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Coffee hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10 a.m. Monday, June 11, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place the second Monday of each month. Residents who have any comments or concerns, can also contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or at (517) 373-2576 or send an email to richardleblanc@house.mi.gov.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold district coffee hours Monday, June 11, in Westland and Redford. No appointment is necessary. Anderson will be at the William P. Faust Public Library 9-10 a.m. and at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the senator but are unable to attend may contact him by mail, at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933, by phone at (866) 262-7306 or by email at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

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**Proposed budget reflects
loss of students, funding**

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

A loss of state funding and a continuing enrollment decline will force the Wayne-Westland Community Schools to use more than \$8 million of its fund equity to cover expenses in fiscal 2012-13.

That was the message Jim Larson-Shidler, deputy superintendent of administrative and business services, delivered to the school board during a budget

study session last week.

According to Larson-Shidler, the district will lose a total of \$4.3 million in funding from the state, taking its foundation allowance from \$7,250 per student this year to \$7,012 in 2012-13. The loss will put the district slightly above the \$6,966 the lowest funded schools will receive next budget year.

"We're close to the low, we are one of three districts that lost money this year, every other district gained or stayed the same,"

he said.

Revenue sources

The district can pick up some additional state money — \$635,978 for meeting seven of eight Best Practices, \$489,214 in performance grants and \$295,000 for data collection and reporting. Wayne-Westland also stands to get \$1.565 million to offset retirement costs which have steadily increased from 20.66 percent of payroll in 2010-11 to 27.37 percent for 2012-13

which will cost the district an additional \$1.8 million.

"This is not new funding, this is funding we received last year," Larson-Shidler stressed. "This is a carryover from last year."

Reform legislation is in the works that could cap retirement costs at 24.6 percent. According to school Superintendent Greg Baracy, "significant reforms" are needed sooner than later or "we'll be looking at a system

Please see BUDGET, A2



STEVE CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

According to Ron Bartsch, mentee Nathaniel Pippin gets to work in "the coolest place" at The Henry Ford - the projection room of the IMAX Theater. Bartsch shows Pippin, a 10th-grader, the difference between the 70mm IMAX film and regular 35mm movie film.

**Youth Mentorship helps W-W
students get back on track**

Students talk about what the mentorship program has done for them. See story and photos on Page A4.

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

While most educators are looking to the end of the school year, Suzie Staley has her sights clearly focused on next year. For the past month, she has been interviewing students who have expressed an inter-

est in being in the Youth Mentorship Program at The Henry Ford.

For 23 years, the nationally recognized program has been pairing at-risk high school students with adult mentors from the staff at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. It offers students the chance to recover high school credit in a nontraditional way and the opportunity to give back to the community through service learning.

And it's Staley's job to select the 12 students who participate in the program.

"It's kind of like being an inch wide and a mile deep with what we want to do with the kids," said Staley, the program director. "We have to keep it small. Rather than work with 200 kids for one hour we work with 12 kids 700-800 hours."

The students come from Wayne Memorial, John Glenn

Please see MENTORS, A2

Fire department to monitor fireworks use, sale

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

It's less than a month until the July 4 holiday and for many people that means fireworks.

The type of fireworks allowed legally in Michigan has been expanded this year but there are still some devices that are illegal.

"There was a big change in the law. There are three things

now allowed (that weren't previously) — Roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars that leave the ground," said Westland Assistant Fire Chief John Adams.

Until the recent change in state law, Michigan prohibited fireworks that exploded or left the ground.

"There are similar fireworks that are still illegal. Things that explode in your hand like M80s

and cherry bombs," said Adams. "If the packaging is not colorful and only looks like a brown paper bag, those are commercial grade for the 4th of July shows and are illegal."

Along with the potential for injury, Adams said the expanded variety of legal fireworks still carries responsibility and liability for users.

Please see FIREWORKS, A2

**2 arrested
in holdup at
Chase Bank**

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Charges are pending against two people arrested following an early afternoon robbery at a Westland Chase Bank branch Thursday.

A Westland man, 48, and a Detroit woman, 28, remain in custody and a warrant request has been submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor.

A man wearing gloves and a mask covering his face entered the bank at 7750 N. Wayne Road near Cowan about 1 p.m.

"Bank patrons recognized it for what it was and began to flee. The man jumped over the counter and demanded money," said Lt. Michael Harhold. "They (employees) complied, then he jumped over the counter and fled."

The suspect apparently took his time and was methodical about collecting a large sum of money, Harhold said, but was then slowed as he dropped the cash which had been stuffed into his clothing.

The customers who had fled the bank when the suspect entered had started calling police. Officer Kevin Yudt happened to be patrolling nearby at Warren and Wayne roads when the robbery was reported.

Turning onto Cowan, Harhold said that Yudt saw the suspect running, still wearing a mask and cash falling from his pockets.

Taking the suspect into custody at gunpoint, Harhold said Yudt noticed a car, stopped with the engine running, on Wildwood north of Cowan. Suspecting it was a getaway car for the robbery, Yudt ordered the female driver to stop and called for other officers who arrested the woman.

The FBI assisted in the investigation but Westland police will handle the case going forward under state law, said Harhold.

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MENTORS

Continued from page A1

and Tinkham Alternative High Schools. They are falling behind on credits needed to graduate, at risk of not graduating on time, are below the poverty line or "all sorts of things."

They attend their high schools in the morning then spend the afternoon four days a week at The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village with a mentor who "is their boss, their teacher and their friend." They also take an online class and get instruction from Staley and assistant director Tim Johnson, and on the fifth day they do service learning in the school district. In return, they earn 1 1/2 credits — two elective and one core classes — per semester.

The program is set up like a part-time job. Students have to attend 70 percent of the time, and don't get credit when not present, said Staley.

For the past 10 years, the students have spent Friday afternoons working with first-graders in the district. They plan projects developed

around the core content area and implement them.

"They get to be mentors, it's nice because they connect with the kids and feel they are giving back," she said. "They love it, even the ones who don't think they will do. It's important to give young people the opportunity to be in charge."

They also do food drives and make food baskets for Wayne-Westland's Family Center. Many of the students have been in the position of needing help.

"It connects the idea that it doesn't matter who you are, you have to give back to the community," she said. "One of the most important things we can do is connect them back to the community."

At the museum and village, the students work with mentors in the projection booth of the IMAX Theater, at the Firestone Farm in the village, the in-house technology department or at the Rouge Factory Tour. The staff gives up about 20 percent of their work week to mentor without any extra pay.

"I spend four hours of my time a day with the Youth Mentorship Program in season," said



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nikki Opp and the workers at the village's barn have given Martin plenty of hands-on training in an area he might not have had an opportunity to experience - horses.

Johnson. "I also work full time as a program leader assigned to develop educational programs."

The district shares in the financial cost of the program and Staley is employed as a subcontractor She's been with the program 11 years and has

been the director of nine years.

The Youth Mentorship Program started in alternative education and along the way to reaching out to students at Glenn and Wayne Memorial, it earned The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village the

fifth annual Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Award for Museum Service in 1998 and a National Leadership Grant in 2000 from the IMLS.

Staley believes it's a one-of-a-kind program in the United States that has

endured with the support of school officials and the museum.

"It's unheard of to hear about a partnership that has lasted this long," said Staley.

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BUDGET

Continued from page A1

that's bankrupt."

"None of us want to see that," he said. "This has been a terrible burden on school districts. It has been underfunded, but it has to be reformed because it is unsustainable."

"There have been changes, but the have been small changes and we haven't reaped the benefits," added board President Carol Middel.

Larson-Shidler is projecting expenditures of \$108.2 million, down \$2 million from this year.

Reflecting the drop in enrollment, the district plans to lay off 20 teachers, a majority at the elementary and upper elementary level, and two special education teachers, saving almost \$900,000. However, the shared time program which is expected to bring in 100 full-time equated students will cost \$250,000 plus benefits.

The district also will see step increases return midyear in 2012-2013 and cost \$1.1 million. Charges for breakfast and lunch service also will be moved to the Food Service Fund, saving some \$300,000, and moving at-

risk money — \$1.9 million in salaries and \$800,000 in benefits — into a separate grant fund will provide a partial expenditure offset to the corresponding revenue reduction, Larson-Shidler said.

He added the district will finish the current budget year "at about break even," with revenues \$24,000 less than expenditures, leaving \$12.4 million in the fund equity. In 2012-2013, revenue will be down \$8.4 million, leaving a fund balance of \$4.02 million.

"With all the information we have, we are looking at an operating deficit of \$11.1 million in 2013-

2014," he said.

Opposed

Using \$8 million to balance the budget didn't sit well with Trustee Andrea Clawson, who asked if that amount could be stripped from the budget by Monday's meeting.

"Is there a chance we can reduce expenditures? We're spending \$2 million less than last year, but \$8.4 million in expenditures over revenues is unacceptable," she said. "We need to look at the hard facts, I would like to have some idea before Monday, I'd like to see where you think you could look at in reducing

the costs."

"This budget is based on the information we have now, it will change," said Larson-Shidler. "Wait a week and we may have MPERS (retirement) reform and we could take \$1.8 million out. We need to set the bar and work with the budget over the year."

Board Vice President John Goci told Clawson that he doesn't "see where we have any fat in this budget."

"We've cut to the bone, our backs are to the wall," he said.

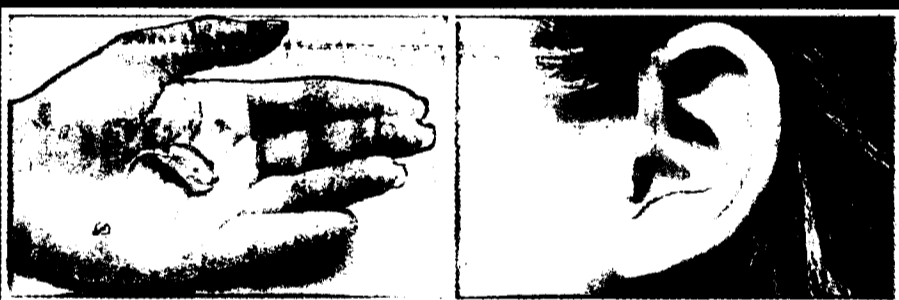
And school board Secretary Cindy Schofield agreed that she doesn't

like "running a household where expenses exceed revenue."

"But I don't know if there's \$8 million to find in this budget," she said. "Our community expects the floors to be washed and waxed, toilet paper and hand towels in the bathrooms."

"We're going to make it through the next year," Baracy told the board. "We don't like using that \$8 million. We'll watch the budget and make amendments, and I believe we will get relief on MSPERS."

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FIREWORKS

Continued from page A1

"If you use pyrotechnicals that leave the ground and you cause a fire, you're responsible," said Adams. "It must land on your property."

Under state law, the city does have some ability to regulate fireworks use through local ordinance, including limiting use to July 3-5.

"If it gets carried away and our population den-

sity, I can write an ordinance that only those days are acceptable," said Adams. "We're just going to evaluate it. We do look at fireworks sales pretty heavily."

The Michigan State Fire Marshal Bureau requires a certificate for the newly legal fireworks sales and that permit is available only once a year.

"They also have to file to get a permit from the City Clerk's Office. We will make sure they (fireworks sellers) are all certified," said Adams.

"We'll also take another approach for folks who pop up their trunks to sell fireworks illegally."

One of the reasons the fireworks law was changed, he said, was because the state was losing revenue as Michigan residents loaded up on pyrotechnics in Ohio and Indiana which had more liberal laws.

"From a fire department standpoint, we look at life safety issues. I'm a huge advocate of being safe and responsible while you have a good time," said Adams. "If the fireworks aren't made to a certain standard, they have a tendency to malfunction. You add a little alcohol, it's not as safe."

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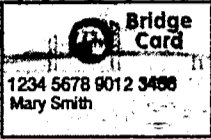
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Mentoring helps teens succeed

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Ron Bartsch, Rudy Ruzicska and Nikki Pippin have a lot in common. Not only do they work at The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village, they also devote their time to mentoring students like Mark Martin, Amber Munguia and Nathaniel Pippin.

The teens are among a group of Wayne-Westland students who are earning credits and gaining work experience through a nationally recognized Youth Mentorship Program at the museum and village in Dearborn.

"The first thing we work on is communication so we can talk to each other, we use photographic terms," said Ruzicska, a photographer at the museum. "It's good for them to learn how to talk to adults."

Ruzicska has been a mentor since the program began 23 years ago, and has spent the last three semesters working with Munguia, a junior at Wayne Memorial High School.

"I've learned a lot from him," she said. "I've learned to photograph things and I've learned some things that have made me a better person."

Munguia had never heard of the program when she tried out, but 1 1/2 years later she's glad she did.

"The first day he said you're going to do this," she said. "Now I help set up the lights and products and take pictures. I like photography, I think it's something I might want to do."



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Mark Martin, a sophomore at Tinkham Alternative High School, likes doing things outdoors. That's why working in the stables at Greenfield Village was the job for him.

Ruzicska is responsible for photographing every item in the museum for the photo files. He's found working with Munguia has been a learning experience for him.

"She does a lot of the computer input, she has to show me what she's doing," he said. "It only goes to show you can learn from anyone, anytime, anywhere."

His niche

Martin, a sophomore at the Tinkham Alternative High School, has found his niche working in the barn in Greenfield Village with Opp and the staff. He describes himself as "outdoorsy"

and he gets that during the time he's there. As part of his job, he loads the truck with hay and grain, sweeps the barn, and gets "to be a farm boy back in the 1920s."

But he also gets to be with the horses.

"I feel like the horses reach out to me emotionally, they're like my buddies," he said. "I care about them. It might look weird when you catch me talking to them. I have conversations with them."

Opp said Martin isn't one to stand around, "he's always looking for something to do."

"We teach him how to respect the horses, how they eat and how to take

care of the barn," said Opp. "This has a lot to do with something you can't do elsewhere. He comes in and learns."

Martin said the program has provided him with "some good, invaluable experience." It also has helped him get his highest grade, doing an online class with the mentorship program.

"I fell more grown-up with all this work experience," he said. "I've learned about the past and the present. It's been a fun and new experience."

Bartsch said Tippin "gets to work in the coolest place" — the projection room of the IMAX theater at The Henry Ford. The John Glenn High School sophomore has learned what it takes to operate the projector and what goes on behind the scenes and along the way, he's seen *Titanica*, a documentary about the ill-fated ocean line 47 times.

"I like Ron, he's cool, funny and I've learned a lot," said Tippin who knew about the program, thanks to his sister.

"I knew I'd end up here, my sister was in the program and it was one way to get help in high school," he said. "I plan to do it until I'm out of high school."

"He knows that he has to respect the equipment," said Bartsch. "He knows it's not all fun and games. He's gotten a sense of the nature of the job behind the scenes in a movie theater. This room is like the cockpit of a plane."

Right decision

Deja Williams open-



Photographer Rudy Ruzicska has been a mentor for Amber Munguia, a junior at Wayne Memorial High School, for three semesters. Munguia has learned a lot about photography, but also "some things about being a better person" from Ruzicska.

ly admits her attendance hasn't been the best, but after two semesters in YMP, she knows for sure she'll be quizzed by Suzie Staley and Tim Johnson if she misses.

"The hardest part is being here everyday, my attendance hasn't been the best, but I know if I miss, they're going to ask where I was, why I don't have my clothes," she said. "They hold my feet to the fire."

A senior at Wayne Memorial High School, Williams has been in the program for two semesters, working on recovering credits. She knows she won't graduate on time, but "at some point" she will.

Williams has worked with the kitchen staff at the Michigan Cafe and now works in the office with Staley and Johnson.

"I feel I made the right decision, this is a learning experience," she said. "It's taught me how to behave in professional areas, it's taught me I can help others and feel better about myself. It's helped mature me."

Miranda Linder, a

senior at John Glenn High School, has been with the program for three semesters. She was getting bad grades and was behind on her credits when she decided to try YMP.

"It's really helped me and I've got to meet new people," she said. "I think the people are the best part of it."

Linder has been assigned to the Rouge Factory Tour where she files papers, runs errands, helps with scheduling for the next day and with writing information for the staff on a board. The program has helped her not only recover credits but with her regular classes.

"It's made me more responsible and made me see that I need to do it," she said. "I'm going to be a medical receptionist, I'm going to go to Schoolcraft College. I never thought I'd be able to do that."

"I'm glad I did this," she added. "I think I'd tell people to do this because it can help," she added.

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Deja Williams, a Wayne Memorial High School senior, has spent two semesters in the Youth Mentorship Program. For her, the program has "I can help others and feel better about myself."

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Ex-teacher ordered to trial on sex charges

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Two male teens testified Friday in explicit detail they had sex with former Wayne Memorial High teacher Brandon Tomblin of Canton during incidents they say occurred in Tomblin's school office, at his sister's Garden City house and in his car while parked off a Romulus road.

A third teen said during a preliminary exam in 34th District Court in Romulus that he and Tomblin, 26, flirted and eventually exchanged nude photos on their cell phones, but never had sex.

The three males, now 16, 17 and 18, testified the encounters occurred last year while they attended Wayne Memorial, where Tomblin taught vocal music before the youngest boy's mother notified Canton police alleging inappropriate contact between Tomblin and her son.

The teens testified they had voluntary contact with Tomblin, but 34th District Judge Tina Brooks Green said sexual contact between a teacher and student cannot be consensual and ordered Tomblin to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on three counts each of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, three counts each of fourth-degree CSC and two counts each of child sexually abusive activity, using a computer to commit a crime and distributing sexually explicit material to children.

"This happened in the high school," Green said of one incident, "in his office, and he's a teacher."

Still jailed

Tomblin remains jailed with bonds total...

ing \$325,000/10 percent, meaning he could be released with \$32,500. If convicted, the charges carrying the strongest penalty could lead to 20 years in prison.

Under questioning by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Brian Surma, the teens said Tomblin never indicated to them whether he had a sexually transmitted disease. Outside the courtroom, Surma declined to elaborate on the issue.

One male, now 18, said he was in Tomblin's choir class during 11th grade when Tomblin gave his phone number to the entire class. The teen, who also appeared in a production of *Hairspray* directed by Tomblin, said he and Tomblin initially exchanged texts.

"It was more like I never had a gay teacher. I was curious," the teen said.

The teen said he met Tomblin in his office, exposed himself, allowed Tomblin to touch him and then had unprotected sex with the teacher during after-school hours.

"We ended up having sex in his office," the teen said.

On another occasion, the teen said he and another alleged victim rode with Tomblin to a place in Romulus, where they parked. He said he sat in the back seat while Tomblin performed oral sex on the other boy in the front.

On yet another occasion, the 18-year-old teen testified he and the other teen accompanied Tomblin to Tomblin's sister's house in Garden City, where other sexual acts occurred.

His testimony came after the other teen gave similar testimony. This teen, now 17, said he ran track at school and knew...



Brandon Tomblin, with defense attorney Robert Mullen at an earlier court appearance, was arraigned by video in Romulus on Friday on several new sexual conduct charges.

Tomblin as the musical director of *Hairspray*.

No drugs

The 17-year-old said he and Tomblin flirted in May 2011, and he recounted the trips by car to Romulus and Garden City.

During his first outing with Tomblin, the 17-year-old said, "I wanted something to happen that day."

He said Tomblin performed oral sex on him.

The teens said Tomblin never offered them alcohol or drugs. Even though they said Tomblin never coerced them, Surma said, "That does not make it OK. It was still an illegal act."

Meantime, the 16-year-old teen, of Canton, said he was in Tomblin's vocal music class when the two of them began texting each other.

"He wanted pornographic pictures," the teen said of Tomblin.

The 16-year-old said Tomblin sent two nude photos of himself, though it never showed his face. The teen replied with a nude image of himself.

Defense attorney Robert Mullen questioned how the teen could be sure the picture was of Tomblin. The teen said Tomblin's skin tone and body structure seemed to match the images, but when he was

asked if he assumed the pictures were of Tomblin, he replied, "That is true."

Judge Green ordered Tomblin to stand trial on all but one charge of third-degree CSC, which Surma said he was dropping.

Tomblin has been described as a well-liked teacher who has strong family support. His relatives have repeatedly appeared in court during the proceedings, though some had to leave the courtroom Friday because they may be called to testify later as character witnesses.

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(313) 222-2238

Man pleads guilty to sexual assault

A Westland man will be imprisoned until 2047 following a recent guilty plea to charges of sexually assaulting two girls under 10 years old at his home.

Jerry Baker, 37, entered a guilty plea in Wayne County Circuit Court to one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct. He had been charged with 20 counts of criminal sexual conduct, along with six charges of having sexually abusive material on his computer.

In custody in lieu of \$1 million bond since his arrest in January, Baker was described as a family acquaintance of the victims. The sexual abuse was reported to have occurred throughout 2011 at Baker's Westland home.

Baker received a sentence of 10-15 years in prison for his guilty plea on second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a person under 13 years old. On the first-degree guilty plea, Baker received a 35-60 year prison sentence. That means Baker's earliest release date would be in 2047.

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Businesses see cities' willingness as 'breath of fresh air'

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Westland and Wayne are open for business.

That was the message officials from both cities had for developers and real estate agents who gathered for a joint Eggs and Opportunities breakfast Wednesday.

Held at the Wayne Banquet Center, it was Westland's second economic development breakfast, but the first held jointly with Wayne.

"When I became mayor five years ago, I found the city wasn't business friendly. We drove business out," Westland Mayor William Wild said, adding that he had been a business owner in Wayne for several years. "We were better at saying 'no' than we were saying 'yes.' We have changed that. We've changed the way we talk to people and the way we do things. You're our customers."

Wild and Wayne Mayor Al Haidous both talked about the cooperative efforts between the two cities, including the consolidation of the parks and recreation departments and sharing a fire chief.



Several developers and real estate agents took a bus tour to see the locations available for development in Wayne and Westland.

"In the future, we hope together do more joint ventures to benefit the cities," Haidous said. "We've been working hard to promote our cities. It benefits both communities." Presentations by West-

land Economic Development Director Lori Fodale and Wayne Economic Development Specialist Matthew Mulholland focused on similar demographics in the two cities, but also the advantages

each city offers for development.

Westland highlighted some successful projects, including the MJR Theater which was completed within a year thanks to the city's fast-track process that streamlines plan reviews and approvals.

Wayne is looking at implementing a similar process.

There was also a review of the many incentive programs available for commercial, industrial and

multiple residential developments.

The developers and real estate agents were provided lists of potential development sites and, after the meeting, those interested were provided with a bus tour to see the locations.

"I found it very beneficial. The biggest benefit is the open communication and the networking," said Rex Rosenhaus, CEO of Southfield-based Uniland Corp. "It is certainly a nice forum to interact and communicate. It puts it on a human level and I enjoyed that."

Like Rosenhaus, this was the second time that Nino DiDomenico of Romulus-based D&G Builders attended Eggs and Opportunities.

"It's great to learn about all these new programs and the fast track. It will be very beneficial to potential customers," DiDomenico said. "You know the city is willing to work with us on potential development — it makes the job easier. All of the incentives is a bit of fresh air."

rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

Gas station clerk faces hearing on embezzlement charge

A Westland woman has been arraigned on a charge of embezzling more than \$20,000 from a local gas station where she had been employed as a clerk.

Bette Wicker, 61, was arraigned Wednesday in 18th District Court on the charge which is a ten-year felony. Not a guilty plea was entered for Wicker, who was freed on

\$10,000/ten percent bond. A preliminary examination is scheduled for July 26.

Wicker had been employed as a clerk at the Sunoco gas station on the corner of Cherry Hill and Newburgh for 23 years.

According to police, an audit showed \$40,000 missing over a 19-month period but the embezzling may have been ongoing

for a longer time. Westland police Sgt. Norman Brooks said that Wicker, who was fired from her job, has been paying restitution to the business since November.

Wicker has been very cooperative in the investigation, Brooks said, providing a written statement that indicated she used the stolen money to gamble at casinos.

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subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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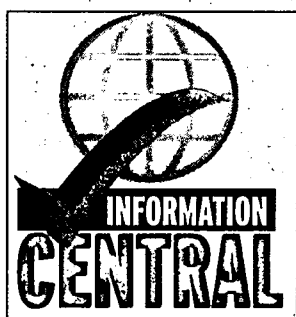
Dream Big Read! with summer program

We are calling all dreamers to the 2012 Summer Reading Program.

The Public Library of Westland is where the fun begins. The kick-off event is planned for Saturday, June 16, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Here you can get your reading log, enjoy a simple craft, face painting and light refreshments. Registration is easy and continues throughout the six-week program. Children have until July 28 to meet the 600-minute reading goal and earn fun prizes.

Summer activities couldn't arrive in a more inviting way. Wonderful books, family movies, talented performers, art and crafts create endless learning possibilities. Reading skills increase along the way as children participate in the program dedicated to support literacy.

Children read material of their choice and record reading minutes in a reading log provided by the library. Incentive prizes are given at every 100-minute accomplishment. Generous community sponsor donations



reward children with free coupons for tasty treats or fun activities. Children who meet their reading goal will also receive a free paperback book and a magic show invitation.

All children are included, even children who are too young to read. Pre-readers and independent readers, infants through sixth-graders, are sure to enjoy the amazing world of books. Wonderful library experiences support kids' needs to experiment, create and learn through free programs.

Tote bags, ceramics creations, Dream Diaries, silhouette art, and sidewalk chalk are just a few of the hands-on craft activities. Family movies, story times, games, Readers' Theatre, guessing jars and weekly raf-

files are also planned. Children will have great opportunities to learn as they discover StarDogs Astronomy, Basically Bats, and Financial Boot Camp for Kids.

Please take this wonderful opportunity to visit your neighborhood library often and tap into amazing free resources that enrich all dreamers.

The free Summer Reading Program runs from June 16 through July 28. Kick-off day registration times are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thereafter, you can register anytime during library hours. Be sure to come in and pick up the Summer Reading Calendar or visit our website for event descriptions at www.westlandlibrary.org. Call the Children's Department at (734) 326-6123 for more information.

The fun doesn't stop with the youngsters. Teens and adults can join in the fun, too. Teens can "Own the Night" and adults are challenged to "Think Again." Stop by the library beginning Saturday, June 16, to find out how you can join in the fun.

Highlighted Activities

District Coffee Hour: 9 a.m. June 11

Join State Senator Glenn Anderson with State Rep. Richard LeBlanc for a monthly district coffee hour. Ask questions and share your concerns with your local government officials.

Friends of the Library Meeting: 2 p.m. June 14
The Friends of the Library is an independent group of local residents and library users that helps support and promotes the Library and its mission. New members are always welcome. The Friends plan book sales and other fundraising activities for the library. Meetings are scheduled at 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 p.m. June 13

The Library Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month in one of the Library's meeting rooms. Board meetings are open to the general public.

Group: 6 p.m. June 14, Adults

Do you have an eReader? Want to learn more about it? Drop in on the second Thursday of each month to meet with other eReader users, share your eReader expertise, or learn some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your device. An eReader expert will be on hand to answer the difficult questions.

Creating Flyers and Pamphlets: 7 p.m. June 14

Microsoft Office Publisher is a computer tool that helps you create and design paper handouts. We'll show you how to use Publisher to make flyers and brochures. Prerequisite: Computer Basics or some previous computer experience. Seating limited, sign-up required. Call (734) 326-6123 to reserve your seat.

Summer Reading Kick-Off Event: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 16, Kids ages 0 to 12

Register at the library and then read, read, read! Teens and adults can join in, too. Register anytime for the teen and adult summer program.

Job Seekers Lab: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

Chess Group: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

Information Central was compiled by Bernadette Dewyer, children's associate. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.



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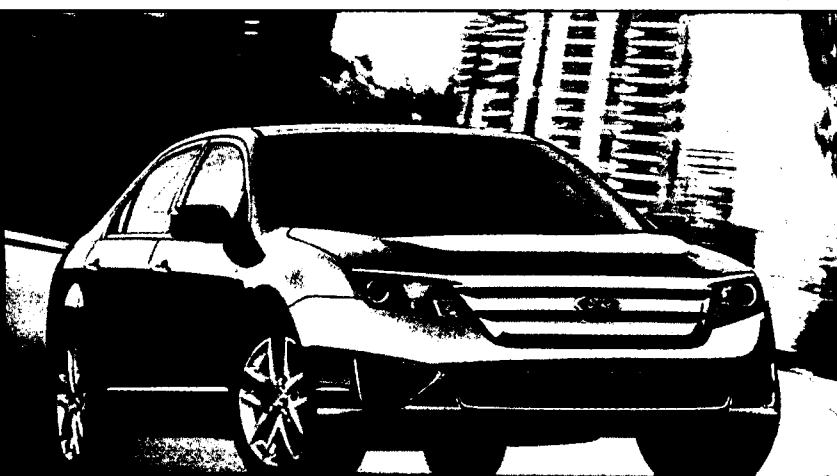


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Two career-tech students win state honors

Two Wayne-Westland students have been recognized by the State of Michigan for their success in nontraditional career and technical education program areas.

Maxwell Madison was one of two students in Michigan to earn the Excellence Award, while Alana Doe won a Merit Award.

The honors were among the Breaking Traditions Awards given out by the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education to 26 students from across the state. The students received the awards at a ceremony at the Library of Michigan in Lansing.

"These outstanding students are preparing themselves to enter a career that will benefit them individually and benefit Michigan by increasing diversity in our state's workforce," State Superintendent Michael Flanagan said. "By their determination and dedication to pursuing careers in an area nontraditional for their gender, they are role models for peers who may be considering such a career path."

The Breaking Traditions Award provides an avenue to recognize and highlight student achievement in nontraditional career training and to provide role models for other students who are considering a nontraditional career. The Breaking Traditions Award pre-



William D. Ford Career Technical Center Principal Steven Kay joins Maxwell Madison (left) and Alana Doe in showing off awards they received from the Michigan Department of Education.

sentation honors the accomplishments of Michigan students who are preparing for careers considered nontraditional for their gender.

Madison, a 2012 John Glenn High School graduate, was enrolled in the Emergency Medical Technician program at the career technical center. He was nominated by Deborah Tracz. He's described as "one of those peo-

ple who can take stress, emergencies or strenuous situations in stride. He enjoys helping people and fix things." In the EMT program, he studied resuscitation, defibrillation, assessing patients, and how to treat various illness and injuries. He has met the requirements for a certificate of completion of basic EMT and can take the national accreditation tests that allows him to apply for a Michigan EMT license.

Madison has served as a tour guide for eighth-grade students visiting the center, has participated in clinical experiences with rapid Response EMS and at Garden City Hospital. He also has served as a camp cabin leader for fifth-grade camp, regularly donates blood, received perfect attendance and academic awards. He is a member of I-Save, a student conservation and recycling organization, and is a participant in Health Occupations Students of America. He is also a member of the National Technical Honor Society and assisted with their homeless shelter fundraiser.

He plans to attend the Michigan Academy of Emergency Services to further his paramedic studies.

"If you want to go for a career, don't let outside opinions sway your judgment," he said.

Also a 2012 John Glenn High School

graduate, Doe was in the Automotive Collision Repair Class at the career tech center. She chose the Auto Body program because her sister was enrolled in it and liked it. She liked the creativity that was possible with the program.

As a second year student, she had a related co-op job, where she performed precision painting on machines for a manufacturing company. She is the only female who has ever worked on the manufacturing floor.

Doe is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. She has been awarded academic letters and outstanding attendance awards. She is a member of I-Save, a student conservation club, and has been a guide for center tours and a mentor for 10th-grade Try It sessions. She plans to continue to work for her current employer while she enrolls in college to continue to improve her painting and metal repair skills.

"In the end, it doesn't matter, if you're a girl or a guy, it just matters that the job is done right," she said.

Other career tech students received Breaking Traditions Award Certificates are Holley Renee Compton, automotive technology; Aubry Renee Gross, culinary arts, and Cheyenne Trujillo, computer aided drafting and design.

Lawsuit charges improper use of Taser caused man's death

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

The official cause of Donald Murray's death on July 30, 2011, is excited delirium - a paranoid, violent and aggressive state stemming from drug use that can result in heart or pulmonary arrest.

But a wrongful death lawsuit filed in federal district court by Murray's mother, Mary Brady, charges that it was the improper use of a Taser by Westland police officers that killed the 38-year-old.

"Police officers are supposed to investigate and make it better, not make it worse," said attorney Daniel Romano. "There is no good explanation for his death. We don't have capital punishment in Michigan. He should have ended up in jail, not the morgue."

The incident began when Murray, who had a criminal record of property crimes dating back to 1996, was visiting friends in Westland. The friends told police that based on his behavior, they suspected Murray had been smoking crack before he left their residence and headed out into the adjoining neighborhood.

Eventually, Murray showed up at a home on Beechnut. When he banged on the door, the elderly woman who lives in the home answered the door and Murray forced his way inside.

The woman, 80, was assaulted. Murray got into a physical altercation with her adult son, who intervened to get the intruder out of the home. During that struggle, Murray was reported to have struck his head on a landscaping brick. Neighbors responded to the son's calls

for help and were detaining Murray until police arrived. A Garden City officer was first to arrive and was able to handcuff Murray, described as actively resisting arrest, with his hands in the front.

Two Westland police officers arrived and described continuing to struggle Murray as they attempted to handcuff him behind his back. Murray was described by the officers as having blood on his arms and hands, abrasions to his face and a laceration on the top of his head.

In response to continued resistance, an officer applied a three-second stun to Murray, who was then handcuffed. At some time later, officers reported Murray appeared to have difficulty breathing and then stopped breathing. Officers did CPR until Westland Rescue arrived but Murray was pronounced dead on arrival at Garden City Hospital. "After a careful review of this inci-

dent I determined the officers actions were lawful and within departmental policy," said Westland Police Chief Greg Angelosanto. "They raced to the aid of an elderly resident and her son who were being assaulted by Donald Murray. The officers were simply doing their jobs, and the witnesses confirm that."

The lawsuit charging excessive force and constitutional rights violation, names the city, four Westland police officers and a Garden City police officer.

"He was already subdued (when officers arrived). The officers show up, he was loud," said Romano. "The officer makes it fatal. A lot of officers have poor training in Tasers. They are very dangerous weapons, just as deadly as a gun, if you already have excited delirium."

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MDOT widens traffic study beyond Ford Road

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Pursuing what many motorists consider a long-overdue solution to Canton's traffic woes, the Michigan Department of Transportation has begun a new study that reaches beyond car-clogged Ford Road.

The study is expected to hatch a set of preliminary proposals as early as August before closing in on a solution by January, Gorette Yung, MDOT project and contract administration engineer, said Thursday.

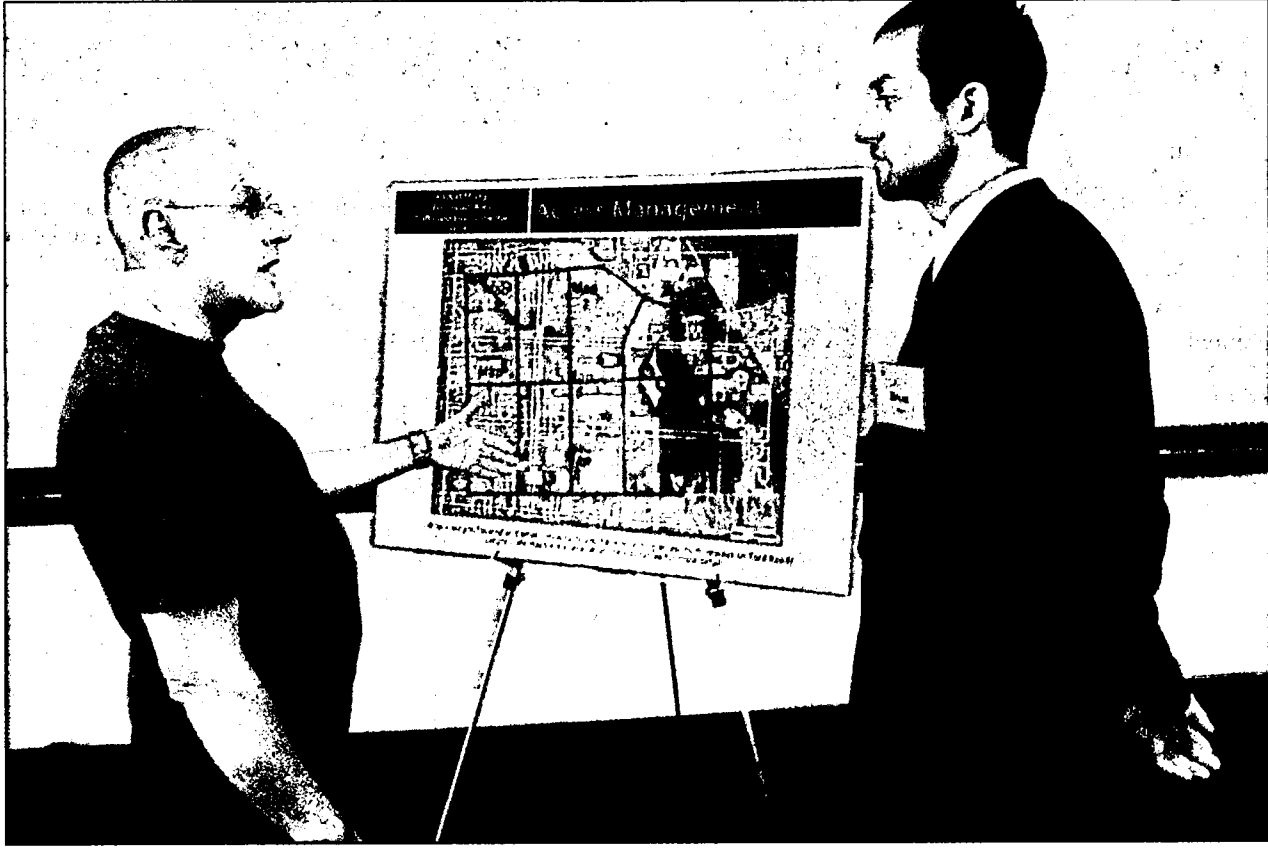
The effort is expected to lead to a phased-in solution to local traffic woes, Yung said, regardless of whether Canton and MDOT succeed at securing \$18 million or more through a fourth-round federal program dubbed TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery.

The latest MDOT analysis focuses not just on the Ford Road/I-275 interchange. Rather, it involves a traffic and environmental study of a larger area bounded by Warren to the north, Cherry Hill to the south, Sheldon to the west and Lotz to the east.

Voices heard

Aside from compiling traffic and accident data in the target area, Yung, other MDOT officials and a consulting firm, Wilbur Smith Associates, came to Canton's Summit on the Park grand ballroom Thursday evening for an informal meeting to hear the opinions of local residents who struggle every day amid the traffic bottlenecks.

"They drive it every day," Yung said. Much attention has



Brian Smith, at right, of Wilbur Smith Associates, speaks with local resident Larry Lucas, who said that curiosity drove him to come to the meeting. "I've lived here since (19)96 and have fought Ford Road ever since."



Frank Tintinalli and Robert and Terry Rosol speak with Matt Wendling of Wilbur Smith Associates.

been given to a years-old study to reshape the Ford/I-275 interchange. It involves adding new ramps from the southbound I-275 exit to allow motorists to access Haggerty Road in either direction without getting onto Ford. It also calls

for a northbound service drive just east of the interstate, from Cherry Hill to north of Ford.

The latest analysis also seeks other options. "MDOT realizes there's a problem here," said Matt Wendling, a senior civil engineer for Wil-

bur Smith Associates. "Everything's on the table."

He said the effort involves MDOT, Canton, Westland, Wayne County and the Federal Highway Administration — though any traffic solutions could have a far-

reaching impact on western Wayne County.

Canton resident Wendy Lukianoff, who lives near Palmer and Sheldon, told officials she opposes a northbound service drive from Cherry Hill, saying it will cause traffic congestion and noise along Cherry Hill, even if it is widened.

"It also would hurt the property values," she told the *Observer*.

Fixing the mess

Lukianoff said MDOT should consider measures such as installing roundabouts on Ford Road and adding double turn lanes from Ford onto Haggerty.

Canton resident Larry Lucas, who lives near Cherry Hill and Lilley, came to Thursday's meeting to hear what

MDOT had to say. He said traffic problems arose as Canton grew faster than its infrastructure did.

"I want to find out when they're going to fix this mess," he said. "We all know we're way behind on what is needed."

Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Paden attended the informal gathering because any traffic projects will affect the local business community. He supports efforts to ease congestion along Ford Road, Canton's main commercial corridor.

"We want to make it as easy as possible to connect the businesses to the consumers," Paden said.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said efforts to address traffic woes, particularly along Ford Road, have been needed for a decade or longer.

"This thing now is on the radar (for MDOT)," he said. "Work is going to be done. I hope it's sooner than later."

Wendling indicated other local meetings are expected in August, September and November as MDOT and Wilbur Smith Associates narrow the list of possible solutions before a final report is finished, likely by early next year.

Even though MDOT can't say with certainty when any road improvements would start, Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the latest developments, such as the traffic and environmental study, are encouraging.

"This sets the stage, whether we get the (federal) TIGER grant or not," he said.

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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Pickers Paradise

Vendors are need for the Picker Paradise Festival and Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 16, at Maxwell's Art and Treasures, 32416 Industrial, north of Ford, Garden City.

This is an indoor and outdoor artist, crafter, food, music, unique items, car and bike show and much more. The cost \$15 for an 8-by-8-foot space or 10-by-10-foot tent or \$25 for a double space. Call Sharon at (734) 748-0569 or Diane at (734) 764-7999.

Proceeds will benefit the Plymouth-Westland Grange to help build some needed art spaces and for more equipment at Maxwell's. The group is looking at a photo studio, framing department and more.

Park and Read

Stop by the Garden City Library at the Maplewood Center for popular Park and Read program, sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources and the Library of Michigan.

The program, now in its fourth year, offers library card-holders the option of checking out a one-day pass that waives the Recreation Passport entry fee into any of Michigan's 101 state parks and recreation areas.

The one-day pass, a \$10 savings, also provides free, one-time access to any of the more than 500 events scheduled to take place within the state parks throughout the summer. Passes are valid for seven days from checkout and are good for day use only. Park & Read runs now through Oct. 1.

The Park & Read pass is also valid at any of the 11 museums or historic sites within the Michigan Historical Museum system.

New state fair finds a home

By Nathan Mueller
Novi News Staff Writer

A state fair is coming back to Michigan.

And while the location, name and major players have changed, the core of what made the Michigan State Fair a success in Detroit for more than 100 years remains.

Dubbed the Great Lakes State Fair and scheduled for Aug. 31 to Sept. 3 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, organizers have put their focus on families, while also highlighting the many talents of Michiganders around the state. There will be large indoor livestock and agricultural areas, as well as a pavilion featuring strictly Michigan-made products.

Kent Roberts, vice chairman of the Great Lakes State Fair board, said members have been working for nearly two years to fill the void left in 2009 when the state fairground on Woodward Avenue and Eight Mile Road was shuttered. And with the help of Suburban Collection Showplace owner Blair Bowman, who donated his facility for free, the board believes it has a place where the fair can not only be revived, but also thrive.

"We are not really trying to duplicate the old state fair," Roberts said Wednesday at a press conference announcing the new fair. "We are trying to put together a 21st century version that is in alignment with the success, and able to promote what we know is true, and that builds upon that rich Michigan heritage of our

Former state fair GM expects new version to 'take off'

By Nathan Mueller
Novi News Staff Writer

There is no replacing the rich history of the Michigan State Fair, which entertained millions of people on Woodward Avenue for more than 100 years.

But Bob Porter, the general manager of the last Michigan State Fair in 2009, said the new Great Lakes State Fair at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, if run properly, will "really take off."

Porter said there was definitely a need for a state fair, and was con-

cerned that it may never return.

"I think a lot of people thought of the state fair as their Super Bowl," he said. "I think it can definitely be revived. If had gone much longer, though, I don't know how well it would have been received."

Porter, who lives in Ferndale, said he believes the state fair struggled in Detroit because of the city's image and that agriculture is isolated from the area.

"Moving it to a new location that is more oriented in the agricul-

tural world is going to have a positive effect," he said.

Porter said he also sees a great "value" in what a state fair brings to people, especially children.

"Kids growing up in inner cities and highly urban areas think hamburgers are something grown where your drive up and they hand it to you through a window," he said.

Novi resident Bob Cummings, who volunteered at the Michigan State Fair for 12 years, said he was excited to hear the state fair was

coming back.

Cummings boasts the largest collection of Michigan State Fair memorabilia known, including more than 60 programs from different years, with the oldest going back to 1879.

He is hoping to be able to display it at the Great Lakes State Fair, while also adding a new program to the collection.

"I always love showing that kind of stuff," he said. "It's great hearing people reminisce."

nmueller@gannett.com
(248) 437-2011, ext. 255
Twitter: @TheNoviNews

agricultural community."

Roberts noted that Michigan is the second most diversified agricultural state in the country and said it was a shame those people had few places to showcase their goods and talents.

That sentiment is echoed by Bowman, who admitted to watching from the outside as the fair came to an end in 2009 and as revival efforts came and went over the last two years. Finally, he said, he couldn't wait any longer and wanted to help.

"Michigan deserves a state fair and we have a place to provide that," he said. "We've heard loud and clear that effort needed to be done on a private sector basis and we are here ready to do that."

On top of the agricultural and livestock focus, the

Great Lakes State Fair also will feature a Shriner's Circus, large midway with carnival games and rides, a beer tent, camping village, merchandise and concessions and live entertainment.

Organizers are still finalizing the entertainment, but Bowman said, "If there were any major Michigan-based, born and bred entertainment acts that would like to help us come launch this thing, we would certainly appreciate that help."

Mayor's plea

Novi Mayor Bob Gatt took it a step further.

"My favorite entertainer in the whole world, even at my age, is a guy from Detroit, a guy from Michigan named Bob Ritchie, also known as Kid Rock," Gatt said. "And if he is listening, or his folks are listening, for

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(In advance) \$6 for adults; \$5 for children 2-12

(At the gate) \$8 for adults; \$6 for children 2-12

*The facility also will be charging a \$5 parking fee.

this thing to be successful we could certainly use his help. Show up for one day,

show up for one hour, and just be part of this. That is my challenge."

Bowman said he believes the fair will draw between 10,000-15,000 people per day in the inaugural year, but is hopeful that it far exceeds those numbers down the line. The last Michigan State Fair drew 217,000 visitors, with attendance peaking at 1.2 million in 1966.

"I don't want to start it here and go somewhere else," he said. "But if it needs to go to more traditional state fairgrounds, then great. But I think we cannot only start it here, but help it grow here and stabilize it for the long term."

For more information about the Great Lakes State Fair, including times and entertainment schedule, visit www.GreatLakesStateFair.org.

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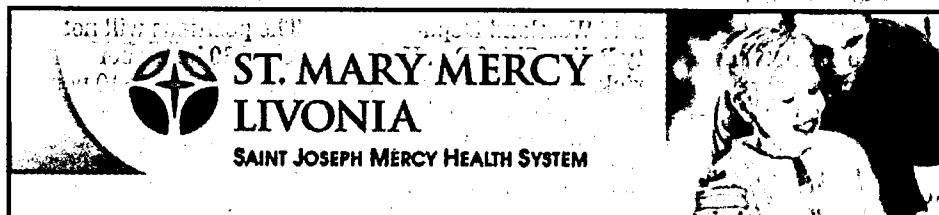
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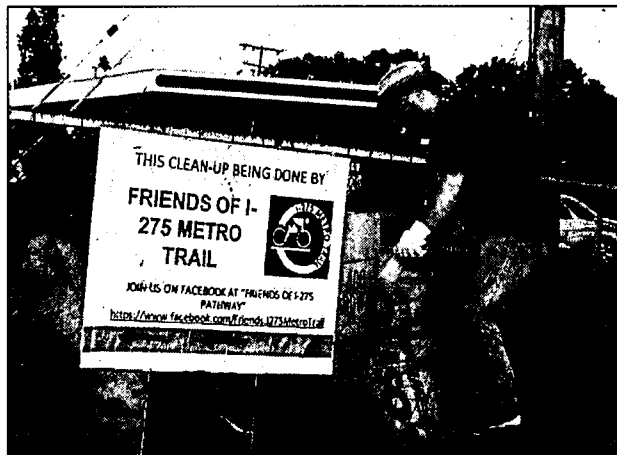
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Trail friends mobilize to spruce it up



Matt Fiems of Canton Township sets out a filled yard-waste bag during Wednesday's cleanup of the pedestrian and bicycling trail along I-275. The group Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail is planning twice-monthly evening trail-grooming events during the warmer months.



Diane Bancroft of Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail gives instructions to cleanup volunteers Wednesday before they headed out to work on the segment of the trail north of Ann Arbor Road. The group met in the state-owned parking lot behind the Denny's on Ann Arbor Trail.

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

MORE CLEANING

Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail are organizing another evening trail maintenance event for 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, June 21, on the section of trail just north of Eight Mile. For details, call Dave Duffield at (248) 994-3074, or visit the group's page on Facebook.

Armed with scythes and shears, loppers and rakes, a battalion of volunteers gathered Wednesday evening in a parking lot in Plymouth Township and marched into the wilderness of the I-275 corridor.

Their mission: An all-out assault on the weeds and vines, long grass and trash threatening to take over the improved I-275 pedestrian and bicycling trail.

"The effort, organized by Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail, brought out regular trail users as well as those who hadn't been on it in decades — or at all.

"It takes a lot of work to keep a trail nice," said Diane Bancroft of Canton Township, president of the Friends and a regular trail walker and bicyclist.

"I don't think people realize it when they're on it."

Wednesday's spruce-up, on the stretch of trail between Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail, east of the freeway, was the first of what the Friends plan as twice-monthly summertime evening trail-grooming events. The idea, Bancroft said, is that more frequent trimming over time will

make upkeep easier. Bancroft said that if everyone who uses the trail devoted an hour each warm season toward maintaining it, it would be in great shape. Until now, the Friends' cleanup efforts had been limited to sporadic Michigan Department of Transportation-sponsored events and more intense efforts in March and April to pick up litter accumulated over the winter, Bancroft said. This spring, she said, Friends volunteers collected more than 50 bags of trash along the trail. Though some trash was picked up Wednesday, the trail was relatively lit-

ter-free, and the focus was on cutting taller weeds and grass that can encroach on the asphalt, which was laid about two years ago, and trimming tree limbs and vines that can pose hazards for trail users. Organizers were thrilled with Wednesday's turnout, noting there were several newcomers among the dozen or so people working on the trail. "A lot of times it'll be me and Diana and Dave, the guy with the power edger," said Dave Duffield of Northville Township, who organizes Friends' maintenance efforts and bikes the trail

to work each morning. "I really didn't know this was here," volunteer Jan Bates of Westland said as she took a break Wednesday. Now that she knows about the trail, Bates said, she'll make a point of using it. Bates said she wanted to help clean the trail and do some networking in her search for a job. Unemployed, she has experience in administrative work and customer service, she said. She was asked why it was important to her to volunteer. "For that reason," she said, indicating a passing cyclist. "So that people can enjoy the trail with-

out getting hurt." Workers packed the vegetation trimmings into paper yard-waste bags and carted or carried the bags to the ends of that trail segment, at Ann Arbor Road and at Ann Arbor Trail, for pick-up by Plymouth Township public works employees. Volunteer Matt Fiems of Canton, who uses a segment of the trail near his home to walk his dogs, joked that the job was easier than doing similar tasks in one's own yard. "You look at yours, and it's work," Fiems said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405

Westland police to hire civilian service aides

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Like other city departments, the Westland Police Department has fewer officers due to decreased property values and the resulting lower property tax revenues. To help get more officers on the road, the department has created new civilian Police Service Aide positions to handle some of the more mundane tasks currently performed by officers. Now the department is working to fill 15 PSA positions.

"These positions are targeted at younger people with an interest in the criminal justice field," said Westland Deputy Police Chief Dan Karrick. "We are not looking for them to fulfill the job of an officer. An officer will oversee them. This will help us be more efficient." Working inside the police station, the civilian PSAs will perform duties including preparing reports, processing those taken into custody, processing complaints, fingerprinting, vehicle impoundments, invento-

ries, monitoring broadcasts, answering telephone calls and other assigned duties. The positions will not exceed 30 hours per week, pay about \$10 per hour and offer no benefits except possibly some holidays or other paid time off. Qualified individuals will have successfully passed the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards pre-enrollment written

and physical agility tests within the preceding 12 months. While the PSA positions won't likely be long-term jobs, Karrick said it can provide a leg up for people interested in becoming police officers. "Other departments call them cadets. With the PSAs, it might be an incentive, if we can send them to the (police) academy," said Karrick. "We would get a chance to see

what kind of people they are and if they applied, they could get extra bonus points for being a PSA." The deadline for applying for a PSA position is 5 p.m. Thursday, June 14. Karrick said the plan is to get the positions filled as soon as possible. Interested applicants

should submit a letter of interest, resume and five references in person to the attention of Kim Schultz, Westland Police Department, 36701 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185 or by e-mail to psacoord@wlpd.net.

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The Wayne-Westland Community Schools announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children

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Lunch Service will start Mon., June 18 - Fri., Aug. 17, 2012* (no service week of July 2-6) at all sites.
Lunch service times will be 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.* Monday-Friday at all sites.
*Dates and hours may vary by location.

For more information, please call 734-419-2118

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Date: June 26, 2012
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Wayne-Westland Community Schools
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Westland, MI 48185
ATTN: David Kaumeyer, Senior Executive Director of Business & Operations

All bids received after the date and time stated above will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened.

Bidding documents will be available by contacting Kim Droblich at the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Business Office at 734-419-2048 or via email at DroblichK@wwcs.k12.mi.us. Bid Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after June 11, 2012.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date of receipt of bids.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Publish June 10, 2012

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2012-2013 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Education of Garden City Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2012-2013 budget on June 18, 2012 at 6:30 o'clock pm., at 1333 Radcliff, Garden City, Michigan.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2012-2013 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2012-2013 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at Garden City Public Schools Business Office, 1333 Radcliff, Garden City, Michigan beginning June 18.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Darlene Jablonowski, Secretary
Board of Education

Publish: June 10, 2012

Teen, 17, a super sign spinner, store manager says

By Ashley Kennett
Correspondent

If you've ever found yourself at the corner of Six Mile and Newburgh roads stopped at a red light, chances are good you have been approached by 17-year-old Patrick Badgero dressed in full costume as Captain America.

For three months now, Badgero has been the face of Fitness 19 as a sign spinner. When Badgero applied, however, he did not anticipate ever having a job where he dressed as a superhero.

"I had no idea what I was getting into, but before I knew it I was trying on the costume, it fit, and I was working until 7 p.m. that same day," Badgero said.

Assistant manager Dustin Austin had the idea of having a mascot to promote Fitness 19, and suggested to club manager Reid Spiegl that they hire Badgero. It didn't take much con-

vincing, as Spiegl took an instant liking to Badgero.

Lots of energy

"We interviewed others, but everyone else had such a quiet personality. We put other people out there who just didn't work out," Spiegl said. "I moved to Michigan from California and I don't often run into people here with his kind of energy," he added.

Badgero is a recent graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia and will attend Schoolcraft College in the fall to study pharmacology.

"You would think going into pharmacology I'd be aiming a little higher," Badgero joked, "but it's actually a great job with really flexible hours."

Sign spinners make \$9 an hour, and Badgero typically works from 3-7:30 p.m. three or four days per week. Badgero is allowed to take as many breaks as he needs to, which comes in handy on extremely hot days

when he says he needs to be sure to take water breaks.

On the job, Badgero has encountered everyone from the mayor to Batman. Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey has stopped by on a few occasions to visit with Badgero, and a man with a "Batmobile" who entertains at children's parties also seems to feel a special superhero affinity with Badgero.

Increasing membership

Drivers responses to Badgero range from honking to taking photos, and sometimes even asking for an autograph. Of course, Badgero is an instigator, and tries to elicit such responses — any response. While he usually shouts some variation of "Just \$5 a month!" what he shouts to each passing vehicle depends on what he sees.

"If I see what looks to be a husband and wife, I try to bug the husband

and tell him to get off the couch and stop playing video games, or say that if he wants to keep his wife around he'd better go work out," Badgero said.

According to Spiegl, who owned Fitness 19 since its opening in March 2008, Badgero's enthusiastic sign spinning has resulted in an increase in memberships.

"Whenever an individual comes in, we ask where they saw us. At least 20 people over the last 30 days or so have said that they saw Captain America," Spiegl said.

Spiegl is grateful for Badgero's help and within 30-60 days, Badgero will work inside the club at the front desk where he will help to promote memberships, answer the phone, and keep the gym clean. Until then, Badgero will continue to embrace his other identity as a sign-spinning superhero.



Patrick Badgero, dressed as Captain America, is bringing lots of new customers into Fitness 19.

Disabled vets hold Steak Out.

Disabled Veterans Chapter 114 will hold its second annual Steak Out noon to 8 p.m. Monday, June 18, and 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, at Coach's Corner Sports Bar, 19170 Farmington Road, Livonia. The event is a membership drive and fund-raiser.

A full steak dinner is \$20 including non-alcoholic beverages. A hot

dog dinner is \$8. Meals include choice of potato, corn or salad.

There will be door prizes and a cash bar. Gratuity is not included in the meal prices.

Can't make it? Donations can be sent to Disabled American Veterans - Livonia 114, 30904 Plymouth Road, Livonia 48150. For more information, call (248) 615-1330.

Foundation sends six students to camp

Six students from Wayne Memorial High School will have the opportunity to attend a leadership camp this summer, thanks to the SET SEG Educational Foundation.

The foundation recently awarded Wayne Memorial a \$1,250 scholarship that will provide funding for students to attend the Michigan Association of Student Councils and Honor Societies Summer Leadership Camp at Albion College.

"We believe that educating and fostering emerging leaders is the

key to Michigan's future success," said Foundation Executive Director Chuck Miller. "This year, the foundation is awarding \$22,000 in scholarships to 18 high schools for Summer Leadership Camp - the most we have provided since we began the scholarship program six years ago."

The scholarship will be presented to Wayne-Westland officials at the Monday, June 11, school board meeting.

The MASCMAHS Leadership Camp, which takes place July 22-27, teaches students leadership principles that will


benefit their schools and communities. While at camp, students serve on committees and in councils, gaining hands-on experience and lifelong skills.

Leadership Camp sessions address communication, organizational skills, public speaking, team building, leadership styles and project planning and provide an environment for students to interact with their peers from school districts throughout Michigan.

Scholarship recipients were selected from a competitive field of

applicants and required input from a high school principal and a Student Council or Honor Society adviser.

The SET SEG Educational Foundation was established in 2005 and is a tax-exempt philanthropic organization. Its mission is to enable students to pursue enrichment opportunities that advance learning, leadership and civic responsibility. The foundation achieves its mission by providing services, scholarships, grants and other forms of financial support directly to Michigan public schools.

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Attorney starts a second recall attempt of Ficano

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A Plymouth attorney and candidate for Wayne County office has launched a second drive to recall County Executive Robert Ficano.

Richard Convertino, a Canton Township resident, said his petition to put a recall question to county voters is based on Ficano's role in the \$200,000 payout to former county economic development director Turkia Mullin last year, at a time when workers in the financially strapped county were taking concessions. Mullin returned the money after a public outcry, but the incident launched investigations into administration, and the Wayne County Board of Commissioners last week voted to censure Ficano.

Convertino, a former U.S. attorney now in private practice, said the Mullin incident is an example of the way Ficano operates, and that



Richard Convertino, an attorney and candidate for Wayne County office has launched a second drive to recall County Executive Robert Ficano.

the county executive's administration is "an open drain on taxpayer dollars."

"Not only are they tone deaf to what's going on in this county, but the more

their hearing becomes impaired, the fatter their wallets become," he said Friday.

Ficano spokesman Tom Downey rejected the premise of the recall

effort and said Convertino is trying to draw attention to his own bid for the county commission. Convertino is a candidate in the Republican primary for the com-

mission's newly redrawn 10th District, which includes the Plymouth and Canton areas.

"It looks or certainly appears that he's trying to leverage the recall effort to heighten his time with the press," Downey said.

Downey said the recall petition "is exactly the same petition that he filed last fall. It went nowhere."

Convertino said that he relied on grassroots support in his first recall effort and that it was difficult to gather signatures in the colder months. This time, he said, he's planning to raise money to supplement volunteers with professional circulators, and will begin collecting signatures outside county polling places during the Tuesday, Aug. 7, primary.

The language on the latest recall petition was approved by the Wayne County Elections Commission on May 30.

The movement will have 90 days, from the

date the petition is first signed, to gather enough signatures to put a recall question on the ballot. Downey said just over 131,000 signatures of registered county voters are needed, a number that's based on the number of ballots cast in the county in the last gubernatorial election.

Convertino said the recall effort has a goal of 150,000 signatures.

"The goal is to get it on the November ballot, but that's a tall order," he admitted.

Convertino denied his recall effort was an attempt to grab attention for his candidacy. But he said he entered the commission race for the same reasons that he began the recall: to ensure fiscal responsibility and restore confidence in a "rudderless" county government.

"I'm more interested in running him out of office than I am in taking office myself," he said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
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July festival benefits Garden City Rotary, schools

By Sue Buck
Observer Staff Writer

A first-time festival in Garden City in early July will benefit two groups.

Garden City Rotary President Jack Pelon spent months trying to find the right location for a Wade Shows festival fundraiser. He scouted out possible festival sites, including the Kmart center parking lot at Ford and Middlebelt and the old Lin-

coln Mercury site on Ford, west of Middlebelt which is now owned by a bank.

Neither idea worked until Garden City Schools Superintendent Michelle Cline offered a workable suggestion — use the Garden City High School parking lot.

The deal was struck and now the Garden City Rotary and the Garden City Public Schools will share the proceeds, 60 percent to the Rotary for their service proj-

ects and 40 percent to the school system.

"This will be big," said Pelon. "We have never done this before."

The festival will be held in the high school parking lot at 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Friday-Sunday, July 6-8. The hours will be 4-11 p.m. July 6, noon to 11 p.m. July 7 and noon to 8 p.m. July 8.

All of the requirements have been met and the festival has been approved by the Garden

City Council. The Police Department has developed a schedule so that two uniformed officers will be on the premises during all peak hours. That should provide a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for all those attending, according to Pelon.

"The proceeds from the fundraiser will directly benefit Garden City School children and allow the Garden City Rotary to continue supporting local community

projects," Pelon said.

Wade Shows has provided carnivals in other communities. For this event, it will furnish a full carnival midway, consisting of mechanical rides, games and food concessions. Wade Shows will be responsible for, and repair, any damage it may cause to the grounds.

Online discounts on the daily wristband rate are available by visiting the Garden City Public Schools website at www.

gardencityschools.com or through Wade Shows at www.wadeshow.com. Single tickets, ticket packages, and pay one price wristbands at \$20 will be available throughout the event.

Rotary Club program chairwoman Wilma Healy complimented Pelon's efforts.

"No one has done more than Jack to help Garden City," she said.

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Spaghetti dinner

The final monthly spaghetti dinner of 2011-2012 at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, June 22. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center is holding game night 6-9 p.m. Thursday, June 14. It also has euchre and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

Health expo

Cardiologist Dr. Vicky Savas will host her 23rd annual Savas Health Expo 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 16, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road in Westland.

One \$25 Fun Pack admission ticket includes a complimentary breakfast and lunch, free blood pressure, hearing test, BMI test and relaxing massage. Complimentary gifts, door prizes and health lectures and free literature will be provided during the event.

The day's event includes an auction with autographed Detroit Tigers and Red Wings sports memorabilia, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island golfing package, dinner certificates and gift cards.

The Savas Health Expo is an annual fund-raiser. This year, proceeds are going to Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Westland.

To become a sponsor and advertise in the Expo booklet or for more information regarding registration, call (248) 356-5033.

Kid's Night Out

Kids can enjoy a night out at the "Summer Beach Bash" 6-10 p.m. Saturday, June 16, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne.

Want to have a night off? Children ages 6-11 are invited for a night of fun. Activities include swimming, games, pizza, pop and going to Attwood Park. The cost is \$13 per child for resident/member and \$16 per child for non-residents.

For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

Garage Sale

If you missed the Westland Community Garage Sale, there's another chance to sell unwanted items.

Get a 10-foot by 10-foot spot at the inside the Wayne Community Center Ice Arena to sell everything 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 23. For \$20, you can reserve your spot but hurry space is limited.

Contact Nathan Adams at (734) 721-7400, ext. 1300, or by email at nadams@ci.wayne.mi.us for more information or to reserve a spot.

The Wayne Community Center is at 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne.

Book sale

There's bargains to be had at the summer book sale in the Friends Shop at the William P. Faust Public Library.

Stock up on hardcover fiction books only with the shop's buy two get one free. Hardcover books are \$1 each, so get three hardcover fictions for just \$2.

The sale doesn't include hardcover biographies, nonfiction and large-print books.

Dinner show

Tribute artist and impressionist Chris Ayotte will perform Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tom Jones, Elvis Presley and more at a dinner show Friday, June 22, at Angelo Brothers Banquet Hall, 33550 Ford Road, Westland.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the show at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$27 per person. Dinner includes a tossed salad, rigatoni, roast beef with gravy, Italian sausage saute, green beans almondine, red skinned mashed potatoes, bread and butter, coffee, tea and pop. A cash bar will be available.

For tickets, contact Kathy at (734) 216-9451 or at www.angelos1958.com.

Higher Rock Cafe

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army hosts Higher Rock Cafe, an evening of Christian music, fellowship, games and concessions at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Fri-

day of the month at the corps, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer. There's no cover charge. For more information visit Higher Rock Cafe on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Wayne Westland HRC or call (734) 722-3660.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251, meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post 251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

Healing Hearts

Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Individuals share ideas, resources and experiences that are helpful to one another.

Meetings are 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Donations only.

For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237, by e-mail at bonnie@hope4healinghearts.com or visit www.hope4healinghearts.com.

Weatherization help

Weatherization Assistance is a home energy conservation program providing services to low-income residents. Families receiving weatherization services can expect heating costs to be reduced 20-25 percent, amounting to about \$300 saving per year.

Eligible projects include such things as floor insulation, storm windows, window repair/replacement, programmable thermostat, furnace and duct repair or replacement and roof repairs.

Wayne-Metropolitan Community Action Agency manages the Weatherization Program for Wayne County, including the city of Westland. Contact Jeff Boyd, weatherization director, at (734) 284-6999.

Author, financial pro excited to be working close to home

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Scott Frush of Northville Township used to commute to work in Southfield. Since late March, he's been working on his own with his Frush Financial Group — complete with a 2.7-mile commute each way.

"No. 1, Southfield's very congested," said Frush, who'd been with Lincoln Financial Advisors. He's got a lot of Birmingham-Bloomfield clients and others, and is picking up Northville area clients.

He found commuting took up his time. "Anytime I'm in the car is just a waste of time."

Frush has written a number of books on investing, as well as several trivia books. He's a certified financial planner and chartered financial analyst. "It is a very strong designation, probably the top one in my field," he said of the latter.

Frush earned a bachelor's degree in business with a finance concentration from Eastern Michigan University in 1994. He's an M.B.A. graduate (class of 1999) from Notre Dame University, as well as a St. Agatha High School of Redford graduate.

Frush, 41, is married to Christina and dad to Gabriella, 5, and Ryan, 3. He's thrilled to be leasing office space from Lee Holland & Associates in Northville.

'Terrific decision'

"Everything about it is excellent. Terrific decision," said Frush, noting Holland has an accounting/investment background and others in the office are also helpful.

"I enjoy the restaurants here," he said, including Rebecca's, Poole's and others. He can meet at coffee shops like the Tuscan Cafe

and The Next Chapter Bookstore & Bistro with clients.

"The kids love it because of the doughnuts," he said of the Tuscan Cafe. "I just get coffee."

Frush has his 10th book out this year, with McGraw-Hill publishing his first hardcover, "The Strategic ETF Investor."

He wrote seven investing books, and three on trivia "that I wrote for fun." He self-published his first financial book, with the rest from McGraw-Hill. "It got my foot in the door with McGraw-Hill," he said of the first financial book. "I believe everyone has at least one if not multiple books inside them."

The trivia books are self-published and include Catholic and Italian trivia, as well as a forthcoming one on Wall Street trivia.

"I just do it when I have the time," he said of writing. He writes at lunch, when the kids are in bed, waiting for his hair to be cut and on the treadmill.

"I ask my wife to drive a lot of times. It works."

Series of books

In his books and work with clients, Frush demystifies exchange-traded funds. "ETFs are growing by leaps and bounds," he said. "Everyone's trying to get in on the business."

He recommends getting good professional advice on investing, a plan in your best interests and not created just to sell products.

Frush has started a blog, etfmarketwatch.com. He's also excited about "ETF Professor TV" videos he'll start showing online this summer on etfprofessor.tv.

Frush will also teach a class to undergraduates in business this fall at the University of Michigan-Flint.

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Neighborhood prays for injured bicyclist

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The Sulaks of Livonia are overwhelmed by the number of blue ribbons showing up all over their subdivision, indicating neighbors are praying for their mentally challenged son, Christopher, who was seriously injured in a bicycle-car accident June 2.

"We didn't realize how many families and people he's touched," his father, Jerry, said of the hundreds of blue ribbons tied on trees, light poles, bushes and mailboxes. "It's such a nice gesture."

Christopher, 35, is the guy in Idyle Hills Estates off Five Mile Road everyone can depend on when they need a hand shoveling snow or cutting down a tree, neighbor Shellie Anagnostou said. "Everybody knows Chris. Whenever there's action, there's Chris."

After hearing about his accident, Anagnostou put a sign in the Sulaks' front yard telling them that if they see a blue ribbon, it means that neighbor is praying for Chris. Blue stands for "Blessings, love, unlimited encouragement," the sign says. "I started the ball rolling ... and it snowballed," Anagnostou said.

Chris has been in a medically-induced coma at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, with four skull fractures, his father said. His parents have been at his side daily since the accident.

Sulak said his son, the second oldest of four children, doesn't have a driver's license so his bicycle is his transportation.

Christopher was riding eastbound on the sidewalk of Five Mile Road near Ellen when he drove down a driveway and veered out into the roadway, where he was struck by a 2010 Ford Focus driven by an 84-year-old Livonia woman, Livonia Police said. The driver does not appear to be at fault.

Sulak said his son's disability hindered some of his cognitive skills — he graduated from the special education program at Churchill High School. But socially, he has no dif-



Christopher Sulak is well-known and well-loved by many in Livonia.

facilities.

"He's just a terrific kid," his dad said, adding he has an upbeat personality and never has anything negative to say about anybody.

Chris is well-liked not only in the neighborhood, but throughout Livonia. He volunteers at Livonia Spree, picking up cans, and plays basketball at the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

The police and paramedics who responded to the accident scene all knew him, his dad said.

The neighbors' prayers appear to be working. On Thursday, Chris began breathing again on his own.

Anagnostou said there's no reason to limit the prayers to the residents of Idyle Hills. "Anyone's invited to join the Blue Ribbon Campaign," she said.

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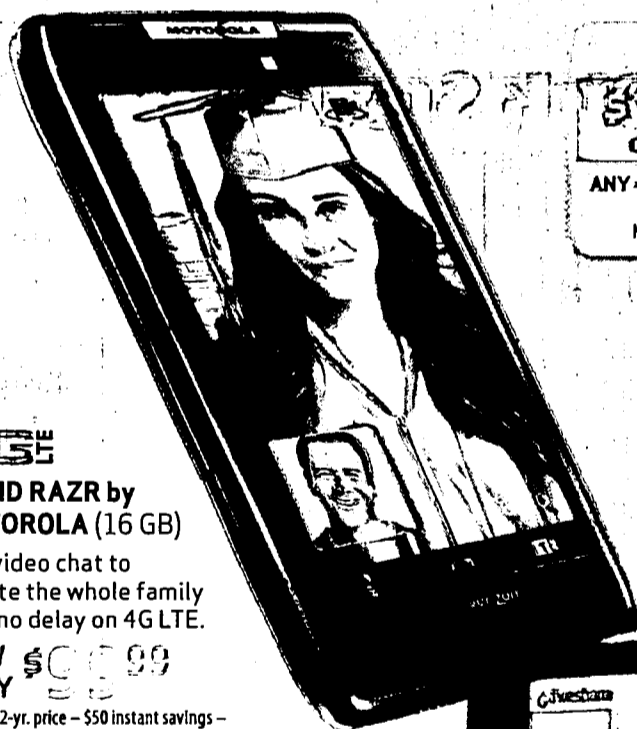
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Neighborhood trees sport blue ribbons of encouragement for Chris Sulak.



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Protesters seek to protect religious freedom

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

On Friday, hundreds of residents from western Wayne County protested President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act and the Department of Health and Human Services mandate.

Residents participated in a Stand Up for Religious Freedom prayer rally at the corner of Five Mile and Levan, across from St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

They said the mandate forces religious institutions, such as Catholic hospitals and universities, to offer contraceptives, surgical sterilizations and abortion-inducing drugs in employee health insurance plans, which violates teachings of the Catholic church.

Stand Up rallies were scheduled Friday in 13 cities across Michigan, and 143 in the United States.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has scheduled a Mass at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 24, at the Cathedral of Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit as part of Fortnight for Freedom, scheduled June 21 through July 4, by the U.S. Conference of Bishops.

The date for the Stand Up Rally, June 8, was chosen to highlight the HHS mandate's unconstitutional infringement of religious freedom, coming before the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Obamacare, expected at the end of June.

Organizers said June 8 was the 223rd anniversary of the day James Madison introduced the Bill of Rights to the first Congress, including what would become the First Amendment. The prayer rally emphasized the First Amendment and that all health care laws respect religious freedom.

Dr. Miguel Lis-Planells, a neurosurgeon at the Michigan Head and Spine Institute in Southfield and vice chair of neurosurgery at Sinai Grace Hospital, said the U.S. is "less tolerant of God" and that marriage and family "are under



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michelle McGill, of Northville, and Pam Malo, of Livonia, protesting at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

attack." Lis-Planells said the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies devised the guidelines for the Affordable Health Care Act and mandates, classifying pregnancy as a disease.

"Since when in human history has pregnancy been a disease?" Lis-Planells asked the crowd.

Contraception in the form of birth control pills adds to health risks down the road for women, Lis-Planells said, including increased breast cancer, heart attacks and blood clot risks.

The mandates intrude on the relationship between the doctor and patient, Lis-Planells said. "You now have Uncle Sam looking over your shoulder," he said.

Lis-Planells advised the audience to write to lawmakers on the issue on their right of conscience and freedom of religion.

"The battle is in courts and in Congress," he said.

The Detroit Religious Freedom Rally was organized by Monica Migliorino Miller, who is also national co-director of the nationwide Stand Up for Religious Freedom Rallies and director of Citizens for a Pro-life Society.

"The rally is intended as a clear message to the federal government that it has no business defining the scope of religious ministry and that faith-based institutions and even private businesses affected by the mandate will simply not comply with the government's unjust intrusion into the affairs of religion and freedom of conscience," Miller said.

These rallies are necessary to ensure that freedom of religion will be protected in any possible subsequent health care legislation if Obama's

health care plan is ruled unconstitutional, Miller said.

"This is not about access to contraception. This is a religious liberty issue, plain and simple, and we remain committed to work for the reversal of this mandate," she said.

"The HHS mandate actually seeks to define what constitutes religious ministry in its narrowly crafted so-called exemption. This sort of government intrusion must be opposed. This is not about the issue of contraception, this is about protecting religious liberty as it is enshrined in the United States Constitution. The so-called Obama accommodation has done nothing to settle the controversy."

Protesters want the mandate stopped. Several protesters stood along both sides of Five Mile Road, holding signs that read "Stand Up for Religious Freedom" and "Stop Obama's

HHS Mandate." Scott Parcha of Redford held a sign on Five Mile, greeted by honks from supportive motorists. "We're standing up for religious freedom," he said. "Our freedoms are starting to fall away from us, little by little." Parcha said the mandate "declared war on the Catholic church and all people's faiths."

Parcha hoped that the prayer rally will draw more people to the cause. "Maybe those on the fence will wake up and see what's going on," he said.

Lucille Fritz of Livonia believes hospitals should not be forced to provide abortions, nor should contraception be forced under the mandate. "(Contraception) should be an individual decision, not a mandate by the government," she said.

Nancy Dankert of Plymouth wanted to protect religious freedom and freedom of conscience, holding up her sign for motorists from a folding chair. "I hope this rally influences the public and I'd like to let them know what's going on," she said. "It also strengthens us, and to see us together, it shows we can make a difference."

Connie Andres of Livonia doesn't like the law. "We need to protect our rights," she said. "Anyone in the medical field will be affected by it."

Her daughter works as a pharmacist, Andres said. She would be mandated to provide birth control at her job, which goes against her Catholic beliefs, she said. "I thought Obama had some possibilities as a president, but I don't like this law. It's too over the top," Andres said. "If you are in the medical field, you will have to participate or be fired."

Richard Mesner of Livonia said Americans should be allowed to "follow our conscience and our understanding of God" without interference. "It's what the foundation of our country is all about," he said.

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Churches gear up for Vacation Bible School

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Members of Livonia Church of Christ will pitch so many tents in their church sanctuary next weekend, they'll have no room for indoor worship services.

"We're going to be setting up folding chairs under our awing for worship service," explained Diane Stephens, office manager at the church.

The inconvenience is all for an educational cause. Like many other local congregations, Livonia Church of Christ starts Vacation Bible School the following day. Summer JAM (Jesus and Me), couples an outdoor camping adventure theme with a focus on the Lord's Prayer, to keep kids busy with crafts, singing, Bible lessons, games, snacks and pretend tent camping 10 a.m.-noon, Monday-Thursday, June 18-21 at the church, 15431 Merriman, Livonia. A family picnic will wrap up classes noon to 1 p.m. June 21. Register by calling (734) 427-8743.

Church members wrote the program that is aimed at ages 5-sixth grade.

"There's a lot of excitement right now," Stephens said. "I think it will be good. A lot of churches do Vacation Bible School at night. We're having a daytime Summer Jam. It's a nice thing for parents who are looking for something for their children to do."

She said the church hasn't offered Vacation Bible School the last few years.

"Some of the parents said these are important memories for our



children and we've got to make this happen.' There are times you take a break from Vacation Bible School and rethink it."

Faith and arts

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills revamped its summer programming nearly 10 years ago, dropping Vacation Bible School in favor of a faith-oriented arts camp.

"We extended it to include 7th and 8th graders this year," said Denise Schulte, camp coordinator. "The theme is the Armor of God."

The reference to God's armor is from Ephesians,

Schulte said. Its purpose in a camp setting is to encourage youngsters to "turn to the equipment that God has given them" when coping with such difficulties as bullying or peer pressure. Schulte said God's protective armor is especially relevant at a time when some teens are using K2 and other synthetic drugs.

Campers will get a taste of visual art, drama, and music each day from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday, June 25-29 at the church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills. They also can study dance during daily "speciality" time that culminates in a recital on June

29. The program is aimed at youngsters who have completed first-sixth grades. Cost is \$40 per child for the week and \$30 for each additional child. Register at poplms.org.

A rock concert by the church's praise band will kick off camp week from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, June 23. The event includes a

barbecue buffet that will benefit New Directions Lutheran Child and Family Services of Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for youth, ages 4-10 and free for children, 3 and under. A family ticket for two adults and two children is available for \$24. Call (248) 553-3380.

A separate Bible study period and snack time will keep the campers focused on the Armor of God theme.

"The first day is the Belt of Truth. The person in charge of snacks is making fruit roll-ups look just like a belt," Schulte said. "For Helmet of Salvation we have cookie cutters that look like a helmet."

Plants and animals

Snack time also will become a part of the learning process at the "Animal Crackers" themed Vacation Bible School program 9:30 a.m.-noon, Aug. 13-17 at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Youngsters will forego treats the first day as they discuss hunger around the world. They'll learn about "people and their needs," animals, plants, and the environment and will bake their own cookies, make crafts, play games and become involved with a mission

project during the week-long series. Animals will visit the summer school, youngsters will make Christmas ornaments out of sheep's wool and they will learn to play *Circle of Life* and *It's a Small World After All* with bells.

The Rev. Karen Poole said the program is loosely connected with Heifer International, an organization that enables supporters to donate goats, pigs, fish and other animals to individuals around the world.

"At Easter, instead of giving objects to the children, we had \$1 bills they could put in a basket to contribute," she said. "I want the same to happen with Vacation Bible School."

Participants in Animal Crackers Vacation Bible School will get a chance to donate toward an outreach project that deals with plants or animals.

Poole said the church will kick off Vacation Bible School week with a Blessing of the Animals at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12 at the church. The blessing is open to all. Youngsters in pre-K-6th grade may register for Animal Crackers at nardinpark.org. The summer session is free.

Here's a sampling of other local Vacation Bible School programs:

Please see GEAR UP, B6

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June

ALZHEIMER'S CAMP FOR KIDS

The Alzheimer's Association-Greater Michigan Chapter offers Camp Connections, a free, three-day education and recreational program for school age children who have a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Kids will learn basic information on dementia and ways to cope with the illness through interactive activities and games. The camp runs 10 a.m.-1 p.m. June 19, 21 and 26 at the Alzheimer's Association, 20300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100, Southfield. Lunch is provided and pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call the Harry L. Nelson Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

Here's a sampling of offerings. For more, visit gchosp.org:
• Diabetes Self-Management Education is 9 a.m. June 12 and 19 and 6 p.m. June 7, 14 and 21 and teaches self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. The program is certified by the Michigan Department of Community Health to assure quality and compliance with State and National Diabetes Education Standards. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.
• Focus on Living Cancer Support is at 7 p.m. June 14 and is designed to bring together cancer patients with a nurse facilitator who helps all share their mutual concerns. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.
The hospital is located at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.



Makela

PELVIC HEALTH

Dr. Paul Makela, medical director of gynecological robotic surgery at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will present a seminar, "Women and Pelvic Health," from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 28 at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth and from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, July 12 at Summit on the Park in Canton. Makela will discuss pelvic health, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options. Refreshments and giveaways will be provided. The seminar is free but registration is required. Call (734) 655-1980.

LYMPHEDEMA SCREENING

The Botsford Cancer Center will offer free lymphedema screening 3-4 p.m. Tuesday, June 26 for any breast cancer patient. Botsford physical and occupational therapists certified in lymphedema treatment will check participants for signs of arm swelling and how this interferes with a person's function;

they will assess the swollen arm's movement and strength; as well as conduct a detailed interview. All breast cancer patients, including those treated at other hospitals for breast cancer, may attend the event. Register by calling (248) 471-8648. The Botsford Cancer Center is located at 27900 Grand River Ave., Farmington.

SPIRITUAL CARE

The Spiritual Care Department at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia seeks volunteers for a new program that assists patients' families with emotional and spiritual needs, such as providing prayer, scripture reading and companionship. An informational meeting about the training is set for 1:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 13 in the auditorium at the hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan. Training lasts three to six weeks depending on volunteer's experience and patients' needs. For more information, call Mary Mercy Chaplain Margaret Dutka at (734) 655-2977 or e-mail dutkam@trinity-health.org

WALK WITH A DOC

Rhonda Thompson, EMT, RN, trauma injury and outreach coordinator, will discuss "Pedestrian Safety" at the next "Walk with a Doc" session, noon, Thursday, June 21 at the Farmington Hills Nature Center, 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. She'll offer tips for walking at night, choosing a safe route for biking or walking, and how to keep kids safe. The free monthly health and wellness discussion is presented by Botsford Hospital and includes refreshments, a blood pressure screening and casual walk along a trail. Other upcoming

topics are stress management on July 19, healthy feet on Aug. 23 and memory loss and dementia on Sept. 20. Call the Nature Center at (248) 477-1135 or visit www.walkwithadoc.org for more information. Register for Walk with a Doc and other Nature Center Programs at <https://rec-reg.fhgov.com>.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Mott Children's Hospital rated among the best

U.S. News & World Report ranked The University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital fourth in the nation for heart care and heart specialty in its 2012-13 Best Children's Hospitals rankings.

C.S. Mott is nationally ranked in all 10 of the evaluated categories. It's 14th in orthopedics, 17th in endocrinology and is among the country's best in cancer, gastroenterology, nephrology, neurology and neurosurgery, neonatology, pulmonology and urology.

The new rankings recognize the top 50 children's hospitals in each of 10 pediatric specialties: cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology, neonatology, nephrology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, pulmonology, and urology. Eighty hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty.

Dr. Chris Dickinson, interim executive director of C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, said he's glad that U.S. News and World Report recognized the hospital.

"These top rankings in a variety of specialties illustrate the broad spectrum of strengths and skills among our C. S. Mott faculty and staff. It's that expertise that makes it possible for us to provide exemplary care for patients and families from Michigan and around the world," stated Dickinson, in a press release.

C.S. Mott's Congenital Heart Center performs more than 850 cardiac operations each year — from the most common to the most complex. As an international referral center for children with complex congenital heart problems, U-M has the second largest congenital heart program in the United States.

"In our congenital heart program and all of our programs, we offer excellent clinical care to the sickest of children," stated Dr. John Park, surgeon-in-chief for Mott Children's Hospital. "It is especially gratifying to be ranked in all clinical categories. We are proud of the breadth of expertise of our physicians, nurses and clinical support staff."

Since the 2007 debut of Best Children's Hospitals, the U.S. News and World Report rankings has put an increasing emphasis on data that directly reflect hospitals' performance over the opinions of physicians.

This year, U.S. News surveyed 178 pediatric centers to obtain hard data such as availability of key resources and ability to prevent complications and infections. The hospital survey made up 75 percent of the rankings. A separate reputational survey in which 1,500 pediatric specialists — 150 in each specialty — were asked where they would send the sickest children in their specialty made up the remaining 25 percent.

The full rankings and methodology are available at www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals.

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Share your talent!

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about?



Share your talent with us. We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight.

Elizabeth Ho is the winner of the Mother's Day contest. She won \$20 Kohl's Gift Certificate for her mom.

That Light

*The light in the darkness.
 The end of the tunnel.
 The moment of breaking through the constraints of the Night.
 And waiting for me
 At the end
 Is my mother.
 Thank you.*

-Elizabeth Ho



Elizabeth Ho and her Mom.

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Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

Scoop's Craft Corner

Let dad know how much you love and appreciate him by giving him a one of a kind trophy decorated with love. It's super simple to make and a lot of fun too.

Items needed:

- 2 paper cups
- Masking tape
- Construction paper or card stock paper
- Gold paint (or any color of your chose)
- Scissors
- small box(optional)

Directions:

- 1 Tape 2 paper cups together at the bottom with masking tape to create the body of the trophy.
- 2 Paint both cups with gold paint (or other color).
- 3 To make handles cut out two D shapes from the construction paper making sure to make the flat part of the D a little thicker so you can fold it against the trophy.
- 4 Paint the D shapes the same color as the trophy.
- 5 Once paint dries, glue the handles to the trophy.
- 6 Decorate your trophy with personalized message, to Dad.

Create Dad a cherished keepsake!



Optional:

To really make your trophy stand out, paint a small box gold for a base and glue the trophy on top. Add a personal message on box.

Source: easypreschoolcraft.blogspot.com

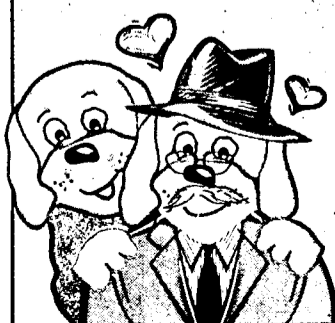
School is almost out for the summer making it a good time to talk about safety. Scoop wants all of his friends to be safe at all times.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- 1 If you are on the computer, never give out your personal information or send pictures of yourself without your parent's permission. Remember some people on-line may not be who they say that they are.
- 2 Make sure that your parents know where you are at all times.
- 3 Stay away from strangers.
- 4 If you become lost from your parents in a store, ask someone who works there to help you.
- 5 If you do ever need to defend yourself from a stranger, run for help and yell out "Help, this is not my parent!"
- 6 Stay away from weapons like guns and knives in the home. Don't even touch it!
- 7 By all means, say NO to all drugs, alcohol, chemicals, or activities that you know your parents would not approve of.
- 8 If someone is hurting you or making you do things that make you feel uncomfortable or ashamed, tell someone right away or even call the Police by dialing 911.

Brain Teaser Word Search

Fun things to do with Dad



A	S	W	I	M	P	Q	W	E	T
P	I	H	O	I	A	U	E	R	Y
L	N	K	O	J	I	W	A	L	K
H	G	C	Y	P	N	G	T	A	F
V	C	A	O	X	T	Z	S	U	D
B	L	N	M	L	O	V	E	G	A
P	W	Y	C	C	O	O	K	H	K
J	D	R	A	W	P	R	E	A	D

COLOR	WALK	LAUGH
EAT	SWIM	SHOP
PLAY	READ	COOK
DRAW	SING	LOVE
		PAINT

