







# PUBLIC SAFETY

## 'Ghost hunters' AMVETS put out call for missing furniture

### charged in Eloise theft

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Four teens accused of sneaking into a Westland building on the old Eloise property — former site of a poorhouse, farm, asylum and a hospital — may have been looking for ghosts, police said.

"They said they went there because they heard it was haunted," police Sgt. Jeff Trzybinski said.

Instead, the youngsters have found themselves in trouble for allegations they stole computer equipment, a DVD player and a clock radio.

Westland 18th District Judge Mark McConnell on Monday arraigned two 17-year-old defendants on charges of larceny from a building, and two 16-year-old teens are facing similar allegations in juvenile court.

The teens are accused shortly after midnight last Thursday of breaking into a Wayne County building — named after retired Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard — that still houses some county services near Michigan Avenue and Henry Ruff Road.

The building sits on a once-sprawling medical complex, and some ghost-hunters have long claimed the site is haunted.

Trzybinski credited Garden City Police Officer Robert Matigian with rounding up the four suspects after an anonymous caller provided a tip last Saturday afternoon. Police recovered the stolen items, Trzybinski said.

McConnell arraigned two 17-year-old defendants, Bradley Michael Wilson of Westland and Bryant Jacob Marshall of Garden City, on charges of larceny from a building. McConnell set a \$10,000/10 percent bond for the teens, entered not-guilty pleas for them and scheduled a May 21 preliminary hearing to determine whether they should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Larceny from a building carries penalties ranging up to four years in prison upon conviction.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

**1** A man claiming he was a member of AMVETS Post 171, southeast of Merriman and Avondale, recently stopped by and loaded up four tables and 30 chairs in a truck, claiming he needed to borrow them for an event, AMVETS hall manager John Wilson said.

The incident happened on April 25 and the items still haven't been returned early this week, prompting Wilson to seek the public's help in solving what he believes is a theft.

The man, accompanied by a woman, went to the AMVETS hall around noon.

"Someone came in and misrepresented himself as a member and borrowed four big round tables and 30 chairs," Wilson said. "We do lend them out to members."

The man and woman, who rode in what was described as a black Dodge Ram truck, were supposed to return the items the next day, but early this week they still hadn't shown up, Wilson said.

"As far as I'm concerned, this was premeditated and they didn't have any plans of bringing them back," Wilson said.

He described the white male as being short, heavy-set, clean-shaven and in his early 20s. He couldn't provide many details about the woman, but he believed she had medium-length hair.

The tables were described as brown Formica and were about 5 feet in diameter. The chairs were red vinyl with black frames.

Wilson encouraged anyone with information to contact him at (734) 729-8930. He said a \$50 reward is being offered if the suspects are caught.

### Car loses its wheels

**2** A 50-year-old man told police that all four wheels on his Lincoln MKS were stolen between 5 p.m. May 1 and 9 a.m. May 4 while it was parked outside his residence on Heather Court, on the east side of Newburgh north of Warren.

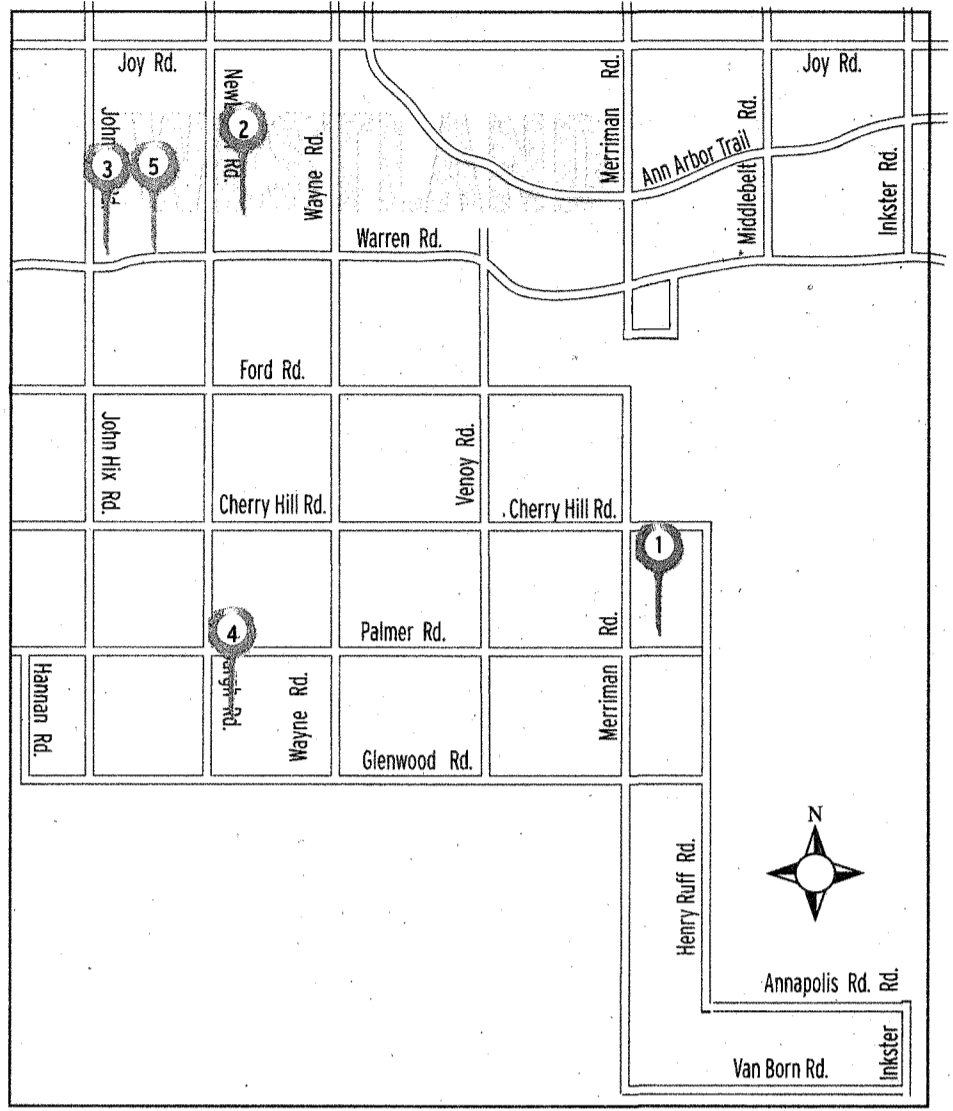
The victim reported that he had parked the car after he left work and later noticed that the wheels were missing. He said the car had been left on four cinder blocks.

The man estimated the value of the wheels at \$1,000.

### Minivan reported stolen

**3** A 52-year-old man reported that his 2007 Dodge Caravan was stolen sometime between 11 a.m. May 3 and 11 a.m. May 4 while it was parked in his driveway on the northeast corner of Warren and Hix roads.

The vehicle theft remains under investigation.



### Locked window foils intruder

**4** A 23-year-old woman told police that someone tried to break into her apartment on Orchard Circle, northeast of Newburgh and Glenwood, between 3-9 p.m. April 27.

The woman told police she returned home to find that a screen had been removed from a window and had been placed in a grassy area. However, the window was locked and the would-be intruder did not get inside.

### Vehicle ignition damaged

**5** An 83-year-old man reported that someone broke into his four-door Dodge vehicle between midnight April 25 and 3:35 a.m. April 27 and pulled out the ignition.

No damage was seen to the outside of the vehicle, which was not stolen. The incident happened near the northeast corner of Warren and Hix roads.

- By Darrell Clem

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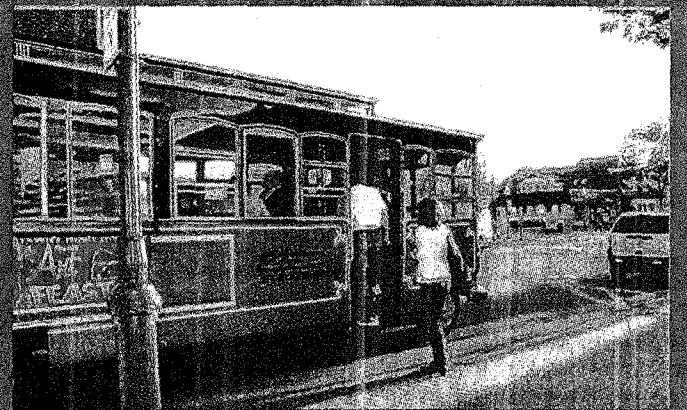
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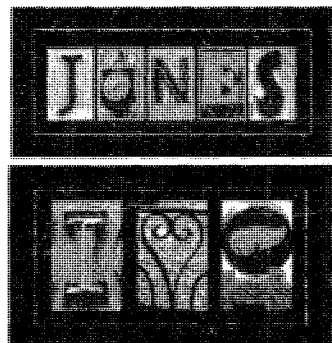
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Saturday May 16, 2009

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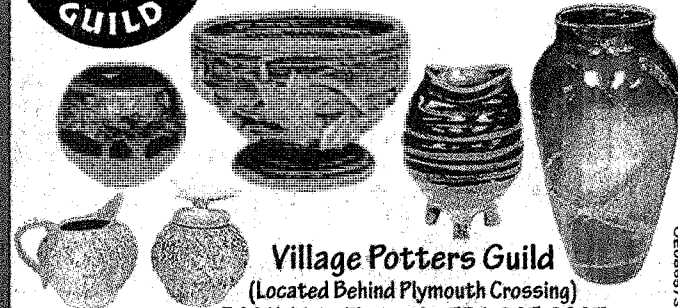
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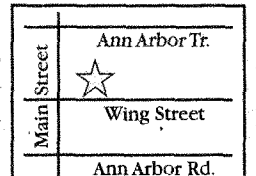
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LOCAL  
**OPINION**

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

OUR VIEWS

# Library grows under Napsha

Friday, May 1, was an anniversary of sorts for Cheryl Napsha. It marked the start of her third year as the director of the William P. Faust Public Library, and if her first two years on the job are any indication, she'll continue to make the library a social hub in the community.

Napsha took over a library in need of a leader who could restore confidence in the library after two previous directors were fired in as many years. Napsha came in with goals, including out-reach programs for residents of outlying neighborhoods. Last June, the library started reaching out to the Norwayne community through its satellite library. It put computers, books and programs within the reach of the area's low-income families.

Napsha has expanded the definition of library. It no longer means, books, magazines, videos and CDs. The Westland library has become a cultural hub in the city under her tutelage.

Activist/singer Anne Finney, Motown legend Martha Reeves and members of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League have made appearances at the library, not to mention the budding poets, musicians and writers who frequent open mic night. Families can enjoy a night out with no expense at the family game nights, and people who enjoy knitting and crocheting are in stitches at the weekly Knitting @ the Library.

The library also has become a resource for residents of the community and to meet their needs, Napsha is expanding hours even at a time when she faces budget cuts. Her staff has developed foreclosure packets for people facing the loss of their prized possession and are ready, willing and able to work with patrons who must fill out forms on computers they know nothing about.

There's also a myriad of programs for toddlers, children, teens, young adults and adults, enough to keep a person's social calendar filled, for months on end.

At a recent CD release party for youngsters in Lincoln Elementary's Bright Futures program held after hours at the library, Napsha let it be known that none of it happened solely because of her. It was, she said, her "wonderful staff." And it's true, the Westland library is filled with people who are committed to making it the best it can be, and we believe it is happening because of Napsha's leadership.

If we were a teacher and this was a test, we would give Cheryl Napsha and her staff an A+. With all she has done in the past two years, we can't wait to see what new cool, creative and informative things will come to the library.

## ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

### • Dillon right about signs

I agree with Mr. Dillon. These signs everywhere are an eyesore. If the tax paying businesses in our own city cannot post signs all over the city, why should someone who does NO legitimate business in Westland be allowed to do so? As a tax-paying business in Westland, Mr. Dillon has the absolute right to request the city to enforce an ordinance that is already in place. And shame on the city if they do not follow through on this.

JustaNumber

### •About shared revenue cut

Take from Westland and give to Detroit. When is re-election?

kt3598

Yep, Jenny Grandtheft, you did say we'd be blown away

Hemi426

## Join the discussion

Do you agree with using federal stimulus money to help erase the deficit in this year's state budget?

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

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COMMUNITY VOICE

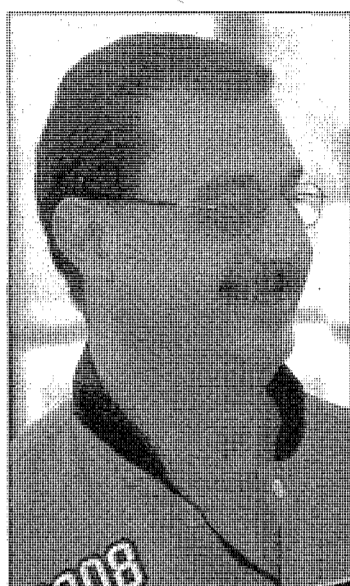
It's been said it would be better to give adults each \$127,000 to spend to end the recession rather than give money to businesses. If you got that money, how would you spend it?

We asked this question at the Garden City post office and the William P. Faust Library in Westland.



"I don't want them to give me \$127,000. If you don't work for it, you shouldn't get it."

Bill Miller  
Garden City



"I'd pay off my bills, put some away for college, open a retirement account and put some back into the economy."

Fred Agius  
Westland



"I'd probably donate some of it, pay off any bills I have and save the rest."

LaShawn Hardy  
Garden City



"First thing I would do is invest a little. I'd put a little in a savings account. I'd buy a house, pay off my car, go to Hawaii on a trip and give my daughter some to pay off her student loans."

Sheila Rogers  
Westland

LETTERS

### Don't want to share

I don't care for this recycling program we are about to embark on. There are not enough people that will take the effort to do this. My little family on Berkshire, we only see us doing anything right now. We do at least 85 percent of recycling, and with economy, we should we give our neighbor any credit for our own efforts?

Neighborhoods aren't what they used to be. Everyone used to talk to everyone. We don't see anyone talking, or kids playing on our street. I much rather keep the cash for ourselves. No one else is chipping in ... Or helping out.

I see boxes, and garbage cans, literally being thrown in the dump truck just to be thrown in all of our landfills! I can't go around rescuing everything that foolish people throw out. But I bet you, if they went to these landfills, they would be as shocked as I would be.

No, I don't want to share in my cash with anyone!

Mari Squire  
Westland

### What do you think?

Mail comments to the Westland Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to smason@hometownlife.com.

Roosevelt in 1932. Despite wholesale Republican obstruction and the endless bleating of stale and discredited right-wing talking points by politically naive detractors, as evidenced by some recent letters in the *Observer & Eccentric*, America's ship of state has been pulled off the rocks upon which clueless conservative ideology had grounded it.

Competence and reason have replaced incompetence and blind conservative ideology at all levels of the federal government. America is regaining the global respect that the previous administration had destroyed with arrogant and childishly disrespectful behavior. The president's economic stimulus plan, derided by Republicans who thoroughly embarrassed themselves in the process, has already provided more than \$4 billion to Michigan, money that has not been wasted on unproductive schemes that further enrich the wealthy, but that is instead being used to rebuild infrastructure, assist law enforcement, aid cash-strapped educational institutions, and held local governments provide necessary services.

In just 100 days, the Obama administration and the Democrats in Congress have made crucial investments to create jobs and improve education, renewable energy, and health care. This is merely a down payment for a new economic vision, one where skilled workers fuel America's economy rather than debt and speculation. It is a vision where America's leadership on clean energy fuels 21st century innovation and discards the failed 20th century ideas which Republicans are so desperately clinging to. It is an America where families and businesses are no longer weighed down by crushing health care costs.

Barack Obama ran for president on a promise of change, and he has delivered. Meanwhile, the Republicans are veering ever further to the right, becoming a regressive, reactionary political party whose message of negativity, obstruction, and outright hate appeals to a steadily shrinking and aging base. It is no wonder that our nation's youngest voters, who are America's next generation of leaders, rejected them by more than 30 points during the last election. While America's future depends on the vision of those who are looking forward, the disloyal opposition prefers to keep looking backward, still embracing their quaint and failed conservative ideology. Good luck with that -- and good riddance!

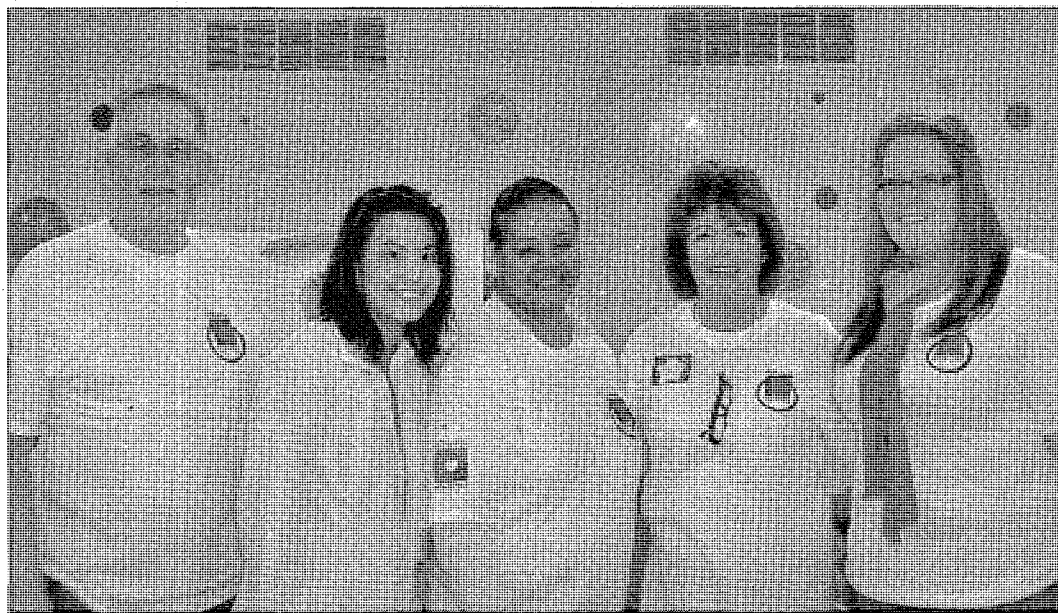
Joe Golonka  
Westland



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J.C. Penney store manager Bill MacKinnon and store employees were just a few of the volunteers that visited Wayne Metro's KEY Program.

## J.C. Penney workers help KEY kids

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency's Keeping an Eye on Youth (KEY) Program received a special visit from employees of the J.C. Penney in Westland last month.

Several J.C. Penney volunteers from the Westland Store visited the KEY Program and helped facilitate games and activities for the children. Volunteers also brought snacks and coloring books for the children.

The children enjoyed special activities, including a carnival day in which they used tickets to play carnival games and received prizes for completing the game. They also participated in a trivia challenge.

Store Manager, Bill MacKinnon was just one of the many J.C. Penney volunteers that enjoyed spending the afternoon with the children in the KEY Program.

"J.C. Penney is the biggest supporter of 'After School programs' across the country. Each store partners with a local program" said MacKinnon.

Employees often dedicate their time and

resources to local charitable projects, like the KEY Program, he added.

"J.C. Penney has been a tremendous support to our program" said Carla Chinavare, director of School-Age Programs at Wayne Metro. "The generous employees and shoppers have helped raise funds to support our programs for homeless and low-income youth. We love having JC Penny team members come out to volunteer with the kids and be involved in the program."

"It's great to have a local partner that is so involved in the program, it creates a sense of community. They really care about the community that resonates with the children."

Wayne Metro's KEY Program provides after-school and summer academic enrichment activities and recreation to children residing in a homeless center. The program operates from 4:30-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and gives children ages 5-17 an opportunity to interact with their peers and enjoy a respite from the stresses of homelessness.

## New Zealand native happy to work in Westland

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Until she got her new cell phone recently, Denise Mills could be identified by her distinctive ring tone — the national anthem of New Zealand.

Mills, marketing manager for Westland Shopping Center, grew up in New Zealand and has adjusted well to life here.

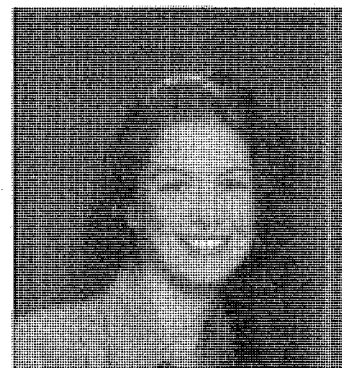
"I met an American gentleman in New Zealand," Mills said during a recent Westland Chamber of Commerce After Hours. "One thing led to another. He invited me to come to the States."

She and that gentleman, Scott, have been married since 1998 and make their home in Livonia near the Westland city limit.

Denise Mills was in her mid-20s when she came to the U.S.

"Obviously, the main thing is you drive on the opposite side of the road. The novelty of a white Christmas wore off quickly," she added.

When she was younger and shopping in New Zealand, she



A native of New Zealand, Denise Mills is enjoying her time as marketing director at the Westland Shopping Center.

could use a payment form for store purchases like a debit card. Mills was surprised debit card technology came later here, and she couldn't pay for her groceries as she did back in New Zealand.

"I lived in the country," she said of her growing up years. Her village was less than 1,000 people and the town where she was educated about 17,000-18,000.

"I had big city experience," said Mills, who'd worked in

Auckland and Wellington before coming to the U.S.

Being the only one from her family to move here was an adjustment.

She's gone back to New Zealand a couple times, and her mom has visited twice, in 2001 and 2006.

Mills saw the receptionist job at Westland Shopping Center advertised in the *Observer*, and was hired after her interview for that position. About a year later, the marketing manager at that time left to be with her children.

"It was just a natural progression," said Mills, who's been in marketing at the mall at Wayne and Warren roads eight years.

She likes her community involvement, such as being on the Westland chamber's board of directors. She and Scott won't necessarily retire here, though.

"We will eventually go back one day," she said. "But no major plans at this time."

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BOYS TRACK RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS LIVONIA CHURCHILL 73 CANTON 64 May 12 at P-CEP Stadium...

May 11 at Franklin Shot put: 1. David Fortin (LF), 48 feet, 8 inches; 2. Nate Coleman (LF), 47-3.5; 3. Sean McAuliffe (LF), 46-6.5.

181; 2. Christian Grates (C'ville), 18.5. 300 hurdles: 1. Watts (C'ville), 45.9; 3. Grates (C'ville), 47.2.

REDFORD UNION 75 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 62 May 7 at Redford Union Shot put: 1. Taylor Hall (C'ville), 42 feet, 10 inches; 2. Mike Bratcher (RU), 41-10; 3. Leonard Wernette-Leff (RU), 41-3.

Warriors blank C'ville in playoffs

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lutheran Westland's varsity baseball team got off to a strong start Monday in the Metro Conference Tournament...

PREP BASEBALL

Shoats, who singled, scored, drove in a run and swiped three bases. For Clarenceville, the lone hits against Hausch were registered by freshman Damien Sanchez and sophomore Joe Schiffman.

KLAA BOYS TRACK & FIELD RESULTS

KLAA KENSINGTON CONFERENCE BOYS TRACK MEET May 9 at South Lyon East TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 116.333 points; 2. Salem, 103; 3. Northville, 99; 4. Livonia Churchill, 66; 5. Livonia Franklin, 64; 6. Canton, 59; 7. Novi, 52; 8. Westland John Glenn, 33; 9. Plymouth, 31.83; 10. Wayne Memorial, 19.3; 11. South Lyon, 13; 12. South Lyon East, 6.5.

Mike Schacht (Canton), 5-11 each; 8. (tie) Pawan Dhaliwal (P), Wyatt Stahl (LS) and Matt Mills (WM), 5-8 each. Long jump: 1. David Simor (LS), 20-6.5; 2. Aliasghar Arastu (N'ville), 20-6.25; 3. Nate Serjison (LS), 20-4.5; 4. Brett Kuhn (Novi), 20-2.5; 5. Will Burek (LS), 19-5.25; 6. (tie) Ryan Oliverio (SLE) and Adam Payne (Canton), 18-7.25 each; 8. Donte Fox (P), 18-7.5.

2. Devon Easterling (LC), 10.81; 3. Paul Voegele (LF), 10.96; 4. Isaac Cadet (LF), 11.03; 5. Mike Baumgardner (LF), 11.05; 6. Jeremy Langford (WJG), 11.06; 7. Tony Frenzell (LC), 11.07; 8. Parrish Clayborn (NW), 11.51.

4.36; 15; 7. Daniel Martin (Salem), 4:37.04; 8. Jeffrey Girbach (N'ville), 4:38.13. 3,200: 1. Mike Blaszczyk (Novi), 9:42.72; 2. Devey (Salem), 9:44.05; 3. Griffith (N'ville), 9:51.45; 4. Howse (LS), 9:55.58; 5. Derek Lax (P), 10:02.23; 6. Jason Smith (Salem), 10:05.36; 7. Girbach (N'ville), 10:07.77; 8. Robert Swain (SL), 10:13.57.

FRANKLIN FROM PAGE B1

runs as Canton starter Kevin Delapaz, a hard-throwing junior right-hander, ran into control issues.

approach at the plate wasn't very good," Fournier said. "He (Delapaz) is good, but we decided we'd start working the count. He normally doesn't walk that many kids."

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# FILTER

## Downtown Hoedown is free fun for country fans

99.5 WYCD Downtown Hoedown comes to Detroit's Hart Plaza the weekend of Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17.

This year's festival combines value with quality, and a little Hollywood thrown in, by bringing area fans more than 20 national recording artists including legendary Willie Nelson, Rodney Atkins, Phil Vassar, Jessica Andrews, Bomshel, Luke Bryan, Josh Gracin, Darryl Worley, Lee Ann Womack, Jason Michael Carroll, Zac Brown Band, Trailer Choir,

Whitney Duncan, Justin Moore, Jessica Harp (of the Wreckers), Stephen Cochran, Trent Tomlinson and more.

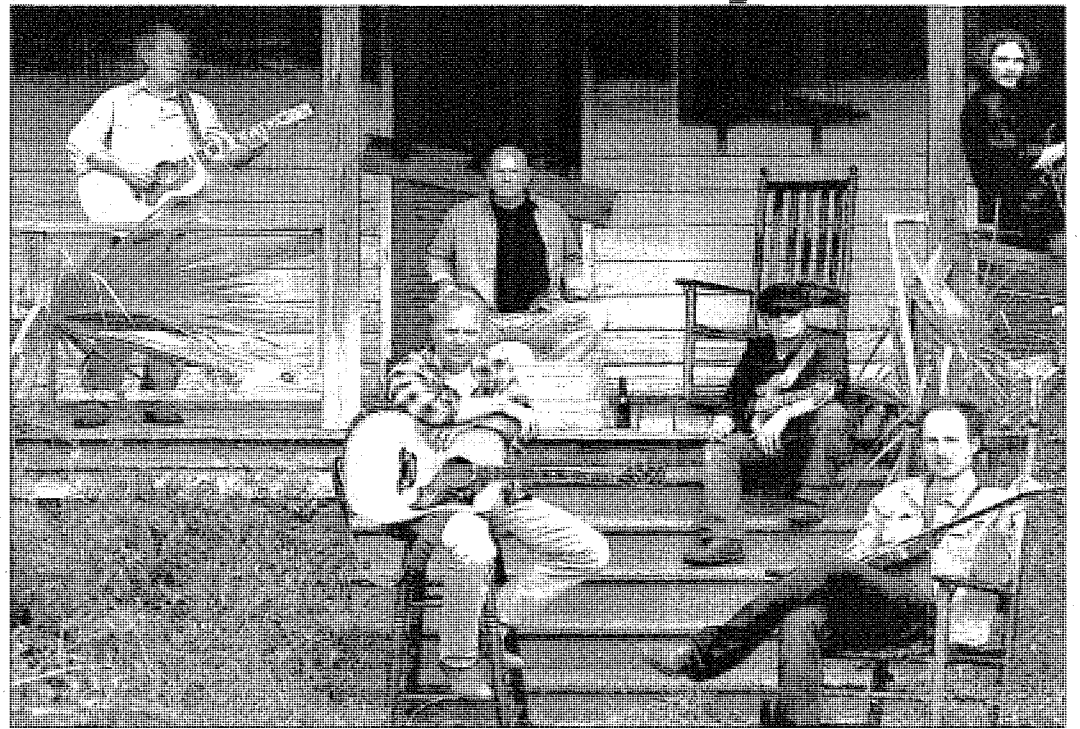
The 2009 99.5 WYCD Downtown Hoedown will also welcome movie star and celebrity Kevin Costner as he performs with his band Modern West on the main stage on Friday, May 17.

Along with these very talented national artists, 99.5 WYCD also brings in the best home-grown talent from Metro Detroit including The Forbes Brothers, The Orbitsuns, Redhill, JoCaine,

Willie Nash, David Shelby, Austin Scott, Justine Blazer and youth sensation Molly Hunt.

"We are excited to bring this extraordinary event to Detroit again this year," said Tim Roberts, WYCD Program Director. "Looking over the list of performers, there is a great mix of national artists and household names, along with young up-and-comers and local talent galore. We are most proud - especially this year - to be able to provide this bonanza of country music as a free event, allowing every country music fan a chance to enjoy the festival."

The Downtown Hoedown began in 1983 with Hank Williams, Jr., Tanya Tucker, The Kendalls, Brenda Lee and Mel Tillis. Since then, Hart Plaza has seen Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire, the Dixie Chicks, Montgomery Gentry, Rascal Flatts, Gretchen Wilson, Big & Rich and more perform at the Hoedown. This year's 99.5 WYCD Downtown Hoedown will be produced by Palace Sports & Entertainment (PS&E), metro Detroit's leading event producer. Visit [www.wycd.com](http://www.wycd.com) for a complete lineup.



Kevin Costner & Modern West play the Main Hart Plaza Stage at 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 15 during WYCD's Downtown Hoedown.

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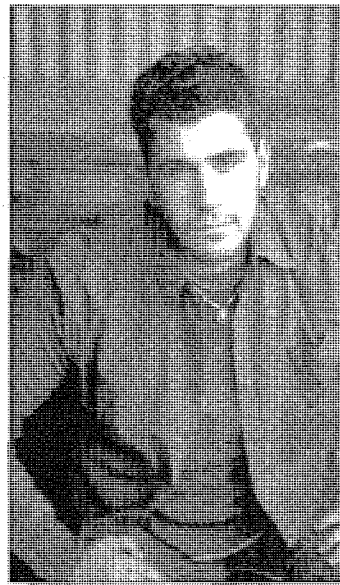
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Willie Nelson is among many acts that will perform free shows during WYCD's Downtown Hoedown May 15-17. See him at 9:15 p.m. Sunday on the Upper Stage.



Westland native Josh Gracin takes the Upper Stage at 8:45 p.m. on Saturday during WYCD's Downtown Hoedown at Hart Plaza.

### Band battle raises money for mission

Over 15 bands playing all genres of music are scheduled to play at the Second Annual Battle of the Bands, noon-9 p.m. May 23, in the large pavilion at the Garden City Park. The event, which will take place rain or shine, also includes face painting and other entertainment. The music is free, with proceeds from concession and T-shirt sales going to Michigan Missions, a nonprofit organization that helps unemployed, disabled, elderly and low-income persons with home repairs at no cost to them. Jo Anne Pooley, executive director of Michigan

Missions, is optimistic about this year's fund raiser. "We hope the funds raised will be enough to give Michigan Missions the ability to help even more of those in need and share God's love with everybody," she said. Garden City Park is located on the northeast corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill Road. Call (734) 793-1850. Michigan Missions is a nonprofit organization that brings youth, host churches and homeowners together to serve God by serving others.

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