

# WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY August 31, 2008

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## Mediator joins WW bargaining



Wayne-Westland Education Association Nancy Strachan talks to teachers about contract talks during a rally Thursday.

Kyle Olson of the Education Action Group and Nancy Strachan of the Wayne-Westland Education Association express their views about negotiations in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools on Page A2.

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

A state mediator has become involved in contract talks between Wayne-Westland school officials and its teachers union.

The Wayne-Westland Education Association requested the help of the mediator through the Michigan Employment Relations Commission Wednesday in hopes of avoiding a strike by the district's 900 teachers on Tuesday, the opening day of school.

"We're absolutely miles apart," WWEA president Nancy Strachan said. "We're trying to be reasonable and make reasonable offers."

Mediator Wanda Mayes met with both sides individually and together on Thursday and had scheduled another session for 10 a.m. Friday. Both sides planned to attend.

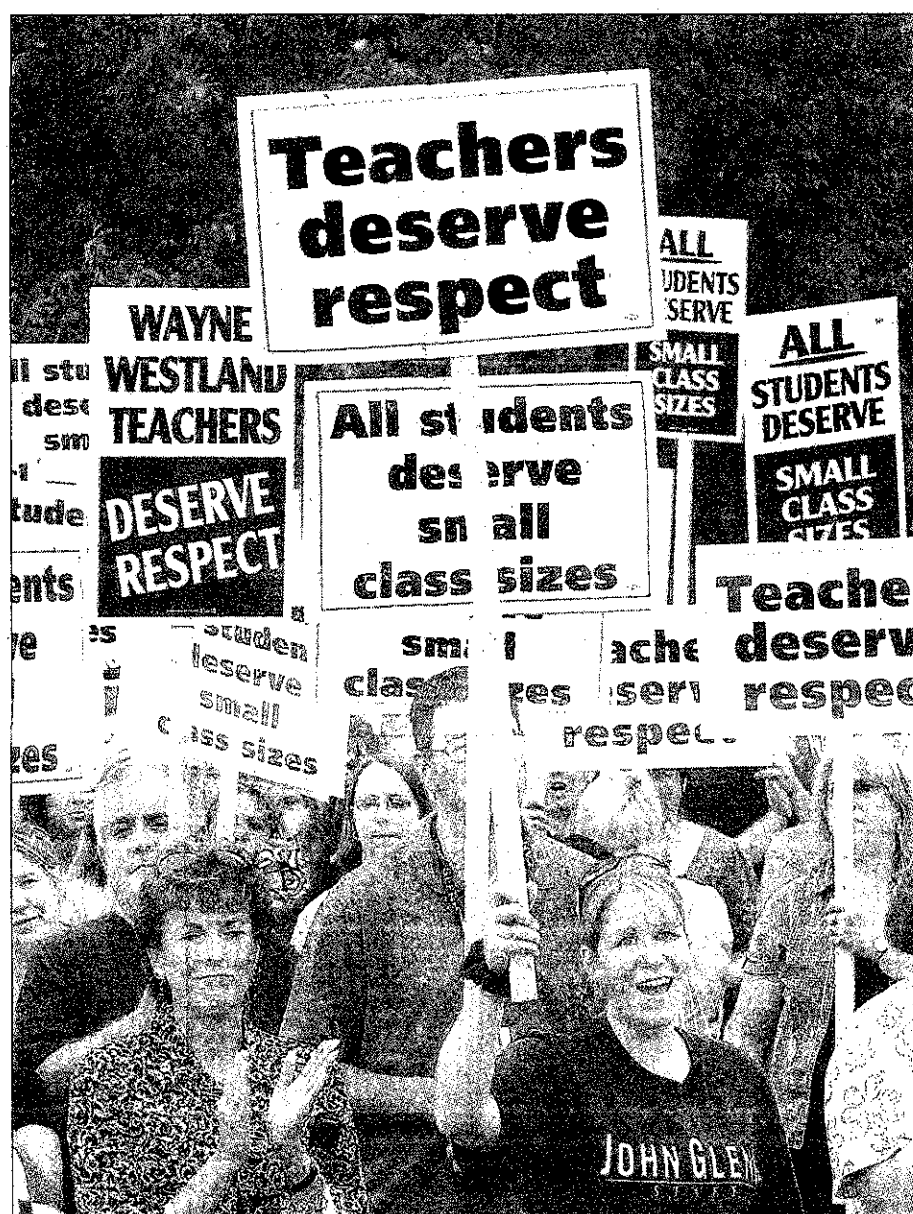
"We're encouraged by the use of a state mediator," Superintendent Greg Baracy said. "We will work in conjunction with the mediator to schedule as many meetings as necessary to reach a settlement."

"By using a mediator, it may be fruitful in helping us all reach a middle ground."

The teachers' contract expired Monday, the same day members overwhelmingly approved a strike, delaying start of school Tuesday. According to Strachan, some issues have been settled, but the two sides are "far apart" on three issues — class sizes, health care and wages.

Evelyn Baran, Michigan Education Association field director, said Mayes can suggest alternatives to the two sides and insist they meet a reasonable number of

Please see **CONTRACT, A3**



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Westland teachers raise signs, calling for smaller class sizes and respect, in a show of support for Wayne-Westland Education Association negotiators during a rally at the district's administrative offices Thursday evening.

## 4 men face trial in drug shootout

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A court hearing that brought gripping testimony from a drug informant caught up in a gunfight ended Thursday with four defendants facing trial for an alleged cocaine deal that left a fifth suspect dead outside a Westland shopping center.

The informant, whose identity police didn't want published, gave harrowing details of how he was nearly shot when two of the suspects — one in the back seat of his car and one standing outside his window — drew guns as bullets started flying during an Aug. 12 drug sting that turned sour outside the Bob's of Canton-Westland market.

"I heard bullets and a lot of screaming," the informant testified, during a preliminary hearing in front of Westland 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli.

His testimony and courtroom statements by three police officers convinced Cicirelli to order trials for 50-year-old Garden City defendant Joseph George Boldizar and Detroiters Benjamin Bernard Pringle, 32, Demond Nigel Sanders, 29, and Roberto Debert Reed, 32. A fifth suspect, 28-year-old Brian Thomas of Detroit, was shot dead by police during the gun battle.

All four men, still jailed with \$1 million bonds, could face life in prison if they're convicted of multiple felony charges involving robbery and drugs. Reed and Pringle also have additional firearms charges, and Pringle has four counts of assault with intent to murder, amid allegations he fired at the informant and Romulus backup officers who came to his rescue from two surveillance vans.

### UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS

The informant testified that he has known Boldizar for several years and that Boldizar wanted to make money from large quantities of drugs. The informant also said at least two earlier attempts to carry out the drug stings had failed prior to the afternoon of Aug. 12.

On that day, the informant said he put three kilograms of cocaine behind the driver seat of a silver Mercedes Benz and drove to meet Boldizar, who police say arrived with Thomas in a Lumina driven by Sanders. In court, the informant referred to Thomas by his nickname of Cheeseburger.

Boldizar got in the front passenger seat of the informant's car while Thomas sat in the back seat. Suddenly, a Buick Rendezvous drove up with suspects identified as gunman Pringle and driver Reed.

Pringle is accused of approaching the car with what



Boldizar Sanders



Reed Pringle

the informant described as a long pistol that "looked like a machine gun." The informant said Thomas produced another gun in the back seat, pointed it at his head and demanded that he turn over the cocaine, which was supposed to be sold for \$60,000.

The informant, whose car was wired so that surveillance officers in nearby vans could hear, said shots were fired inside his vehicle, and he said he grabbed for Pringle's gun before Pringle allegedly fired more shots outside the vehicle. It was then that the gunfight with surveillance officers erupted.

### NO MONEY

The informant testified that he was supposed to make \$4,000 to \$6,000 for helping Romulus police with the drug sting, but he said in court he didn't get any money because the defendants didn't actually bring any to the scene.

The informant named Boldizar as the defendant who arranged the supposed drug deal turned robbery, but Boldizar shook his head as he sat in the courtroom along with the three other defendants.

Romulus police Sgt. Phillip Czernick testified that he was with the surveillance officers when Pringle emerged from the Buick Rendezvous with a semiautomatic handgun that he fired into the informant's car and then at officers. Pringle was shot and wounded, and like Boldizar he was captured at the scene.

Pringle was initially hospitalized but had been released prior to Thursday's court hearing.

Police took Sanders and Reed into custody in Detroit within two days of the shootout.

Westland police Sgt. Steve Borisch testified that Reed told him during an interview that he was supposed to take cocaine to Detroit and cook it up into crack cocaine.

Another Westland officer, Burke Lange, said Sanders gave him details about the robbery during a separate interview.

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## Ex-boyfriend faces trial in Laci Green slaying

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The former boyfriend of slain Westland resident Laci Green will stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court amid accusations he strangled her to death and left her body in a grassy field near her Millpointe subdivision home on the city's southwest side.

The defendant, 25-year-old Robert James-the-First Howard of Dearborn Heights, faces trial for first-degree murder following a three-day preliminary hearing that began in late June and finally concluded Thursday in Westland 18th District Court. Howard, jailed without bond, will face life in prison if he's convicted as charged.

Testimony has indicated

that Howard took a taxi cab from Dearborn Heights and arrived in Green's neighborhood shortly before 1 a.m. May 7. Police believe the two met to talk and that Howard, upset that Green was dating another man, killed her.

Howard initially helped Barbara and Edward Green look for their daughter, but he had become a suspect even before her body was found around 6 a.m. May 7.

Even before Westland police Sgt. Steve Borisch knew how Green had died, he said Howard indicated during an interrogation at the Westland police station that Green had been strangled.

Borisch also testified that Howard admitted taking Green's shoes, which she left just outside her house,

and putting them in a sewer drain. When asked why, Howard told Borisch he was afraid his fingerprints would be on the shoes and that he might be blamed for whatever happened to Green.

Westland Police Officer Robert Fruit testified that when he encountered Howard less than 300 yards from where Green's body was found, the suspect was out of breath and sweating profusely. Fruit also said Howard had the same kind of fresh grass clippings on his clothing that police found on Green's body.

"All he kept saying was he had nothing to do with it," Fruit said.

Defense attorney Bertram Johnson indicated that Howard might not have

been given a chance to see an attorney when he asked for one, but Borisch said the suspect indicated that he wanted to keep talking even without a lawyer. Borisch said Howard cried and shook his head during the interrogation.

Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli ordered Howard to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after the hearing concluded Thursday. Borisch testified that he believed Howard took a taxi cab to Green's house because he was angry that she was seeing another man.

"I think he was mad at her, and I think he was coming there to kill her," Borisch said.

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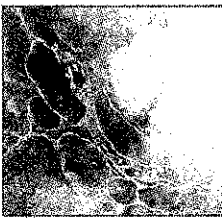
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Coming Thursday in filter



Art & Apples Festival

# Misguided spending hurts district Education lost in union-district clash

It's important to note that I haven't read the column submitted to the *Westland Observer* by the Education Action Group's Kyle Olson. In the end, I don't really need to — every time he inserts himself into a local bargaining situation he touts the same anti-union messages about the Michigan Education Association and the Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA).



Nancy Strachan

If Mr. Olson had taken the time to check the facts before he intruded himself into the Wayne-Westland teachers' contract negotiations, he would have found that it is the district's misguided spending priorities that are truly hurting our students and our community.

Since Mr. Olson isn't at the bargaining table — and doesn't even live on this side of the state — he doesn't know that the MESSA plan the teachers are proposing is \$40,000 cheaper than the current insurance package.

If Mr. Olson had done his homework, he would know that teachers have saved the district millions of dollars over the past two years by reducing their wages and benefits. This, after the superintendent promised them that administrators would lead from the top in taking cuts. Their cuts still haven't happened, despite the district's claims of poverty.

Because of those claims, the teachers asked MEA economist Ruth Beier to do a financial analysis of the district. Using data that the district itself provided to the state, it became apparent that for the past three years the district has manufactured a deficit. In reality, Wayne-Westland has money, but the administration chooses to buy "things" instead of spending the money on students and the resources necessary to give them a great public education. By repeatedly moving money

from its general fund into a capital fund, the district can tell the community it has no money while it goes ahead and builds two field houses and buys state-of-the-art artificial turf — not typical behavior of a district in financial crisis.

And there's no reason for this shell game. For the 2006-07 school year, the district had a surplus of more than \$1.5 million. It received an additional \$2.8 million for capital purchases and also used voter-approved debt fund revenue. Flush with money, it then transferred \$2.4 million to its capital fund and manufactured a general fund deficit of \$860,442!

Meanwhile, class sizes have dramatically increased. With 36 students in some elementary classes and 38 in high school classes, there isn't enough time for one-on-one instruction. Sometimes there aren't even enough desks, lab stations or computers for every student. But the superintendent claims that large class sizes have had no negative impact on test scores. Unfortunately, the data he uses was gathered at a time when class sizes were smaller.

It becomes clear that either the district doesn't budget well or it has its priorities in the wrong place. What they have created is a school district that has the second highest general fund balance (essentially a savings account) in the county; spends a smaller portion of its budget on instructional compensation than all but six other county districts; and ranks in the top third of the county in number of pupils per teacher. Those are facts — things Mr. Olson usually ayoids.

All this begs the question, why is this guy from Muskegon writing columns in our community newspaper? The answer is simple — Kyle Olson and his Education Action Group friends despise unions and public schools.

Who are some of those friends? One is disgraced political adviser Dick Morris, who frequently tag teams with Olson to bash MESSA and anything

else related to organized labor.

Another is EAG's incorporator Eric Doster, who is a conservative attorney, activist and political candidate. He serves as general counsel for the state Republican Party and has many ties to former gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos and his anti-public school, voucher-loving organization, the Great Lakes Education Project.

Unfortunately we don't know much about Olson's other anti-union, anti-public school conspirators — while he has no compunction about decrying union PAC dollars going to political candidates, he refuses to disclose who is funding his operations.

Under the EAG banner, Olson has butted into bargaining situations all over the state, ranging from Grand Rapids to the small town of Gladstone in the Upper Peninsula. In both cases, his out-of-town "help" wasn't welcome — representatives from the union AND the school district denounced his union hate-mongering in both communities. (You can learn more about EAG by going to [www.eagtruth.com](http://www.eagtruth.com).)

So, Mr. Olson, since you're not from around here and don't know anything about this bargaining situation or this community, let me educate you about what's on the minds of Wayne-Westland teachers.

We're all looking forward to the start of a new school year. One in which we can help students succeed. One in which we're supported for the hard work we do. And one in which our administration is truthful about its priorities and its finances.

We want what's best for our students, our schools, our families and our community. And we're going to stand united — shoulder to shoulder with parents, community leaders and our union brothers and sisters — for what we know is right.

Nancy Strachan is president of the Wayne-Westland Education Association, which represents the district's 850 teachers.

It's amazing how deceptive the name of an organization can be.

One classic example is the "Michigan Education Association," the title of the state's largest teachers union.



Kyle Olson

Or, to be more case specific, the Wayne-Westland Education Association, a subgroup of the state association. That carefully selected moniker has a reassuring ring to it. Anyone who cares about kids would get a warm, fuzzy feeling to believe there's a group working throughout the state to improve public education.

That's exactly the strategy of the teachers union — to fool taxpayers into believing that instructional quality and student advancement are the group's primary goals. It's pure deception.

Recent headlines tell us that the Wayne-Westland teachers union is preparing for a strike that could potentially delay the start of the school year. The union defends its pending action by screaming that its members haven't had a raise in several years. It also claims that negotiations with the school board remain hopelessly stalled, and only the threat of an illegal work stoppage might produce progress.

Thus it becomes clear that educational improvement is clearly not at the top of the union's priority list — unless it's somehow related to the union's ability to maintain outrageously expensive insurance coverage at a time when the district can least afford it.

The leadership of the teachers union understands well that public education is in big trouble. The financial pie has continuously been devoting a bigger piece to benefits, forcing school boards to make increasingly difficult decisions about the smartest and fairest way to carve it up.

Sensible people would agree that responsible school boards will save as much of the pie as possible for classroom activities and materials that directly benefit children. Perhaps we need to remind ourselves that children are the only reason that public education exists.

But in the Wayne-Westland district, like so many others around the state, the teachers union is intent on securing a bigger piece of the pie for itself. It's not like the school board hasn't tried to satisfy the union, within the context of its financial constraints. The board's latest contract proposal offers most teachers in the district salary increases ranging between 4 and 6 percent.

Not a bad offer for employees in a zero-growth industry, where costs continue to skyrocket while the checks from the state cannot keep up. There are lots of employees in the state's manufacturing sector who would love that type of raise, but have the good sense to realize that it might prove to be the final nail in their companies' coffin. Yet the WWEA presses on with its demands, threatening to form a picket line in front of the schoolhouse door just as the kids are trying on their new school clothes.

The main sticking point seems to be health insurance for teachers, an issue that's been forcing a wedge between unions and school boards throughout the state. The union appears desperate to preserve its lucrative insurance coverage provided by MESSA, owned and controlled by the teachers union itself. Taxpayers should know that MESSA pumps millions of dollars into the MEA's coffers every year, which likely are used to strong-arm school boards at the bargaining table.

But the simple fact is that the Wayne-Westland district can no longer afford lucrative MESSA coverage for its staff. The statistics speak for themselves. Under current financial conditions, the school district

is projecting a \$13.3 million budget deficit by 2010. Yet last year, the district spent \$14.3 million on health insurance for its employees. That represents 12.2 percent of the money the district received to educate students.

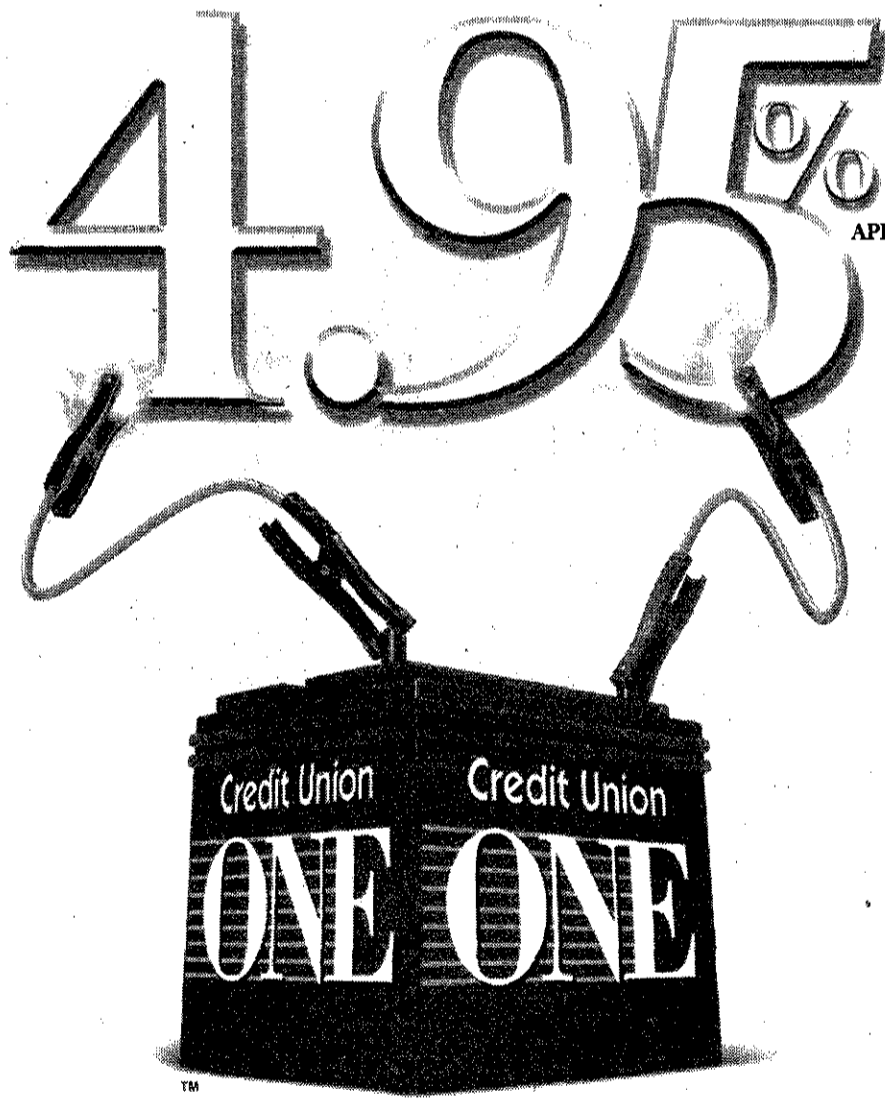
The idea is not to cut the quality of insurance coverage. It's to provide more affordable coverage. The Legislature recognized the stranglehold that MESSA has on Michigan school districts and tried to address the problem. As part of last fall's state budget package, districts were legally required to seek bids for employee insurance, in hopes of giving school boards a way to escape the MESSA dollar drain.

But the law has yet to make much of a difference, as the union continues to pick taxpayer pockets by forcing its own insurance carrier down our throats. Its strategy is understandable. If MESSA is sent packing in one district, the trend is sure to spread, and the MEA will lose one of its most lucrative moneymaking machines.

So now it's up to the teachers of the Wayne-Westland district. Do they continue to squeeze the district for every penny they can get in salary and benefits, until the well runs dry, or do they live up to the noble name of their union, work in partnership with the school board, and come up with sensible settlement that allows kids into the classrooms when the bell rings in a matter of days?

Let's hope the answer to that question is not found in the words of Albert Shanker, the president of the American Federation of Teachers: "When schoolchildren start paying dues, that's when I'll start representing the interests of schoolchildren."

Kyle Olson is vice president of strategy for Education Action Group ([www.educationactiongroup.org](http://www.educationactiongroup.org)), a Muskegon-based nonprofit promoting school spending reform.

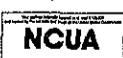


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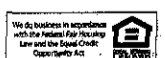
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# CONTRACT

FROM PAGE A1

times and places.

Both sides have exchanged words over the course of negotiations, with the union claiming the school district has failed to negotiate in good faith and refused to schedule new talks after Thursday in a press release issued by the Michigan Education Association late Thursday morning.

Baracy, however, said the press release was "not truthful" and reiterated a statement he made Tuesday that the "district is willing to go around the clock."

"We will continue to negotiate in good faith, this is now in the hands of the mediator," he said.

The school board met in closed session Thursday evening, and the union used it as an opportunity to rally outside the district's administrative offices on Marquette in Westland.

"I hope the school board can hear us and tell their team to get to the table Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday and wrap this up," Baran told a crowd of some 200 teachers who carried picket signs reading "Teachers deserve respect" and "All children deserve small classes."

"We still have hope. We still have a couple of days and I hope with the board's support, we'll get a contract."

"We want you back in school, we know that in your hearts that's what you want," Strachan said. "We want you back with a fair and equitable contract."

The rally came a day after the district sent a letter to teachers on Wednesday, stating that the board was "disappointed" that the WWEA leadership may call a strike. The letter informed teachers that "whether the WWEA leadership calls an ille-

gal strike, the board will expect all employees to report for work as scheduled."

It also stated that WWEA members who do not report for work or who report but do not perform all their duties will be "engaging in illegal conduct."

State law prohibits strikes by public employees, including teachers, who could face penalties ranging from fines to firing for breaking the law.

MEA attorney Bill Young told the teachers that the letter "was nothing more than what the union has seen in other places."

"It's just a letter, just a bully tactic," he said. "We want you in class on Tuesday with a fair contract."

Both sides also are using their Web sites to promote their cases. Thursday the school district posted a question-and-answer brief about negotiations on its Web site at www.wwcsd.net. The union is presenting MEA economist Ruth Beier's financial analysis on the MEA Web site at www.mea.org/press.

Baran told the teachers that the union has the support of the UAW and there were several handmade signs urging people to buy American-made cars.

"They (the UAW) made the signs. They're supporting us, and we appreciate that," said Sue Carlson, a Spanish teacher at Marshall Middle School.

Reminded of the school district's slogan, Baran told the teachers that "great futures do start right here, not just for kids, but for the teachers."

"There's 900 of us, we'll all go out together, we all come in together," she said.

"We hope the board will tell its team to meet through the weekend," she added. "For sure we know that if we don't bargain, we won't have an agreement by Tuesday. Our teachers want an agreement."

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# Teenager gets jail time in death of cat

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland teenager who admitted he sodomized a cat that was left dead has been sentenced to nine months in jail and placed on probation for five years, authorities confirmed.

Todd Allan Treviso, 18, was sentenced Thursday in Wayne County Circuit Court after he earlier pleaded guilty to

sodomizing a male cat named Magic.

"I'd like to see him spend more time in jail," said police Sgt. Debra Mathews, who investigated the case.

Former pastor Neil Carrick has told the *Observer* that he had welcomed Treviso, a homeless teenager, into his home when Treviso was accused of sodomizing a neighbor's cat, killing it and leaving it dead outdoors.

"It's beyond belief," Carrick said after the cat was found dead in early April. Magic's paws had been bound together with duct tape and a sock had been stuck in his mouth, which also was taped up.

Carrick said he had given the homeless teenager a place to stay after his daughter saw him walking in the cold near Palmer and Wayne roads.

Westland police have said that Treviso was accused of

sodomizing the cat with his fingers.

Treviso was ordered to stand trial in April after he gave up his right to a preliminary hearing. His decision to enter a plea averted a trial on charges of sodomy and torturing/killing a cat. If convicted at trial, Treviso could have faced penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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## AROUND WESTLAND

### Historic park events

The Westland Garden Club will have a plant exchange 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

### Friends of Eloise

In other events at the historic park, the Friends of Eloise meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the Collins House, and the Westland Historic Society meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, also at the Collins House.

### Book Sale

The Friends of the Westland Public Library will hold a used book sale Friday-Sunday, Sept. 5-7. A preview sale will be held 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, for Friends members and those who wish to join the organization. The hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and there will be a Bag Day Sale from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland.

### Golf outing

John Glenn High School's wrestling program will have its 11th annual golf outing fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 20, at Warren Valley Golf Course. Cost is \$85 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn, and dinner. Please contact Judy at judylaw1122@yahoo.com or (734) 634-4595 for more information or to

### ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of *Around Westland*, visit our online edition at hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

make reservations. More information also is available at www.glennwrestling.com.

### Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in September. The time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have.

Tuesday, Sept. 2, office hours are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center. Office hours for Thursday, Sept. 4, are 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van Buren September Days Senior Center. The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

## Livonia PTSA council meets

The Livonia PTSA Council has scheduled its first meeting and leadership workshops at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4 at Holmes Middle School, 16200 Newburgh Road, between Five and Six Mile.

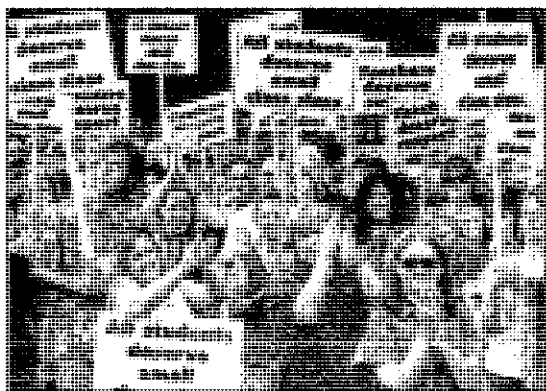
All PTA and PTSA members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Dan West, Livonia Chamber of Commerce president, will

be a guest speaker. The workshops include training and information for president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and membership, Reflections, bylaws, communications, legislative committees.

For more information, call Heidi Nance, president of the Livonia PTSA Council at (734) 454-0231.

Teachers applaud comments made by WWEA president Nancy Strachan.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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# Airport prepares for opening of new North Terminal

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Airport Authority is ready to roll out the red carpet for Detroit Metro Airport's new North Terminal.

While not as splashy as the McNamara Terminal on the airport's south end, the North Terminal is a sparkling improvement over the aging Smith and Berry terminals it is replacing.

"The simplicity of this building is part of its beauty," Michael Conway, the airport's director of public affairs, said at a media tour of the new facility Wednesday.

The \$431 million terminal is scheduled to officially open Sept. 17, Wednesday, construction workers were busy putting the final touches in place for a weekend of previews Friday-Saturday, Sept. 5-6.

"Detroit Metro Airport is one of southeast Michigan's greatest assets, and the Airport Authority is eager to share this new addition to our award-winning facilities with the community we serve," WCAA CEO Lester Robinson said.

Until the opening of the McNamara Terminal for Northwest Airlines and its affiliate airlines in 2002, Detroit Metro Airport was regularly criticized for its dated, aging and inefficient facilities. One critic said Detroit Metro ranked just ahead of the Calcutta airport as the worst in the world.

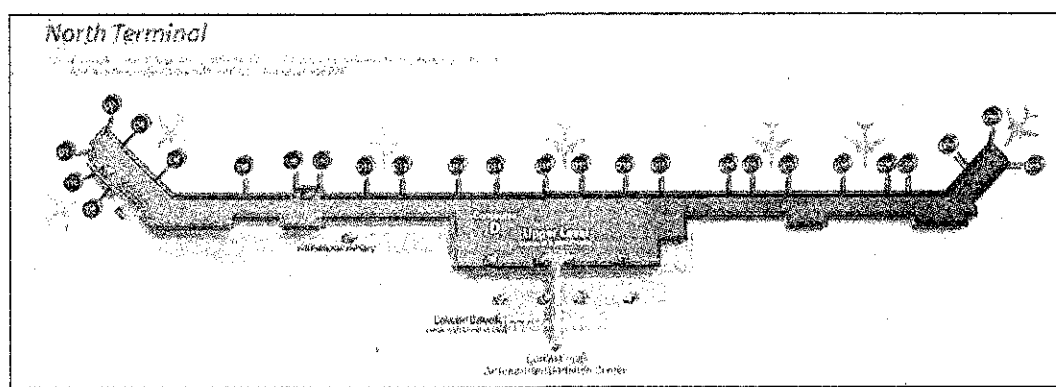
The sleek McNamara Terminal began to change the opinion of writers and fliers. The 26-gate North Terminal will serve the airlines not affiliated with Northwest: Southwest, United, Air Canada, U.S. Airways, Spirit, Frontier, AirTran and USA 3000. In addition, Lufthansa and Royal Jordanian will move from McNamara to the new terminal.

Conway said the Airport Authority set four major goals for the new building: safety, convenience, efficiency for air-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It won't be long before jets are pulling up to the new terminal.



The North Terminal will have a linear layout similar to the McNamara Terminal on Metro Airport's south side.

lines and expandability.

The North Terminal's long, linear design replaces the old-

fashioned pier design of the Smith and Davey terminals, which caused delays as airliners

had to wait for other airliners to pull out.

"In linear style, aircraft can

move in and out of gates independent of each other," Conway said.

The North Terminal will not have a people mover as at McNamara, but it will have a moving sidewalk. There will be restrooms at the end of each moving sidewalk and convenient to the gates. The gates will have sleek and durable Herman Miller seating.

"We get lots of compliments on gate seating and it's a Michigan company," Conway said.

Thirty concessions will serve the facility, including such name brands at Borders, Brookstone,

Champps, TGI Friday's, Ruby Tuesday, Hockeytown Cafe, McDonald's and Xpress Spa.

Conway said the new terminal doesn't have the rich detail of McNamara, but it will be more colorful and more light-filled.

"We did a lot with color; we didn't have a McNamara budget," he said.

But the airport did receive a Voluntary Airport Low Emissions grant of \$1.7 million from the Federal Aviation Administration. Funding from the grant was used for infrastructure to deliver fuel, temperature-controlled air and auxiliary electrical power directly to aircraft parked at the boarding gates. The equipment will cut down on emissions from mobile fuel trucks and the preconditioned air and electrical power units will reduce the reliance on on-board auxiliary power units and diesel-powered ground power units.

A ground transportation center will accommodate all commercial vehicles loading and unloading, such as car rental, taxi cabs, parking lot shuttles and limousines.

Demolition of the old Davey Terminal to make room for construction of the North Terminal began in 2006. Smith and Berry terminals will be decommissioned. Smith Concourse C will be demolished immediately to make way for gates. Concourses A and B need to come down to make room for a major deicing pad. The Smith terminal was opened in 1958, when airlines began to shift passenger service from Willow Run Airport.

No timeline has been set on bringing down the central Smith terminal, which is used for the Airport Authority's administrative offices.

Conway said the authority is considering the possibility of selling naming rights to the new terminal, as was done in naming Comerica Park and Ford Field. He said a final decision hasn't been made.



The new terminal's design isn't as flashy as the McNamara Terminal, but will be a major improvement over the aged Smith Terminal.

## Public previews planned for terminal

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) will soon offer the public its first glimpse inside the new North Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) as it hosts a series of preview events in advance of the terminal's scheduled opening Sept. 17.

Events planned are:

■ VIP Charity Preview Event — Friday, Sept. 5

A charity preview 7-11 p.m. inside the new terminal to benefit five local nonprofit organizations. This exclusive preview event will offer guests their first chance to see the new, 26-gate facility up-close before it opens to travelers in mid-September.

Guests will hear music from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Quartet, enjoy a strolling dinner by Metro Detroit caterer, Forte Bellanger, as well as musical entertainment from "Alizma." Proceeds from the event will benefit the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, First Step, The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and Traveler's



Michael Conway, director of public affairs for the Airport Authority, describes a new system for fueling and providing air conditioning and ground power for waiting aircraft.

Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit.

For more details regarding this charity preview event, charities and tickets, visit [www.airportpreview.com](http://www.airportpreview.com).

■ Community Open House — Saturday, Sept. 6

All members of the public can visit the new terminal, free of charge, at a community open house 1-5 p.m. While participants explore the new North Terminal and learn about this exciting new addition to DTW, they will also enjoy music, dance, games, a scavenger hunt and prizes provided by Radio Disney. In

addition, the event will feature various high-tech interactive displays including flight simulators, Rock Band, Dance Dance Revolution, Dancing Heads and much more.

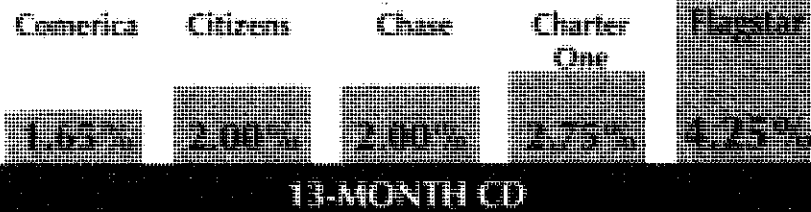
Attendees will have the chance to win several prizes, including a plane load of gas in gas cards, a trip to Disney World, several round-trip airline tickets and various other giveaways. Refreshments will also be served.

Although the event is free, reservations are recommended. For more information regarding this community open house and to register, visit [www.airportopenhouse.com](http://www.airportopenhouse.com).

■ Family Day Preview — Saturday, Sept. 6

Prior to opening its doors to the public Sept. 6, the Airport Authority will first welcome the friends and family of all of its employees and those of its contractors and vendors who designed, built or otherwise contributed to the planning, design and construction of this new facility at a private event that morning. Details are provided at [www.dtwfamily.com](http://www.dtwfamily.com).

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# Beware of the black bear coming near

**A**daptive. Opportunist. Combine those words and we have a powerful catalyst for changing wildlife behavior. That is the way it often is when wildlife blends with the suburban fringe of wildness in this tale of woodpeckers and bears.

On the very same day I discovered a downy woodpecker in a near comical, yet successful attempt at half-hovering and half-perching on the slippery edge of my hummingbird feeder, the Michigan DNR confirmed a black bear rooting about a potato field in nearby Washtenaw County. Both creatures recognized opportunity and adapted to our behavior. And learned from it. The woodpecker returns every day for his sweet treat.

Wildlife biologist Julie Oakes of the Michigan DNR reminded me that several years ago a black bear was hit by a car on I-75 near Flint, another made it across I-69 and wandered about Lapeer County for awhile, and credible rumors of black bear surfaced earlier this year in Hadley Township on the Oakland County line. None of this should be surprising for black bears, espe-



Oakland Naturally  
Jonathan Schechter

cially younger males, have great wanderlust. Bears are masters of opportunity, one the world's most adaptable carnivores. Their reasoning ability, long-term memory, omnivorous food habits, dexterity, speed and strength coupled with their ability to travel unseen along bushy roadside edges and waterways means it is time for us to Be Bear Aware. Aware, not panicked, for most of the time bears avoids humans.

Oakes is correct when she states, "Black bears are not aggressive like grizzly bears, they will usually turn tail and run, if you make noises and scare them off." Usually is a key word. There are well-documented accounts of defensive (protecting cubs) and predatory (they want you for dinner) black bear attacks (not in Michigan) and bear-human encounters are likely to increase.

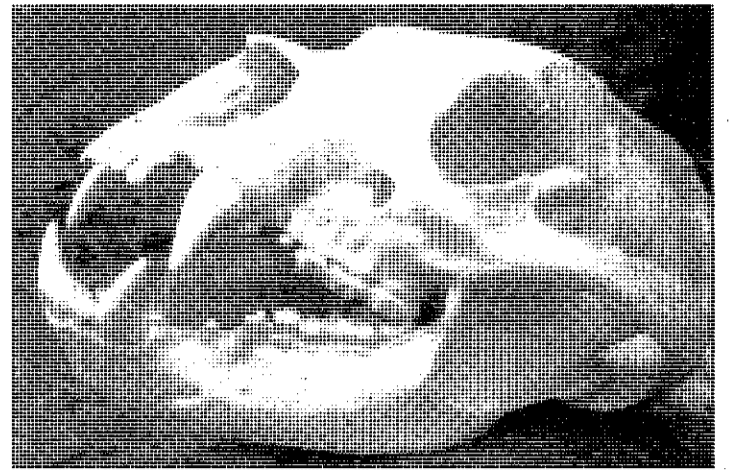
To keep the situation in perspective look to the Great Smokey Mountains. Nine million visitors annually. Approximately 1,600 black bears. Eighth bear attacks in a decade. Two fatal predatory attacks. The fact of the matter remains clear: Aggressive encounters between people and black bears are extremely rare. But once bears associate people with food, they lose their instinctive fear of humans and conflicts are inevitable. In the colorful new DNR brochure, "Preventing Bear Problems in Michigan" they changing dynamics are noted, "Black bears may be found almost anywhere in Michigan, but are most likely to be seen in the northern two thirds of the state." DNR tips to avoid problems include "Never feed bears" and "Keep garbage and odor at a minimum by removing trash." Yet, jump to on-line bear hunting regulations of the same DNR and we find a different story for a different audience: bear hunters. Hunters may use the following products without quantity restrictions to lure in bears, "dog food, bakery/confectionery prod-

ucts including jams, jellies, sweeteners, candies, pie filling and yogurts..."

Perhaps bear baiting is brew for conflict, for that is feeding bears. Human foods and bait piles increase the potential for bears becoming fearless and habituated to humans, a fact other states recognize. New Mexico (they had fatal predatory attacks) notes that 70 percent of bear-human conflicts are human-trash based. Whatever a bear (or nectar happy woodpecker) learned from its experiences will influence its behavior in the next encounter.

Here is your two-word primer if you find yourself face to face with a snarling mass of muscle, fur and teeth, a predatory black bear attack: Fight back. For if you play dead during a black bear attack the bear is likely to eat you. Better yet, avoid trouble in the first place. If approached by a black bear, never turn and run. If you act like prey, you become prey. Safety tips at www.bebear-aware.org. Now let's go camping and fire up the barbecue.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. Oaknature@aol.com.



This bear skull indicates just how powerful these creatures are.

## Headstart offers series on relationships

Wayne County Head Start is offering a workshop series, Healthy Marriage/Healthy Relationships throughout Wayne County.

Couples participating in the workshops will be able to address problems in their relationships and single parents in serious relationships will be able to develop relationship skills needed to move toward marriage.

Grandparents are welcome both to receive guidance as they take on the task of raising grandchildren and to contribute their

wisdom in mentoring roles for newly married couples or couples contemplating marriage.

The series are scheduled to begin Sept. 8.

For more information directly contact the Head Start programs at these location:

■ Wayne and Westland - Stottlemeyer Early Childhood Center. Ron Barratt at (734) 419-2630

■ Wayne County Head Start - 30712 Michigan Avenue, Westland, MI 48186 Marsha L. Roberts, Assistant Director (734) 727-7617

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EACH DAY THEREAFTER THE AUCTION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M.

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[www.waynecounty.com/treasurer](http://www.waynecounty.com/treasurer)

Auction books will be available at the Treasurer's Office. Check website for exact date.

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12	THE TRUCKY MUSIC THEATRE	24	CELINE DION
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# Livonia teenager sentenced 5-15 years for traffic fatality



(ANDRE J. JACKSON/DETROIT FREE PRESS)

Daniel Andreassi, 16, of Livonia, wipes away tears during his sentencing held Thursday at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

A Stevenson High School student was sentenced to prison in connection with a traffic accident outside a Livonia golf course that left one dead, another injured and a child fatherless.

Daniel Andreassi was sentenced to five to 15 years in prison Thursday for the May 18 death of Anthony Cosenza, 20, of Westland, in a traffic accident.

Circuit Court Judge Deborah Thomas handed down the sentence, agreed upon in a plea deal, after telling the fiancée and family of Cosenza that while the pain never goes away, it does ebb.

"The pain differs," she said, mentioning that she suffered a similar loss. "It's not always as intense, it differs."

Andreassi, 16, was taken away to begin serving his sentence with credit given for 77 days already spent in custody. He will be eligible for parole in five years.

In the plea agreement, Andreassi pleaded no contest as an adult on charges of manslaughter with a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated causing death, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated causing serious bodily harm, and felonious driving with sentences to run concurrently. In exchange for the plea, the charges of second degree murder and minor in posses-



(ANDRE J. JACKSON/DETROIT FREE PRESS)

Amy Adams of Westland wears a shirt with a photo of her fiancé Anthony Cosenza who was killed by Daniel Andreassi during a drunk driving accident. She stands outside the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit, after the sentencing of Andreassi.

tion were dropped. Cosenza's mother, Marie, addressed the court before the sentence was read. She

said the last time she saw her son alive was May 17 when he dropped his children off to go to work.

"When Tony died, my heart broke," she said. "It broke four more times when I saw his brothers react."

Amy Adams, Cosenza's fiancée and the mother of his son, said Andreassi's actions on that night affected several lives.

"The loss of my fiancée and my son's father is immeasurable," she said. "Tony never had the chance to see his son grow and crawl. Daniel's family has the chance to see him again."

Before the sentence was read, Andreassi expressed his regrets and his wishes that things could be different.

"I am sorry, not a day goes by that I don't wish this never happened," he said. "I hope you will be able to forgive me because I will never be able to forgive myself."

Andreassi's attorney, Jerome Sabbota, said this is a case where no one is going to be pleased.

"The victims weren't ecstatic, they thought the sentence was too light," he said. "(Andreassi's) parents wanted him sentenced as a minor. One person is dead, another was seriously injured and a 16-year-old boy was sent to prison. Nobody won."

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## Benefit comedy night promises laughs

The Westland Rotary will present its "Comedy for a Cause" benefit 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road in Livonia. Proceeds will support Rotary's charitable work.

Tickets for the comedy night are \$15 each and available through club members and at C&M Printing and Imaging, 5854 N. Wayne Road, north of Ford Road (east side) in Westland. Information is available from Mary at (734) 729-5401.

The event is suitable for adults only. Sponsors to date are: Ameriprise Financial, Antoinette Martin; Bray's Hamburgers; C&M Printing and Imaging; Earl Ludwig; Joseph Tseng, D.D.S.; Juennemann Insurance Agency; Harlow Tire; Mark A. McConnell for 18th District Judge; Michigan Chiropractic Specialists, Dr. Amanda Apfelblat; Men on the Move, Gary Bulson; REMAX Classic, Adam Hammons; Shunkwiler Chiropractic Health Center; Toarmina's Pizza; and Westland Floor Covering.

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### OUR VIEWS

## No easy resolutions for teachers talks

With the advent of state legislation in the 1960s, teachers began formally to organize labor unions, something previously prohibited for public employees. By 1967, dozens of bargaining units in the state marked Labor Day — and the start of school — by going on strike.

While strikes weren't — and still aren't — legal, school districts have had to go to court to compel teachers to return to the classroom.

More than 30 years later, some area school districts still see contentious negotiations. Teachers in the Wayne-Westland School District have called for a strike Monday, but both sides began meeting with a state mediator on Thursday.

Other districts, like Plymouth-Canton, say they have found a better way. That district recently arrived at contract settlements with its nine unions, using what is called interest-based bargaining. That process uses a mediator in less

adversarial discussions.

Regardless of the bargaining tactics, the woe-full state economy and resultant small increases in state aid are having an impact on school districts.

"Things haven't gotten much better for Michigan school districts," said Royal Oak Sup't. Thomas Moline. That district was able to give teachers "a very small" salary increase.

One district that has faced contentious negotiations is Southfield Public Schools, which is negotiating its first contract after privatizing bus, cafeteria and custodial jobs in the face of financial problems.

Unions in poorly funded districts know their bargaining chips are few. While discussion points have been exchanged in South Redford, both sides have agreed to delay serious bargaining until a small, \$88 per student increase in state aid is received.

That's interesting because finance officials in all districts report that salaries and benefits comprise the bulk of their budgets. Critics of teacher unions claim that state aid increases go toward salaries, not programs. Union officials counter, however, that teachers are responsible for delivering those programs.

The situation is far worse in the Redford Union district, where teachers have gone for three years without a contract. Top of the scale teachers have gone for five years without a wage increase, and unfair labor practices have been filed by both sides.

Union members are aware of the Redford Union district's plight, operating in a deficit, but the call for concessions leaves them bitter.

The better-funded Troy School District still is facing tough negotiations. Teachers have made some previous concessions, particularly in the area of health care. Their contract has been

extended until Oct. 3, as bargainers negotiate everything from the school calendar to the financial package.

The contrasts show that challenging labor negotiations are experienced by districts both small and large, well-funded and not.

"We're absolutely miles apart," said Wayne-Westland Education Association President Nancy Strachan. "We're trying to be reasonable and make reasonable offers."

The problem is, what is reasonable?

That will be for each district to decide, but perhaps equally important is finding a process that works well for both sides. After all, 40 years of bargaining have shown contentious negotiations aren't productive.

The Plymouth-Canton district approach, in which both sides accept ownership for issues, may not work for everyone. But it's a place to start.

## Preserving farmland ultimately benefits Michigan's economy

As I travel around the state talking with farmers and promoting Michigan's agriculture industry, I consider all the things that can be done to further enhance the role agriculture and farming has in the state.

With the current economic changes in Michigan, I believe agriculture will have an even bigger role in the state's economy as it continues to be the second largest economic driver in the state generating nearly \$64 billion for Michigan's economy annually.

Land is fundamental to maintaining and enhancing agriculture's place in the Michigan's economy. It's where it all begins. It makes sense to preserve our land base so current, and future, Michigan farmers can continue to produce the wide variety of crops already grown here.

Prior to the implementation of the state's Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program (PA 116) in the early 1970s, Michigan had already lost an astounding four million acres of farmland. The tax incentives provided by PA 116 have significantly slowed the rate of farmland loss. In fact, the program cur-

Although our farmland preservation program has been successful, it is not the entire solution. Michigan is still losing on average 30,000 acres of farmland per year. No one program or activity can preserve all of Michigan's farmland. But a combination of activities can help keep Michigan agriculture viable and a major player in the state's economy.

rently protects more than 3.3 million acres of Michigan farmland.

Although our farmland preservation program has been successful, it is not the entire solution. Michigan is still losing on average 30,000 acres of farmland per year. No one program or activity can preserve all of Michigan's farmland. But a combination of activities can help keep Michigan agriculture viable and a major player in the state's economy.

First, one of the best ways to safeguard farmland is to enhance the basic economic vitality of Michigan agriculture. Farms that can make money will remain farms and the children of the farm families will stay in the family business. We can encourage value added agriculture by improving access to commodity markets — locally, nationally and abroad.

With today's energy costs, buying locally produced products is particularly important. Secondly, expansion of programs such as PA

116, which target full-time farmers, to include land owned by part-time farmers would help to protect up to 50 percent more of Michigan's farmland. Enhanced funding for permanent protection programs such as the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund and programs to help farmers pass their farm on to future generations would be of great benefit.

Farms don't just supply the food we eat and enjoy every day; they represent the second largest industry in the state, are responsible for one million jobs, and provide an important "export" function for the state — exporting crops and importing dollars back into the state and local communities. Businesses that export a commodity and import capital, particularly from a land based resource available year after year, are becoming increasingly vital in an economy where many of the new jobs are in the service sector which transfer wealth within the state rather than import

wealth from other regions.

The availability of water in Michigan places the state and agriculture in a unique position nationally. It's predicted that water resources in the Great Plains and in central California will significantly diminish in the not-too-distant future. Michigan's position in the Great Lakes basin, plus the availability of quality farmland, will be the key to the state's agricultural economic future — if we can only hold on to the farmland we have.

In addition to economic benefits, farms also provide valuable environmental benefits to communities, providing storm water catchment and flood control, wildlife habitat, and open space. Farms also act as a positive tax revenue source for local governments, since studies show farmers typically pay more in property taxes than they use for services.

The bottom line is agriculture is good for Michigan, good for local government, and good for communities. Preserving our existing farmland base can positively position Michigan today, in the future, and help secure Michigan as a major economic player in the Midwest and the nation.

Don Koivisto is the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.



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## Reader Rewards

# Taking the cash best option when inheriting IRA



Money Matters

Rick Bloom  
It is better to inherit the

**Dear Rick: I am going to receive an inheritance of about \$75,000. I was told I have a choice to either take cash or I can inherit an IRA. My wife thinks it is better to inherit the**

**IRA because we really don't need the money. I'm leaning toward cash. What are your thoughts?**

It is a slam dunk. You should take the cash. The main reason is taxes.

The issue for you is the tax consequences on the inherited money. If you inherit the IRA, that \$75,000 is eventually going to be taxed as ordinary income. Therefore, of the \$75,000 that you receive, more

than \$25,000 would have to be paid in taxes netting you only \$50,000.

On the other hand, if you take the \$75,000 in cash you will pay zero income taxes.

When it comes to inheritance there is a lot of confusion about taxes. Part of the confusion is there are different taxes that enter into the equation. There can be income tax and estate tax consequences. In the typical situation,

when someone receives money from an estate there are no estate taxes. Estate taxes are levied on the estate itself and not the beneficiary. However, when someone does inherit money, there can be income tax consequences.

**Dear Rick: About a year ago, I got suckered into buying a variable annuity and all it's done is lose money. I want out. I talked**

**to the person who sold it to me and he said if I sell I have to pay thousands of dollars as a penalty. I am outraged. Is there anything I can do?**

Anyone who reads my column knows I am not a fan of variable annuities. They typically have very high fees, adverse tax consequences and substantial early withdrawal fees. In addition, they do not offer investors the flexibility

that they need in managing their portfolio.

That being said, once you're in a variable annuity, you have few options with regards to liquidation. You can choose to bite the bullet, pay the penalty and get out. I recognize that this is a drastic measure, however, you should recognize that in a variable annuity you pay high ongoing fees, high management fees and insurance costs.

There is, however, another option. If you believe the salesperson misrepresented the policy, you potentially have legal recourse. There have been many cases where financial salespeople have been held liable for misrepresenting investment products. If you believe there has been some misrepresentation, consult with an attorney.

If you do decide to consult an attorney, I recommend dealing with one who will take the case on a contingency fee basis. That means he/she gets paid only if you get paid. Therefore, you are not necessarily putting good money after bad.

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



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# Stevenson survives Pats in OT thriller, 41-40

## Kicking game the difference

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

For season football openers, this one did not disappoint.

Division 1 state runner-up Livonia Stevenson used the lyrics Thursday night from an old Bachman-Turner Overdrive hit, "Takin' care of business, but workin' overtime," to fend off crosstown rival Livonia Franklin, 41-40.

Junior running back Austin White rushed for 240 yards on 22 carries and five touchdowns, but it was Jonny Myshock's extra point that decided the game as the Spartans pulled out of the victory in a rematch of last year's state playoff quarterfinal (also won by Stevenson, 10-7, on a Myshock field goal).

Franklin used a timeout to try and freeze the Stevenson kicker, who made 6-of-7 on the night (one was blocked), but to no avail.

"Jonny takes his kicking very seriously, it's a big part of the game, and it makes a big difference when the game is on the line," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said. "He was very calm after Franklin called that timeout."

The Patriots, meanwhile, missed three PATs, including two in the first half along

with a critical one-pointer in overtime after senior running back David Fortin bull-dozed his way up the middle for seven yards and a TD to put his team ahead 40-34.

Stevenson, however, tied it at 40-all when senior slotback Wade Stahl scored on a 7-yard counter trap.

"In close games it comes down to the little things and that's why they (Stevenson) won," Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said. "We had a low snap (from center) and our holder had to set it down, it threw the timing off - it was too low and our kicker never had a chance to get it up."

Stevenson's Joe Swingle got a piece of Jordan Williamson's kick, putting the Spartans in position to win it.

Meanwhile, it was a wild first half as Stevenson took a 20-19 lead into the locker room.

Franklin stopped the Spartans on their initial offensive series of the game, but suffered a critical blow when Fortin, the Patriots' star running back who missed the entire 2007 regular season with a broken arm suffered in the opener, limped off the field with a high ankle sprain after attempting to make a tackle for his

Please see **STEVENSON, B2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Johnny Pauley being chase down by Franklin's Michael Gadsby.

# Zebras denied on final play; Glenn blanked

Overtime and a chance for a win eluded Wayne Memorial by a half-yard in Thursday's season football opener at Waterford Kettering as the host Captains escaped with a 14-7 triumph.

Back-up quarterback Nick Mills, who replaced starter Nick Kostora after he was injured early in the third quarter, hit brother Matt Mills on a pass, but the Wayne receiver was stopped just shy of the goal line as time expired.

The loss spoiled the coaching debut of Wayne's Kevin Weber.

### PREP FOOTBALL

Kettering quarterback Kevin Truitt scored on a 1-yard run with 9:49 left in the first quarter to cap a six-play, 61-yard touchdown drive. Ryan DeCovich added the first of his two extra points for the Captains.

Wayne tied it up with 2:51 left in the opening period as Kostora scored on a 28-yard run followed by Jesse Dorow's extra point. The drive covered 62 yards in nine plays.

In the third period, Kettering marched 80 yards capped by Truitt's 6-yard TD run.

Wayne couldn't take advantage of four Kettering turnovers as C.J. Johnson picked off a pair of passes in the second quarter and Jake White recovered a fumble in the opening period. Parnell Holliday also had a

Please see **FOOTBALL, B2**



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

### Most desired object

Stevenson's Nate Sergison (left) tries to get position on Churchill's Josh Andrzejewski and Ben Zukowski during Thursday's Kensington Lakes crossover match. Stevenson roared back from a 1-0 deficit for a 4-1 victory. See the boys soccer roundup on page B4.

# Charger girls bring home LPS golf title

Churchill came away the victor Wednesday on its home course to win the Livonia Public Schools Invitational girls golf tournament held at Whispering Willows Golf Course.

The Chargers scored a team-high 11 points to beat Franklin and Stevenson, which finished with seven and six, respectively.

Churchill captured three of the four categories in the 9-hole mixed format led by Jessica Burdette and Lexi McFarlane, who took the stroke play portion with scores of 40 and 43, respectively, for a combined 83, a whopping 20 strokes ahead of runner-up Franklin.

Churchill's Jordyn Shepler and Alex Harakas also won the scramble by a stroke with a 46 over Franklin's Alexis Smith and Samantha McAtee.

Best ball winners included Churchill's Sarah Linder and Stephanie Panaretos with a 49.

Stevenson's Gabrielle Sabatini and Andrea Burford took the Stableford scoring system crown at 3-under.

Three points were awarded for first place, while second and third counted two and one, respectively.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INVITATIONAL GIRLS GOLF  
9-HOLE MIXED FORMAT TOURNAMENT  
Aug. 27 at Whispering Willows G.C.

**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Churchill, 11 points; 2. Franklin, 7; 3. Stevenson, 6.  
**Scramble:** 1. Churchill (Jordyn Shepler-Alex Harakas), 46; 2. Franklin (Alexis Smith-Samantha McAtee), 49; 3. Stevenson (Brynn Cavanaugh-Chelsea Phillips), 53.  
**Stableford:** 1. Stevenson (Gabrielle Sabatini-Andrea Burford), minus-3; 2. Churchill (Shelby Longworth-Margo McClain), minus-9; 3. Franklin (Haley Szpara-Mariah Barcus), minus-13.  
**Best ball:** 1. Churchill (Sarah Linder-Stephanie Panaretos), 49; 2. Franklin (Georgia Patrick-Sam Nesbitt), 53; 3. Stevenson (Shelby Plichota-Christina Joss), 56.  
**Stroke play:** 1. Churchill (Jessica Burdette-Lexi McFarlane), 40-43-83; 2. Franklin (Lauren Beahon-Natalie Polakowski), 54-49-103; 3. Stevenson (Natalie Cicchelli-Kathleen Karczewski), 50-77-127.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Jessica Burdette shows some frustration with her putt during Wednesday's Livonia Public Schools Invitational girls golf tournament held at Whispering Willows.

# Consistent Chargers remain team to beat

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

With four consecutive top-ten state meet finishes, the Livonia Churchill girls cross country team has been a model of efficient consistency.

The Chargers, seventh a year ago and the Division 1 state runner-up in 2006, will once again be a favorite to defend its regional crown and win and Kensington Conference title in the newly-formed Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

Coach Sue Tatro lost her best runner in All-Stater Rachel McFarlane, the Western Lakes Activities Association champion who placed 15th in Division 1. But Tatro returns three other first-team All-Observer state meet performers including junior Sara Kroll (41st), junior Amanda Southwell (45th) and senior Alyssa Mira (48th).

Senior Hannah Otto, who made second-team All-Area, also returns for the Chargers along with four other veterans and some promising newcomers.



Calka

Looking to challenge Churchill this season is Livonia Stevenson, which returns three-time All-Observer pick Courtney Calka, a senior who placed 17th at last year's state meet after capturing the regional and finishing runner-up in the WLAA. Calka has a personal best of 17 minutes, 55 seconds for the 5,000 meters. Junior Victoria Saferian, a second-team All-Area pick, also returns for the Spartans, who took 18th in last year's Division 1 team standings under coach Nancy Gavor.

The Spartans will also have some new competition to deal with entering the Central Division of the KLAAs joining the likes of Novi, Northville, South Lyon East, South Lyon and Salem. Livonia Franklin, led by Megan McPherson and Mallory Church, will be joined by Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, Canton, Churchill and Plymouth in the KLAAs South Division. See capsule outlook of area girls cross country teams.

# Swinglines

### Glenn tankers 3rd

Westland John Glenn was back in the pool Thursday, earning a fourth-place at the 10-school Wayne State Invitational girls swim meet.

Bloomfield Hills Lahser captured the team title with 62 points followed by Lake Orion and Bloomfield Hills Lahser with 50 each.

The Rockets scored 48 points in the all-relay format led by the 400-yard individual medley relay foursome of Kali Aloisi, Casey Peterson, Jordan Burgess and Ashley Sells, who placed first in 4:34.23.

Glenn's 3-person 600 freestyle relay team of Peterson, Khiry Sparks and Burgess took second in 6:25.2.

The Rockets also added a pair of thirds: Burgess, Peterson, Sells and Sparks in the 200 medley relay (2:00.8); and Jacquelyn Hewitt, Aloisi, Katy Harris and Sparks in the 200 breaststroke.

Rounding out the team standings: Grosse Pointe North, fifth (47); Salem, sixth (46); Trenton, seventh (38); Troy Athens, eighth (34); West Bloomfield, ninth (24); and Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day, 10th (9).

### O&E Men's golf

The 2008 Observer & Eccentric Men's Open 36-hole medal play event will be Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20-21, at Livonia's Fox Creek and Whispering Willows golf courses.

The entry fee is \$95 (cart not included) with a maximum handicap of 20.

Entries close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. Entries will be limited to the first 200 golfers.

(Starting times and pairings will be available after noon on Thursday, Sept. 18.)

For more information, call (248) 476-4493.

### Football webcast

Livonia Stevenson football fans who aren't able to make it to this Friday's game at Howell will have a chance to listen to the game live on the Internet.

The Livingston County Daily Press & Argus in Howell will be broadcasting the game via its Web site, www.livingstondaily.com, starting at 7 p.m. Friday.

Daily Press & Argus sports editor Tim Robinson and former Howell coach Bill Simmons will be doing the broadcast.

To listen, simply click on the livingstondaily.com home page.







## Unplug your microwave before changing its fuse

Two readers posed the same question recently:

George wrote: Our GE microwave oven just stopped working — one second it worked, the next it did not. It made a zap noise, and then went blank. I went online and followed the suggestions on the GE Web site, i.e. checked the breaker, checked the plug, etc.



**Appliance Doctor**

Joe Gagnon

Nancy wrote: I have a Litton microwave that is 20 years old and has never given us one ounce of trouble. Today it just stopped working completely; there isn't even a light inside when I open the door. I made sure there is electrical power on the wall outlet. Is it time for me to go shopping for a new one?

Some years ago I'd hear the same question with the same problem several times a day.

I would tell the callers to see me at my little service shop and I would show them how to change the internal fuse inside their microwave ovens. The fuse cost \$5 and I sure made a lot of friends.

Today, service companies do things differently than I did back then. It seems most of them are afraid to show you how to do things yourself, such as repairing your own microwave. There may be a good reason for that such as injury or a lawsuit.

But if I still had a little service shop I would still be showing consumers how to change the fuse in a microwave oven. There is an internal fuse in a microwave oven that my grandmother could replace if I showed her how to do it. The hardest thing today is getting someone to show you where it is located and how to get to it. There is no doubt that you can get permanently hurt in changing the fuse if you are a complete fool or are trying to commit suicide.

The big trick is to unplug the microwave or simply put, unplug the cord. Never touch anything such as a wire while it has electrical power going to it. The fuse looks like the old style car fuse and is fitted into a little receptacle and it just pops out. A few of them are soldered in place. It is very easy to replace but the hard part is getting someone to show you how and where it is located.

Make sure you don't touch any other wires in there. There is a capacitor in this maze of electrical stuff which we call loaded. If you touch any other wire like I've just instructed you not to do, I can assure you that voltage will enter into one finger of one hand and come out the other hand.

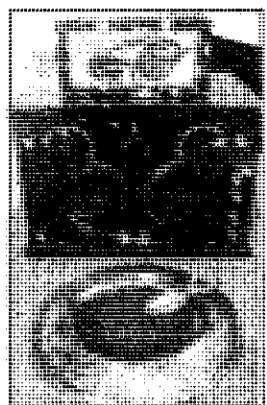
I used to tell my customers about a guy who tried to fix the microwave, touched a hot wire and burned himself so badly that after they removed his body from the kitchen, the bottom of his feet were burned into the hardwood floor. This story is true. I worked for the Amana Corporation in the 1970s and we had pictures of this happening. I used to carry them around with me and when I was training service technicians around the country I would show them the pictures to emphasize how dangerous it is to work on a microwave oven. I never lost one service technician!

Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. His phone number is (734)971-1600, ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or have a problem with one? E-mail it to [wvgnb@hometownlife.com](mailto:wvgnb@hometownlife.com) and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

## Treasure Hunt

### Flea Market boasts variety of odds and ends



Earphones, a crystal radio, and silver serving set are among the items Carol Brichford will be bringing to the Greenmead Flea Market.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Brichfords and Barretts will be bringing a wide selection of items to sell at the Greenmead Flea Market.



Carol Brichford, left, and Judy Barrett go over some of the items the two will sell at the upcoming Greenmead Flea Market.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O & E STAFF WRITER

### FLEA MARKET

**What:** Annual Livonia Historical Society event to raise funds for the restoration of Hill House at Greenmead Historical Park  
**When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7  
**Where:** Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh at Eight Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Cost \$2 adults, children under age 12 free. Village open for tours noon to 3 p.m. For information, call (248) 477-7375. The Village Painters show coincides with the Flea Market. For details, [www.villagepainters.net](http://www.villagepainters.net) or (734) 753-5232

Carol Brichford likes to tease her husband Tom about accumulating a house full of odds and ends at estate sales over the years, but admits she's just as bad when it comes to collecting. The Farmington Hills couple is looking forward to cleaning out their living room by selling some of the items at the Livonia Historical Society's annual Flea Market at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia on Sunday, Sept. 7.

They're sharing three booths with Judy and Verlon Barrett of Farmington Hills and several members of The Questers. Both couples belong to chapters of the international antique study group dedicated to restoring and preserving historic places such as Greenmead.

The Brichfords are planning to bring glassware, jewelry, a radio with a receiving set from the early 1920s, a child's Victrola from the late 1930s, vintage dolls, sewing baskets and materials, a child's roll top desk, and an antique phone with handset.

"We have everything he ever got," jokes Carol Brichford about Tom, who collects mostly old iron and metal. "He collects anything that moves — cars, trucks, tractors — but they never move out."

It's their sense of humor that has kept Carol and Tom married 51 years, not collecting items at estate and garage sales and antique malls.

"No, collecting hasn't kept our marriage together," said Tom. "Our marriage has stayed together in spite of it." "Our stuff is all around our living room that I call our warehouse," added Carol, a volunteer at Greenmead. "We

Please see **GREENMEAD, C3**

## Decorative painting show coincides with flea market

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O & E STAFF WRITER

Maureen VanBuhler couldn't be more excited about the Village Painters Treasure Chest Craft Show coinciding with the Livonia Historical Society's Flea Market 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

Together, the events draw around 5,000 visitors. The 12th annual Village Painters show is held in and out-

side of the Alexander Blue House while the flea market takes place in the village. Ten percent of the profit from the Village Painters show goes back to the club to provide seminars and community service.

"Village Painters is a decorative painting chapter and everybody brings what they like to paint," said VanBuhler. "We paint on tables, furniture, wood, tin, glass, fabric. We'll have a big vari-

Please see **PAINTING, C3**



The Village Painters Treasure Chest Art & Craft Show takes place in and outside of the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park on Sunday, Sept. 7

## Peace movement begins at home

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O & E STAFF WRITER

Colleen Mills couldn't be prouder that A.T. Ariyaratne's first stop in the U.S. is the monthly meeting of Citizens for Peace in Livonia on Sept. 9. The internationally known leader of the Sarvodaya movement is coming from Sri Lanka where he has rallied the residents of 15,000 villages to build a better life for themselves by tackling projects such as constructing roads and digging wells. Over the years he has won the Gandhi Peace Prize and been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

"Everyone is welcome. We

want to spark their interest and broaden their world view," said Mills, president of Citizens for Peace.

The meeting is just one of more than a dozen events Ariyaratne will attend in the metro Detroit area. The free seminar, A Better World is Possible: Integrated Approach to Peace, 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Schoolcraft College, is also open to the public. Two days earlier Ariyaratne speaks at the end of a 21-day prayer vigil for Detroit at Hart Plaza. His visit to the area concludes with ONE PEACE, an event to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace Sunday, Sept. 21, at Eastern

Michigan University. Mills is hoping to attract some 10,000 people to hear Ariyaratne and Michael Bernard Beckwith, founder of the Agape International Spiritual Center in Calif. and co-founder and president of the Alliance for Global New Thought.

"It's going to help heal the racial divide, religious divide, the whole culture, to bring everyone together without any barriers," said Mills of Livonia. "It's going to be the biggest gathering for peace in the country. It's an alternative way of thinking. We're getting people excited about the better world we're creating together. We're asking people

to wear white clothing, logo free, because we want everyone cheering for the human team and world peace."

Mills is doing her part to create a nonviolent environment through Citizens for Peace. She became involved after attending an Earth Day activity at Unity of Livonia where a petition was being signed to create the U.S. Department of Peace. Currently there is a bill before the U.S. House of Representatives to provide assistance to communities for programs focusing on nonviolence.

"It starts with inner peace," said Mills. "It's so easy to point fingers but if you want peace

### ONE PEACE

**What:** A celebration of United Nations International Day of Peace with meditation and dialogue with A.T. Ariyaratne

**When:** 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21

**Where:** Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center (basketball arena), 799 North Hewitt Road, Ypsilanti

**Details:** No charge. Visit [www.onepeace.us](http://www.onepeace.us) or call Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079

you have to point at yourself first. You have to have peace in your own heart and family and then move it to your community, your own country."

Citizens for Peace was founded by residents of the



A.T. Ariyaratne speaks at the Citizens for Peace meeting in Livonia on Sept. 9.

11th Congressional District on Veterans Day 2003 to promote passage of the legislation as well as educate the community. So far members have provided

Please see **PAINTING, C2**



















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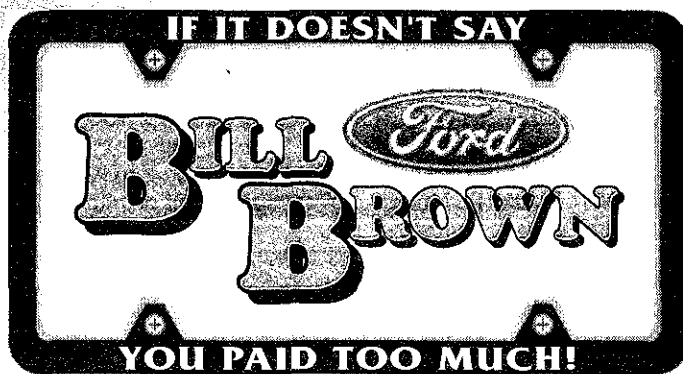
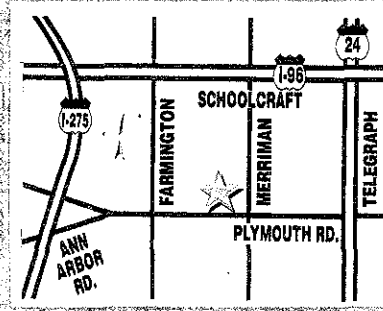
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