Olympics as a gymnast for Albania.

"Cassie's gone from Level 6 to Level 10 in about a year and a half," Roberts said. "It's because of her hard work and dedication. She's always trying to do the extra things and she loves to compete."

"Her sister is up-and-coming, too. She's really coming up strong. They feed off each other."

Cassandra pushes Natalia and their mother works hard and is very dedicated. They're well-behaved kids. They respect their coaches and their peers. They're fun to coach and their mom has done a good job with the discipline."

Cassandra surprised herself last weekend with her performance. It went well beyond her expectations.

"It was totally a breakthrough," she said. "My coach (Peter Roberts) said there was a place for me if I work for it. I'm there six days going on seven (days a week), four hours a day, all summer. It's fun training. It's like my second home."

"It's the crowd and being surround-

Please see **SISTERS, B4**

MU protects home field, alone in first

It was almost as if the Madonna University baseball team said "not in our yard."

The Crusaders spanked Indiana Tech twice on Tuesday in a pivotal Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference double-header at Ilitch Ballpark in Livonia.

Conference-leading MU earned wins of 6-4 and 10-3 over the second-place Warriors to open up a three-game lead. The Crusaders are 24-10 overall and 11-3 in the WHAC while Indiana Tech dropped to 20-13, 9-7.

MU broke a 4-4 tie in the bottom of the ninth in the opener, on a single by Mike Gansser followed by a home run to left by Matt Kondziolka for the victory.

John McCracken picked up the win after pitching three solid innings of relief, in which he allowed just one run and struck out seven.

Farmington Hills Harrison's Kevin Zerbo continued his torrid hitting, going 2-for-3 including a two-run homer to left in the third, at that point giving MU a 3-0 advantage.

The Warriors chipped away at a 4-0 deficit and eventually tied it in the top of the seventh, to force extra innings.

The nightcap featured a complete-game outing by Crusader pitcher Richard Lindquist. He gave up just two earned runs over seven innings, walking one and striking out three.

MU broke open a relatively close game with seven runs in the sixth. Although four walks and three errors helped fuel the surge, the Crusaders also received a clutch two-run single by Zerbo and a three-run triple to right-center by Scott Boyer (2-for-4, four RBI).

Canton's Shawn Little also had a big day for MU, going 3-for-3 and driving in a run.

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Let's be Earth-friendly

This week's activities aim at conservation, education

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Earth Day is officially celebrated on April 22. While the environment may not be in the forefront these days, taking a back seat to the 2008 presidential election, the war in Iraq and the economy, it still remains a critical issue for many.

Many events are scheduled this weekend through April 22 to promote sustainability, the environment and wildlife habitats. From the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak to Oakland University in Rochester and local businesses in Oakland and Wayne counties, the warming of the spring weather presents an opportune time to remind ourselves about the importance of maintaining the planet's health.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

The third annual Earth Day Expo will be held at Oakland University Saturday, April 19 with information about healthy, local, organic, fair-trade and sustainably-produced food, including presentations from Paul Krause of VegMichigan; Julie LaPorte, owner of LaVida Local, a business engaged in building communities by connecting local farmers to consumers; Heather Carmona, an organic wellness consultant with Natural Health & Healing; Dr. Fay Hansen, a biologist at OU currently on sabbatical at Michigan State University learning about organic farming; and Dr. Kerrie Saunders, a nationally known speaker and best-selling author.



Rebecca Kolls

LOCAL BUSINESSES

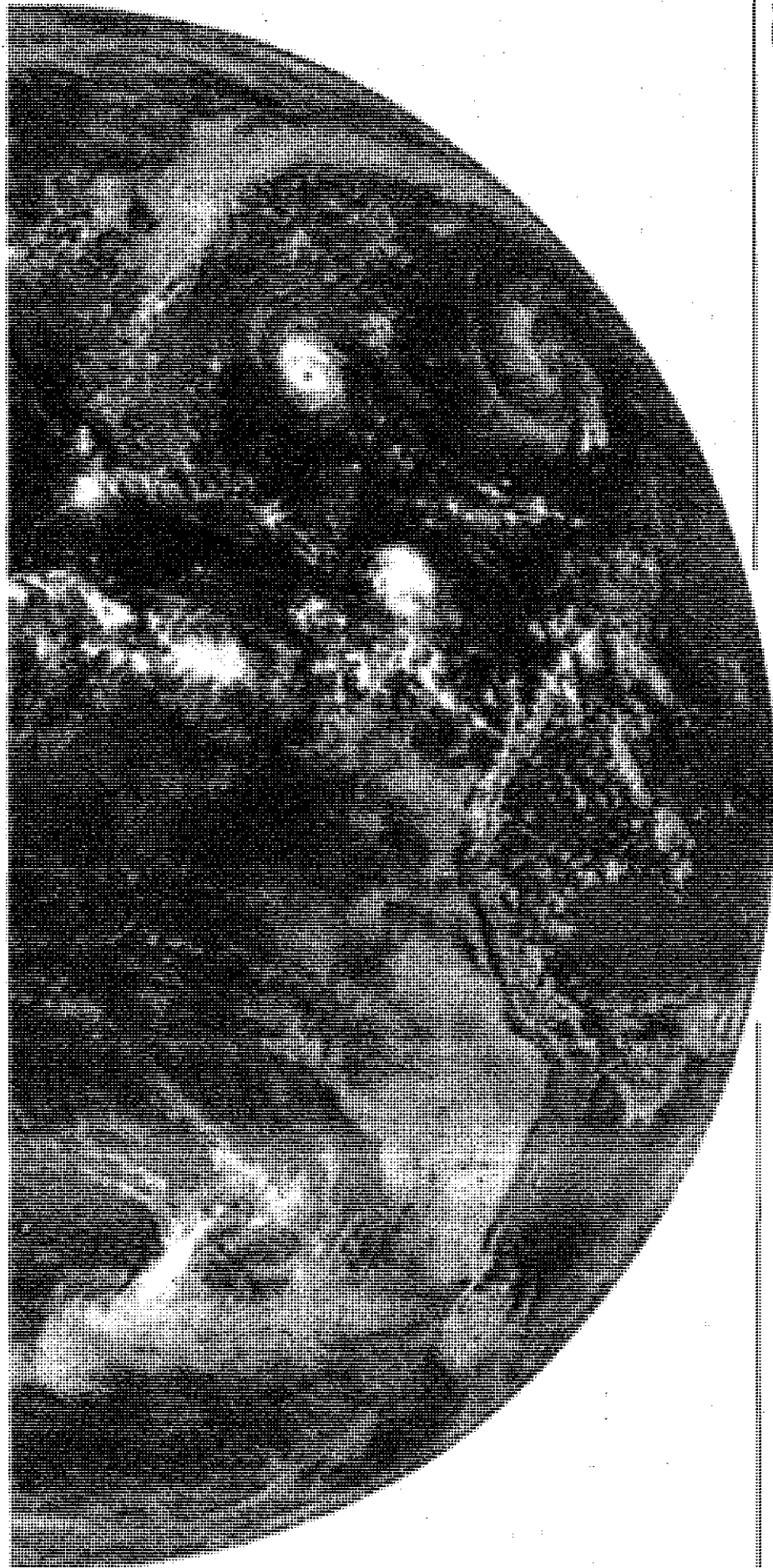
Rebecca Kolls, lifestyle and gardening contributor for ABC's *Good Morning America*, and Roger Swain, former host of PBS' *The Victory Garden*, will be appearing at English Gardens stores Saturday, April 19 and Sunday, April 20.

English Gardens will also give away tree seedlings to the first 100 children in each store.

Kolls will present "Growing Green" with tips on how gardeners can incorporate earth-friendly tips at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 19 in West Bloomfield; 1 p.m. in Dearborn Heights; 4 p.m. in Brighton; and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 20 in Royal Oak.

Swain will present "The Thrills & Spills of Container Gardening," and demonstrate tips for successful planting in containers. His schedule is 10 a.m.

Please see
EARTH, D2



ACCENTS

Mom's the best

We remember mom's great recipes. Just don't try and get that information from her. Sure, she may have guarded the exclusivity of the dish with generalizations and phrases like "oh, it's a little of this and a little of that" when she was asked about the ingredients of that delicious dish. Sooner or later, though, she relented and you got the keys to the kingdom. Do you have a favorite dish of hers that she prepared in the spring or summer? Or do you have a favorite dish that you prepare for her and she enjoys it? If you'd like to share her recipe or yours with us and we publish it, we'll send you a free cookbook. Please send a short note about your mother, the recipe, a photo of the two of you (if it is available) and a daytime phone number where you can be reached. Send it to kabramcz@hometownlife.com or mail it to Ken Abramczyk, food editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Recipes should be sent by Wednesday, April 23.

New showroom open

Find out how to re-face, not replace, to upgrade your home at the grand opening of the Granite Transformations showroom at 31205 Grand River at Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 19.

Celebrate with complimentary refreshments, designer tips to make the most of your home and increase its value, and kitchen tips, products and samplings from local Pampered Chef Cindy Schlusel.

Hourly drawings will be held to win prizes including kitchen products, cookbooks, Granite Transformation showpieces, movie passes to the Emagine Theatre, and other special items.

Vigorous product demonstrations will also be held to show the beauty and durability of these products versus ordinary granite.

For information call (248) 427-0200 or visit www.granitetransformations.com.

Professionals honored

Coffee Beanery joins companies and organizations to recognize the work that administrative professionals do on a daily basis. Administrative Professionals Day is celebrated on Wednesday, April 23, and Coffee Beanery is looking for the Administrative Professional of the Year.

Participating local Coffee Beanery stores will be taking nominations at local stores and will be awarding coffee gift baskets to the most deserving nominee.

In addition, an on-line contest will be held at coffeebeanery.com where nominations can be submitted and the winning on-line nominee will receive a pound of specialty coffee every month for a year.

The deadline for in-store and on-line nominations is midnight Monday, April 21.

The winner will be chosen at noon on that same day.

Make online backups part of your backup strategy

Last week I wrote about diversified backups: using multiple methods to safeguard your data.

Today I'm going to focus on the online aspect of that idea, as it's not always obvious what kind of service you should use or how to use it.

Remember that there are two basic kinds of backups: those that duplicate your entire hard drive, and those that duplicate just your important data.

Online backups, which copy your data to remote servers, definitely fall into the latter category.

Theoretically, you could upload the complete contents of your hard drive to a backup service, especially if you're paying for an "unlimited storage" plan.

Please see **TECH, D3**

Puck stops here

Wolfgang Puck will be signing copies of his new cookbook at the restaurant that bears his name at the MGM Grand Detroit 2-4 p.m. April 22.

Wolfgang Puck Makes It Easy will be available for purchase at Wolfgang Puck Grille at a cost of \$35.

Conveniently located by the hotel's entrance and main casino floor, the restaurant features casual as well as sophisticated fine dining that can be enjoyed either as a relaxed, leisurely dining experience or as a comfortable, quick-bite in a setting created by designer Tony Chi.

Additional features are a stunning hand-carved desk from South Korean artist Lee Jae-Hyo at the restaurant's entry and "Wolfgang's Kitchen Table," a private space for up

BOOK SIGNING

What: Wolfgang Puck signs copies of his new book, "Wolfgang Puck Makes It Easy"

When: 2-4 p.m. April 22

Where: Wolfgang Puck Grille, MGM Grand Casino, 1777 Third (north of Michigan Avenue), Detroit
Book available for \$35.

to 14 guests that provides an up close and personal experience of the celebrity chef's kitchen.

The restaurant's hours are 7 a.m.-9 p.m. daily and 7 p.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call (313) 465-1648.



Wolfgang Puck

'The Splendid Table' host visits Schoolcraft

Lynne Rossetto Kasper, host of *The Splendid Table*, a food program on Michigan Radio, will be conducting a cooking demonstration at Schoolcraft College in Livonia 1-3 p.m. May 10. Her demonstration will feature recipes from her new book *The Splendid Table's How to Eat Supper*.

The culinary arts students at Schoolcraft College will

help prepare the meal Kasper demonstrates, which attendees will be able to sample. They will also be able to ask Kasper questions.

Kasper, named "One of the 12 best cooking teachers in America" by the James Beard Foundation, is a chef and cultural historian. Her first cookbook, *The Splendid Table*, is the only book to

achieve the food world's twin crown, The Cookbook of the Year Award, from both the Julia Child/IACP and James Beard Awards. She has been featured in numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *People*, *Gourmet*, and *Newsweek* among others. Tickets are \$45, and are

Please see **COOKING, D3**



Lynne Rossetto Kasper

pink

Wensdy Von Buskirk, Features Editor | (734) 953-2019 | wvonb@hometownlife.com



pink picks

Wear It!

Clothing made in America — if you can find it! 96 percent is imported

DON'T Wear It!

All black — add a splash of color with accessories

Kick It!

Simple Stop Global Warming Flip

Tote It!

Bazura Bags — made from recycled materials

Jewel It!

Blown glass bead jewelry by Jay Bridgland at Ariana Gallery, Royal Oak

Use It!

Rodan + Fields Salicylic Acid Exfoliating Body Wash and Spray

Eat It!

Breakfast at Rosco's Deli Coney Island in Livonia

Drink It!

Bubble tea at Little Bubbles Tea Shop in Farmington Hills

Hear It!

Wildcatting

See It!

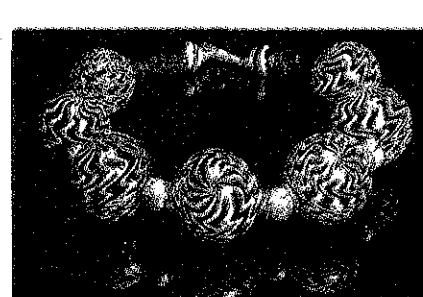
Smart People

Tivo It!

Autism: The Musical

DVD It!

There Will Be Blood



Read It!

A Page Out of Life: A Scrapbooking Novel by Kathleen Reid

Do It!

Be a courteous driver

Bridesmaids look best in shades of gray

Some modern brides are allowing their ladies in waiting to wear any little black dress of their choice. This option lets each bridesmaid choose a gown that best flatters her figure — one she will certainly wear again. In fact, an LBD that already hangs in her closet may work just fine. Still, many traditional brides-to-be

don't see things so black and white. For them, the season's most fashionable frocks are in pretty shades of gray. From smoky to silvery, here's a look at a few takes on gray from gown lines available at Miss Kate's Maids, 2121 Cole St., in Birmingham.

Compiled by Wensdy Von Buskirk



Priscilla of Boston Dahlia Vintage dress, \$350.



Priscilla of Boston Smoke satin tank gown, \$300.

Calling all male "maids" of honor

Listen up blushing brides-to-be and happily-weds, Pink is looking for your best guy pals — the sort you chose to stand in place of a maid of honor. We'd like to speak to you, or the best friend in question, for an upcoming story. If you'd like to tell us what it was like to have a best man for a maid of honor — or you

know of a guy in jst this honorary role who might want to share his sentiments, please call Stephanie A. Casola at (248) 901-2567 or send an e-mail to scasola@hometownlife.com before April 25.

We're curious to hear how this new wedding trend translates on the big day.

Malls & Mainstreets

If you have an item for the Malls & Main Streets calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wensdy Von Buskirk at wvonb@hometownlife.com.

Nordstrom Grand Opening
CLINTON TWP — Nordstrom will kick off its store opening at The Mall at Partridge Creek with a Beauty Bash 8:30 a.m. April 18. Before the store opens at 10 a.m., Nordstrom beauty advisers will share products and trends, and provide complimentary consultations and demonstrations outside the store, 17310 Hall Road. Call 1 (800) 916-6110.

Try It On for the Cure
LIVONIA — Coldwater Creek at Laurel Park Place will host Try It On for the Cure to benefit the Komen Detroit, April 20. The store will donate \$1 for every shopper who tries on clothes in the dressing room, no purchase necessary, plus 10 percent of sales that day. Call (734) 464-1340 or visit www.coldwatercreek.com.

Share the Vision
BIRMINGHAM — The Pink Fund will host Share the Vision April 24-26 to raise funds for breast cancer survivors while showcasing the latest "shades". Some participating stores include Au Courant Optical Fashions, Birmingham Vision Care, Clavenna Vision Institute and Optik (all in Birmingham); Direct Optical, Farmington Hills, and Orion Troy Ophthalmology, Rochester Hills. Visit www.thepinkfund.org.

Rummage Sale
FARMINGTON HILLS — Antioch Lutheran

Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile Road, will host a rummage sale 9 a.m.-2 p.m. April 18 followed by a Bag Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. April 19, with clothing priced at \$1 each item. (248) 626-7906.

Vintage Fashion Show Tea
WATERFORD — What was high style in the 1920s? What did housewives wear in the '50s? Find out as Tuesday Musicales of Greater Pontiac presents a Vintage Fashion Show and Tea 1 p.m. April 22 at Central United Methodist Church, 3882 Highland Road. Attendees may wear hat, gloves and vintage outfits. \$15. Call (248) 620-0116.

ReFusing Fashion Closes
DETROIT — This weekend marks your last chance to see ReFusing Fashion: Rei Kawakubo at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave. The exhibit closes April 20. Call (313) 832-6622 or visit www.mocadetroit.org.

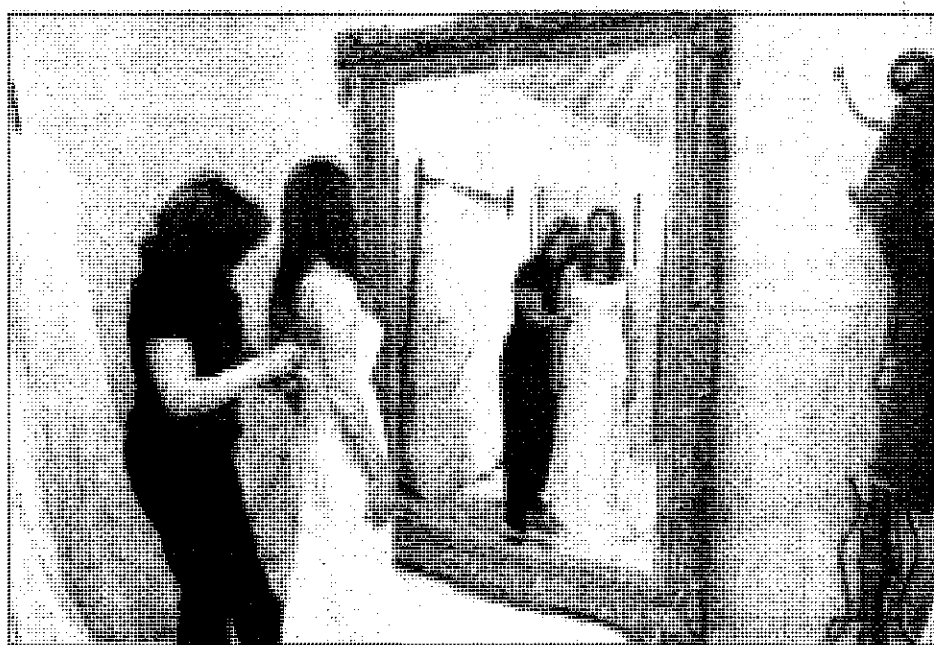
Macy's Earth Day
Macy's Turn Over A New Leaf campaign April 20-27 will include promotions, merchandise and in-store events benefiting the National Park Foundation. The first 150 customers in stores April 20 will get a free tote. Customers who donate \$5 at Macy's stores or www.nationalparks.org will get a two-day shopping pass for 20 percent off select merchandise April 26-27. On April 22, the first 100 customers in each store will get a free sapling, and the first 100 children will receive an eco-friendly coloring book. For more information and to enter sweepstakes, visit www.macys.com.

BRIDAL CALENDAR

Bridal Sample Sale
TROY — The Bridal Salon at Macy's Somerset will host its Annual Bridal Sample Sale April 25-27. Macy's will discount sample designer bridal gowns and accessories at 50 to 90 percent off regular prices. Select couture bridal gowns will start at \$199, while sample bridesmaid dresses start at \$49.97. Designers include Vera Wang, Reem Acra, Romona Keveza, Justina McCaffrey, Watters and Watters, and more. Shoppers who purchase a bridal gown at the sale will receive 10 percent off accessory and bridesmaid purchases. Bridal Gown prices before clearance range from \$500-\$15,000. Hours of the sale are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

Downtown Bridal Stroll
PLYMOUTH — Downtown Plymouth will hosts its first annual Plymouth Bridal Stroll on Saturday, April 26. The event will start at noon in Kellogg Park with a mock wedding party, head table and live music from members of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. From there, brides will follow their Bridal Stroll program to visit more than 25 businesses offering refreshments, discounts, drawings for gift certificates, and more. From gowns and invitations, to food and favors, the free event will showcase opportunities to plan your whole wedding with local merchants. Call (734) 455-1453 or visit www.downtownplymouth.org.

Bridal Bliss
ROYAL OAK — Brides-to-be will find everything they



Kim Chmiel of Shapes Boutique, Royal Oak, fits Trudy Chase of Birmingham in a custom wedding gown.

need to plan a stylish shower, bachelorette party, wedding and reception during Royal Oak's Bridal Bliss 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, April 26. During the day-long event, more than 25 local businesses will offer discounts, packages, consultations and more for the bride and her entourage.

Guests can also enter to win one of three Downtown Royal Oak Shopping Sprees worth \$200-\$500. For more information and a complete list of activities and participating businesses, call (248) 246-3065 or visit www.downtownroyalok.org.

CORRECTION

In our recent Observer & Eccentric *Wedding Guide*, incorrect information was given for Meadow Brook Hall & Gardens.

If you are interested in hosting a wedding and/or reception at the historic site, call (248) 364-6220 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

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