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See more information in a special advertisement (Look for Paws) inside today's edition.

Shopping spree

Christmas in July is back this year inside Hometownlife INSPIRE, which will be published today (July 19).

List the pages where you spot the holiday icon and enter with the form inside the print edition of INSPIRE or online at hometownlife.com.

All entries must be received by midnight July 31. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries. You could win \$250, \$125 or \$75 to go on a Christmas in July shopping spree.

City hall remediation OK'd

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

After some sticker shock at the price to convert the now-closed Bailey Center into a temporary city hall, the Westland City Council voted to accept a bid to remediate asbestos in the current city hall.

Meanwhile, the erosion of the soil around the city hall foundation continues

to increase, a problem related to ongoing water problems in the building's basement. Council has not decided on how and where to build a new city hall.

"We thought the Bailey Center would be an alternative. Our recommendation is that we move forward with the city hall remediation," Mayor William Wild said. "With the conditions at city hall,

we have to do something pretty quick. I'd be in favor of putting money into the Bailey Center, if we had a plan in place. I wouldn't do it without an exit strategy."

Engineer Wayne Hoppe of OHM provided a report estimating a \$620,000 cost to transform the Bailey Center into a facility that could serve as a temporary city hall until a new municip-

pal building is constructed.

The mayor and council decided to look at a temporary city hall partly in response to an anticipated high bill for asbestos remediation on a building that is expected to be replaced in the near future.

The bid from Asbestos Removal Technologies is for up to \$46,320, but could be reduced to

\$38,920 if city workers move furniture and files to facilitate the work.

The work involves cleaning and sealing asbestos containing material used to seal windows and that is now crumbling. The remediation was ordered by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration in

Please see CITY HALL, A2



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The roof of the McKee barn crosses the intersection of Marquette and Wayne Road on its way to its new home at the Westland Historic Village Park.

Takin' a ride

Movers deliver McKee barn roof to village park

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

With police cars stopping traffic and closing intersections, there was the appearance of a presidential motorcade Tuesday morning on Wayne Road.

The passenger was a lot bigger and slower moving, however, as the roof of the McKee barn was moved from behind the family farmhouse on

Cowan to the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne Road south of Marquette.

Onlookers included Dale and Jan Clements of Redford. The late Elmer McKee, who lived his entire life on the family farm, was Dale Clements' uncle.

"I spent a lot of time here, I used to sit on my uncle's lap while he was driving the tractor," Dale Clements said. "I used



Dale (left) and Jan Clements of Redford stand in front of all that remained after the McKee barn was relocated to the Westland Historic Village Park Tuesday. Dale Clements is the nephew of the late Elmer McKee.

to watch the Quo Vadis drive-in from the porch. As the trees got taller, we moved down the street." Located on Cowan east

of Wayne Road, the McKee family farm had been a fixture in Nankin Township since 1874. McKee, who died in July 2011 at

96, and his late wife Sarah had no children, so the home was being sold

Please see ROOF, A2

INDEX

Business.....A9
Crossword Puzzle.....B10
Entertainment.....B6
Food.....B8
Homes.....B10
Jobs.....B11
Obituaries.....B5
Opinion.....A10
Services.....B10
Sports.....B1
Wheels.....B12

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**Salvation Army holding
Christmas in July fundraiser**

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

A sound synonymous with the holidays will be heard in Wayne and Westland on Friday and Saturday when the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps conducts its Christmas in July fundraiser.

Volunteers will man Red Kettles at Heathland Market at Ford and Wildwood in Westland

and Northside Hardware at Wayne Road and Glenwood in Wayne on Friday and Saturday, July 20-21 and July 24-25. Street collections also will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 21 and 28.

The fundraising is critical for the corps, Corps Officer/Pastor Capt. Derek Rose said. "Donations are down about \$12,000 from last

year for the summer day camp," Rose said. "We're still offering a full program for children, but are shifting money from other areas to support it. Programs for children are our top priority."

According to Rose, some \$16,000 was raised for the program through mail-in donations last year.

Please see DONATIONS, A2

**Roofing chemicals likely
cause of building fire**

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

An early Monday morning fire that damaged a commercial building on Wayne Road south of Palmer was likely caused by chemicals that were being used to replace the flat roof.

The fire was reported at 4:45 a.m. at the one-story building at 2116 S. Wayne Road. One unit of the building, which was

vacant, burned in the fire.

"The fire originated in the ceiling. The building was just under new ownership and they were working on the flat roof," Westland Assistant Fire Chief John Adams said. "There were two contractors — the first one was fired. It's possible there was incompatibility of the chemicals used for adhesion."

Please see FIRE, A2

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CITY HALL

Continued from page A1

response to a complaint filed by a city worker.

The city has already received several extensions on getting the asbestos remediated, Personnel Director Cindy King said.

A year ago, Hoppe produced a report outlining the poor conditions at the current city hall, including ongoing water problems that despite various efforts to correct have electrical panels in standing water even during the current dry weather.

"The soil around the building is moving. I can't say if the building is moving because I don't have a benchmark," said Hoppe, who noted areas of erosion that were two to six inches lower than last year. "Presumably the soil is being washed away. The soils beneath the building are very fine and fully saturated."

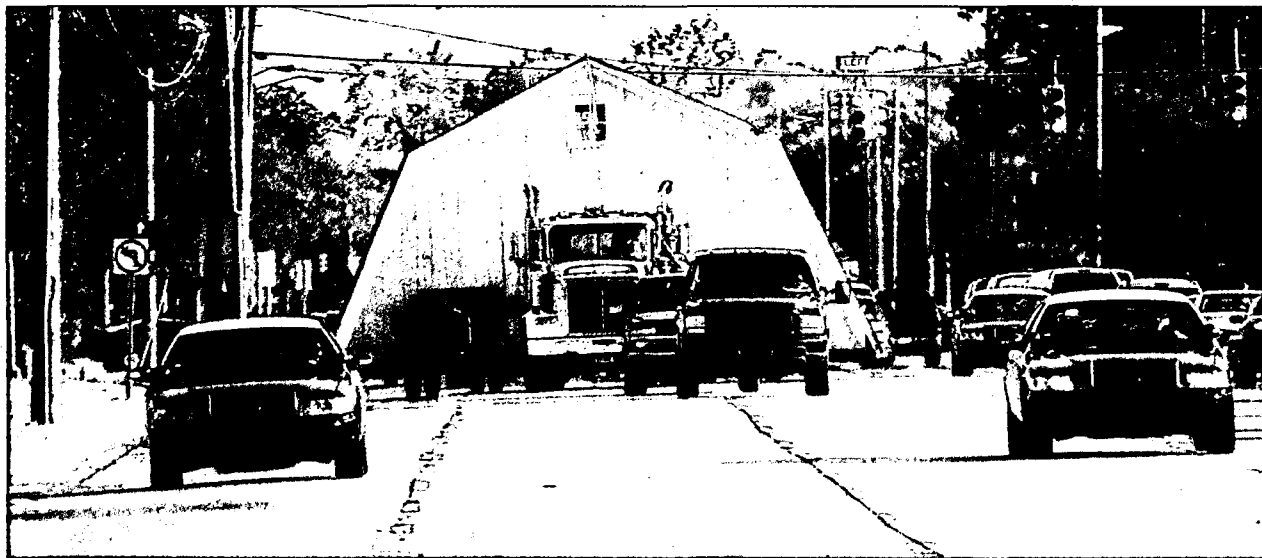
Council has reached a

consensus that city hall needs to be replaced, but hasn't approved a plan to do so. Earlier this year, it was proposed that a new city hall be constructed on city-owned land behind the William P. Faust Public Library funded through the Tax Increment Financing Authority, which also funded the construction of the library itself.

That plan drew complaints from neighbors and others who preferred construction of a new municipal building on the current Ford Road site.

Wild recommended a second look at the current city hall site after that was recommended by a panel of urban planners and architects who reviewed the proposals. Funding for construction on the current city hall location is an issue since it is in the Downtown Development Authority District and the DDA has insufficient revenue to pay for the project.

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PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sections of Wayne Road were closed Tuesday morning as D&B Movers moved the barn roof from the McKee farm on Cowan to the Historic Village Park.

ROOF

Continued from page A1

through a trust.

"I'm glad they are able to save the barn. When they asked us about donating it, nobody in the family didn't say yes right away," Clements said. "Who knows what the new owners would have done with it. He (McKee) would be happy to see it go to the museum."

"He was into so much in Westland and helping, he'd be pleased," Jan Clements agreed. "He's up there saying, 'Take it easy.'"

The walls of the 1930s vintage barn were found deteriorated. Faced with a huge bill to move utility lines to facilitate the move, a decision was made to detach the roof. Doors, beams and other parts of the lower barn were preserved and will be used to rebuild it at the Historic Village Park.

D&B Movers handled the relocation of the roof, which will be jacked up over its concrete foundation and walls will be built to meet it.

"They're looking to start building in a couple of weeks. It should take 10-14 days to build," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski, who worked on the project with Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia.

Gebhardt, who got \$50,000 allocated from Wayne County Parks millage for the project, and Jo Johnson of the Westland Historical Society, were on hand for the move and met the barn



Wayne County Commissioner Joan Genhardt (from left), Jo Johnson of the Westland Historical Society, and Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski stand in Wayne Road as the barn roof is maneuvered on to the Westland Historical Village Park site.



Stacks of timber await delivery to the park. The wood will be used to build new walls for the barn.

at the Historic Village. WLND taped the pair talking about the barn, standing on Wayne Road as the roof was being moved — not a sight you see every day.

"Years and years we've wanted a barn — as soon as we got the farmhouse," Johnson said.

Plans calls for the pole barn, used to store farm

equipment, to be demolished once the barn is ready.

"It's in bad shape and it hides the Octagon House," said Johnson, who was taking photos of the move.

When the McKee family bought their farm on Cowan, Johnson said it was purchased from Ebenezer Bennett, who

supervised the mental hospital at Eloise.

"He is credited with taking the inmates out of their dark cells," Johnson said.

Over the years, the acreage was sold for development, including what is now Lutheran High School Westland located next to the farmhouse.

D&B Movers has handled other moves for the Historic Village Park including the Octagon House.

Compared to other buildings, the barn roof was a pretty easy project, said Don Brown, who worked on the project with his son, also named Don.

"(Moving) the wires would have cost a fortune. It doesn't weigh much — 25 to 30 tons," said Brown, whose son is a third-generation house mover. "I build the hydraulic equipment."

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DONATIONS

Continued from page A1

This year, the corps has received \$2,000-\$3,000. He's not sure why donations are down and worries it could impact the after-school program the corps offers.

"We're looking at possibly reducing it from 36 weeks to 32 weeks," he said.

To offer a full after-school program costs \$20,000. The corps receives \$7,000 from the Salvation Army head office and parents pay \$1 for the program which generates another \$3,000. That leaves \$10,000 that corps needs to raise. Some money from the Christmas bell ringing and donations throughout the year help pay for it.

But donations are down and the urgent need right now is money for the summer camp, he said.

There are four more weeks left of the day camp, offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday

through Friday at the Corps Community Center on Venoy south of Palmer. The camp averages 60 children per day and costs parents \$40 per week. It includes two field trips each week, lunch, crafts and character building.

"We have a pretty good quality program at a reasonable cost," Rose said. "It's one of the cheapest camps around. We actually have a waiting list. We could expand it, if we could get funding for it."

Rose is hoping the summer bell ringing will remind people who in the past have supported the camp financially to send in their donations.

People can drop their donations in the red kettles during Christmas in July or send them to the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army at 2300 S. Venoy, Westland 48186.

"I'm thankful for the support we receive from the Wayne-Westland area, especially Westland," Rose said.

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FIRE

Continued from page A1

It's likely that the different chemicals used by the two contractors started a fire in the wood roof of the vacant unit, Adams said.

"When I looked at the

burn pattern on the wall, all the major damage was at the roof line," he said. "There was no damage below about three feet up from the floor. All the fire pattern indicated it originated in the ceiling."

The unit on the north side of the building happened to be vacant and didn't contain furnishings

or items that would add to the fire, Adams said. There was little or no fire damage to the adjoining units in the building which house businesses, including a tax service and a physical therapy company.

"The building had appropriate fire walls and protected the other units. They had minor smoke damage," Adams said. "The northeast corner of the building facade is rid-

dled with fire damage."

This was the first major fire since the Westland and Wayne fire departments merged July 1; firefighters from Garden City and Inkster also responded to the fire.

One of the Wayne fire apparatus utilized in fighting the fire has a 134-foot articulating aerial ladder.

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Manthano Christian College will host a Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) on-site evaluation team visit on July 30 - August 1 for the purpose of evaluating the college for candidate status.

Third party comments are invited and may be addressed to:

TRACS, 15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551

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Ex-teacher pleads guilty to sex charges



FILE PHOTO

Ex-Wayne Memorial High School teacher Brandon Tomblin, seen with his attorney Robert Mullen, has pleaded guilty to multiple criminal charges that he had sex with two male students and exchanged nude photos with a third teen.

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Former Wayne Memorial High School teacher Brandon Tomblin of Canton is facing sentencing Aug. 9 after he pleaded guilty to multiple criminal charges amid allegations he had sex with two male students and exchanged nude photos with a third teen.

Tomblin, 26, could face up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Margie Braxton for sexual incidents two teens say happened in Tomblin's office, at his sister's Garden City house and in his car while parked off a Romulus road. A third boy said he and Tomblin traded explicit photos on their cell phones, but never had sex.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Maria Miller has confirmed Tomblin's guilty plea last Thursday to charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct,

fourth-degree CSC, child sexually abusive activity, using a computer to commit a crime and distributing sexually explicit material to children.

Tomblin's decision averted a trial and came just five weeks after the three teens, now ages 16, 17 and 18, testified June 8 during a preliminary exam in Romulus 34th District Court that they had voluntary sexual contact last year with Tomblin, though Judge Tina Brooks Green ruled such relations between a teacher and students cannot by law be consensual.

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

Tomblin's defense attorney, Robert Mullen, couldn't be reached for comment.

Tomblin, described as a vocal music teacher who was well-liked among students and other teachers,

became embroiled in controversy after a 16-year-old student's mother contacted police to report inappropriate contact between Tomblin and her son.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy has said school officials cooperated fully when law enforcement authorities began investigating allegations against Tomblin.

Under questioning by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Brian Surma during the June 8 court hearing, one male, now 18, said he appeared in a production of *Hairspray* directed by Tomblin, exchanged texts with him and eventually had unprotected sex in the teacher's office during after-school hours.

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, now 17.

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. The 17-year-old gave similar testimony.

The teens said Tomblin never offered them alcohol or drugs.

The third male, 16, testified in June that he and Tomblin sent texts to each other and traded nude pictures using their cell phones. He said they never had sex.

Tomblin's family has declined to comment. However, Mullen has said Tomblin has strong support from family members who have repeatedly appeared in court on days his case was heard.

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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Bible school

The Cherry Hill Seventh Day Adventist Church is holding a "one of a Kind Zoo" vacation Bible school from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 23-27, at the church at 33144 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, in Garden City.

The program is for youngsters ages 3-13. There will be Bible stories, featuring a donkey, lion, whale and snake, along with a special Friday evening lesson about a sheep and a very special shepherd, Jesus. Each night will be devoted to one of the animals and the habitat in which they live while learning how God sometimes uses animals to teach.

There also will be

games, crafts and snacks. To register, call Alice Merrifield at (734) 427-3982 or email Juanita Malaski at Nita07rea@yahoo.com.

East reunion

The Garden City East High School reunion of the classes of 1968 through 1973 will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Sept. 22, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, west of Inkster Road, Livonia.

Tickets cost \$60 per person and include appetizers, dinner buffet, open bar, DJ and dancing, pizza and coffee bar at 11 p.m. and memory book. Only 450 tickets will be sold. The deadline to purchase tickets is Aug. 25. People

who reserve tickets will receive a confirmation of payment within 10 days, which will serve as entry to the reunion.

A link to the reunion information and reservation sheet can be found on the Garden City (East) High School reunion page on Facebook. Checks should be made payable to Class Reunion 68-73 GC East.

Graduates from 1968 and 1971 can send their reservations to Pat Lyon Kubert, 6907 Kings Mill Drive, Canton, MI 48187.

Graduates from 1972 and 1973 can send their checks to Sue Cook Tasselmyer, 11901 Algonquin Drive, Pinckney, MI 48169.

Graduates from 1969

and 1970 can save a spot through Debi Cassidy Haller, 2108 Copley Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Fall Kick-Off

Save the date: Saturday, Aug. 25.

That's when Garden City High School will host a Community Fall Kick-off, showcasing its activities, clubs and sports in a spirited fun family atmosphere. Aspiring athletes will have a chance to meet the high school athletic teams and coaches and find out about the Student Council, Key Club, National Honor Society, DECA, PTSA, band and JROTC.

The kick-off will be held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the high school parking lot at 6400 Middlebelt, north of

Ford Road.

Outdoor Flea Market

An outdoor flea market will be held the second and third Saturday of the month now through September in the field across Elmwood Street side of the Garden City Historical Museum on Merriam Road. Reserve a spot by calling Diane, the manager of the Garden City Craftique Mall, at (734) 765-7999.

Farmers Market

Come out and support the new Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday through Oct. 31 at the northeast corner of Ford Road and Middle-

belt in the Town Center Plaza. Also visit its new Facebook page at <http://gardencityfarmersmarketmichigan.com>.


Interested vendors can call (775) 303-1169 or (734) 422-4448 or send an email to gcfmm@gmail.com.

Pet-a-Pet

Pet-A-Pet, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic, friendly pets and their owners to visit facilities one hour a month at the Garden City Hospital Rehab. Pets must be up to date with vaccinations, proof required. Visits are at 3:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Call Mickie Hickey at (734) 522-0036 for more information or to sign up.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Police recover stolen truck, trailer in Detroit

Stolen vehicle

Garden City police recovered a resident's 1999 Ford pickup truck and trailer after it was stolen about 4 a.m. July 11 from a home in the 31000 block of Hennepin.

The resident, who works for a lawn service, said the truck belonged to another person but the lawn equipment belonged to him. The truck and trailer were stolen from the driveway where they were parked.

A Garden City police officer located the vehicle being driven away at Ann Arbor Trail and Inkster Road.

After a short pursuit into Detroit, the truck was recovered with minor damage to the vehicle caused by the suspect as well as damage to the ignition.

Before the pursuit into Detroit began, Dearborn Heights police heard the call and arrived to assist the Garden City officer in the area of Beech Daly and Warren Road. The suspect accelerated his vehicle and the chase began, ending at Orangelawn and Minock in Detroit, police said.

The suspect bailed out of the truck in Detroit and the police officers chased him unsuccessfully through yards, police said. The unknown suspect was described as a black man about 6 feet tall and 175 pounds.

Break-in

Garden City police responded to an alarm about 6 a.m. July 12 at Healthy Drugs, 827 Inkster Road.

Police discovered the front door had been pried open, damaging the lock and door jamb.

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

The door to the pharmaceutical room was also pried open.

Reported stolen were codeine tablets and Viagra pills. An inventory of other losses is under study.

Break-in

A resident in the 33000 block of Rosslyn reported at 7:15 a.m. July 13 that someone stole tools from his garage. He found his gate open and admitted that his east side walk-in garage door was left open.

Stolen from the garage were a cordless drill, a corded saw and a women's style mountain bike. The owner could not provide any serial numbers for the stolen items.

Disorderly conduct

A 48-year-old Westland man was arrested for disorderly conduct and transported to Garden City Hospital about 7:15 p.m. July 10.

A resident reportedly was sitting on his porch in the 31000 block of Marquette when a drunken man staggered up to the porch, complaining that he was getting a divorce. He was holding vodka bottles.

The resident called the police but by the time the police arrived, the man had staggered off.

The police located him further down the street.

His blood alcohol level was .345 and an ambulance was called so that he could obtain medical treatment, police said.

Retail fraud

Garden City police

arrested a 13-year-old Dearborn Heights teen who stole an airsoft gun from the Kmart store at 29600 Ford about 8:30 p.m. July 11.

The boy was caught on the surveillance tape removing the BB gun from its packaging and placing it in his waistband. He returned to his family and left the store without paying for the gun.

A loss prevention officer met the boy and his mother outside of the store and they cooperatively went back inside for questioning. The case was referred to the Family Resource Center in Garden City.

Retail fraud

A customer shopping at the CVS store at 27435 Ford told a clerk that on July 14 she observed another customer stealing items by concealing items on his person.

The suspect was described as a black man about 50 years old who left the location without paying for the items, which were baby formula and make-up.

The man left southbound on Inkster Road in a full-sized, white work van. No one obtained a license plate number.

The surveillance plate was stored as evidence.

Theft

A Detroit woman who works at a group home in the 1600 block of Belmont reported July 13 that someone stole \$170 in U.S. currency from her purse which was left in the front living room. She said that she didn't suspect the clients because they are in wheelchairs and don't go into that room.

By Sue Buck

Power tools taken from garage, unlocked sheds

Shots fired

Just before 2:30 a.m. July 15, two residents in the same building at Woodcrest Apartments told police they heard numerous shots fired but saw no one or any vehicles from which the shots could have originated.

Officers checked the area and found no damage to the building or cards. The officer did recover 11 40-caliber shell casings on the ground.

Break-in

Three Stihl chain saws, a backpack blower, a power washer and miscellaneous tools valued at \$3,150 were reported stolen July 15 from a garage in the 35000 block of Oakwood. The owner told police that someone had pried open his garage door to steal the items.

The man's neighbor who also lives in the 35000 block of Oakwood reported someone had stolen items from his unlocked sheds. Reported stolen were a reciprocating saw, a rotozip saw, an air compressor, three chain saws, a power washer, framing nailer and a backpack blower valued at \$3,250.

Larceny

A Westland man was arrested for allegedly stealing a cell phone from a resident of the Landings Apartments, 7072 Lakeview, July 15. The resident old police he and another person were sitting on the first floor patio. When they went inside about 9 p.m., the resident said he left his phone on the patio table.

From inside the apartment, the witness saw a man run up and grab the phone before fleeing on foot. The witness provided a description of the suspect.

The resident's father was able to use the telephone's GPS to locate the phone moving west on Dover near Bedford. Officers went to the area where they located a man

WESTLAND COP CALLS

matching the suspect's description.

Officers recovered the missing phone which was identified by the phone number and had photos of the owner and the witness.

The suspect denied stealing the phone, adding he hadn't even been at the Landings Apartments, police said. Officers pointed out they hadn't mentioned where the phone had been stolen.

Break-in

On July 15, a resident of an apartment at 7400 Central told police she had been gone for the weekend and returned home to find two flat screen televisions, a purple laptop computer and a wooden jewelry box stolen. Inside the jewelry box, the woman said were a platinum and diamond wedding ring and a gold freeze watch with diamonds valued at \$3,500. The other items were valued at \$1,500.

The woman told police she found a window, which she hadn't been able to lock, was open.

Vandalism

A Redford resident, 17, was arrested July 15 for vandalism and two counts of assault and battery following an incident near Merriman and Joy.

A 17-year-old Westland resident told police he was driving eastbound on Joy with four passengers just before 10:30 p.m. when a group of unknown people began yelling at them.

When the car stopped for the light at Merriman and Joy, the driver said the suspect was riding a bicycle and caught up with the car. The suspect picked up the bicycle and threw it at the 2000 Chrysler breaking the passenger side window. Two of the passengers received a minor

laceration from either the breaking glass or the bike itself.

The suspect told police that he was threatening to throw the bike when it accidentally slipped out of his hands. A witness unrelated to either group told police the bike had been thrown intentionally.

Police reported that all of the teens involved are students at Livonia Franklin High School.

Larceny from a vehicle

Just after 4 a.m. July 16 police were called to the 39000 block of Randolph Court after residents reported seeing a man breaking into parked cars. One witness said he saw the man take a computer printer from a neighbor's vehicle. When confronted, the witness said the suspect dropped the printer and ran.

The suspect attempted to climb a fence but was unable and walked back to the witness.

Police said the man, 19, was intoxicated. He was arrested for larceny and being an intoxicated minor.

Larceny

On July 14, the owner of a rental home in the 2100 block of Ackley told police that workers renovating the house arrived to find someone had stolen 30 inches of copper pipe from the basement. It had caused some water to run onto the carpet. The workers noticed a window was ajar.

Larceny

A resident in the 1900 block of Ackley told police July 15 that someone had stolen the air conditioning unit which had been located behind his home. The officer noted several thick wires coming from the house to the air conditioning unit had been cut. The unit was valued at \$1,000.

By LeAnne Rogers

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Car show raises \$4,000 for Skill Center



Kevin Waite of Garden City polishes his dragster for the car show.



Nate Creedan points out the his favorite car to his mother Rebekah and sister Emma. Westland residents liked the 1966 Ford Mustang.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seventy cars recently filled the lawn of the Western Wayne Skill Center in Westland for its annual classic car show.

In its eighth year at the former Henry Ford Junior High School, the car show raised some \$4,000 for the center. Operated by the Livonia Public Schools, the special education center provides employability exploration and special education work experience for students from throughout Wayne County.

The show was staged by Don Nicholson. It started in 2001 at the Automotive Hall of

Fame and move to the center on Ann Arbor Trail near Merriman some eight years ago. The show featured 70 classic cars, ranging from classics and hot rods to muscle cars and dragsters.

There was music by the Six Foot Poles and the presentation of the Dave Gladwish Memorial Award. The award honors Dave Gladwish who was a longtime race announcer at Detroit Dragway and Milan Dragway who died of cancer in 2003.

This year's recipient was Stan Shelton, vice-president of the Wayne Chamber of Commerce,



Classic cars were lined up on the lawn of the Western Wayne Skill Center for its annual charity car show.

was honored for the time he donates above and beyond.

"He's one of the guys who is always there to help out," said Nich-

olson. "Stan has been shooting pictures and helping out at events.

It was my pleasure to nominate him and give him the award."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Summer Bonanza

The Westland Historic Village Park will present its Summer Bonanza from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 21, at the park on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

There event is free of charge and features antique cars and old-fashioned games for visitors to see and do. Food also will be available for purchase. Parking will be available at John Glenn High School on Marquette west of Wayne Road.

For more information, call (734) 658-5296 or send email to don@donnicholson.net.

Fun Day

Community Free Will Baptist Church will hold at Community Fun Day 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at the church at 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland.

There will be free food, bounce houses, Westland fire truck, face painting, games, silent auction and more. For more information, call (734) 536-1210.

Bible school

The Cherry Hill Seventh Day Adventist Church is holding a "one of a Kind Zoo" vacation Bible school 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 23-27, at the church at 33144 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy.

The program is for youngsters ages 3-13. There will be Bible stories, featuring a donkey, lion, whale and snake, with a special Friday evening lesson about a sheep and a very special shepherd, Jesus. Each night will be devoted to one of the animals and the habitat in which they live while learning how God sometimes uses animals to teach.

There also will be games, crafts and snacks. To preregister, call Alice Merrifield at (734)

427-3982 or email Juanita Malaski at Nita07rea@yahoo.com.

Open House

Westland Free Methodist Preschool is holding an open house 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, July 23, at the preschool, 1421 S. Venoy, between Palmer and Cherry Hill, Westland.

The preschool offers classes for three- and four-year-olds, and parents can save \$25 off the enrollment fee at the open house.

For more information, call (734) 728-3559 or go online to preschool.livesarechanging.com.

Mom to Mom sale

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is holding a Mom 2 Mom sale and an open house 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 28.

Willow Creek Preschool is located at 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. The preschool is currently enrolling for their Tot to Toddler class, 3-year class and 4-year class for the 2012-2013 school year. For more information, call (734) 326-0078 or visit the website at www.willowcreek-preschool.com

Cheer Tryouts

Tryouts for the fall cheer teams at John Glenn High School will be held 1-3 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Aug. 1-2, and 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 3 in Gym 4 (enter in back of building)

Students must have a current physical on file or in your possession to try-out. Bring or wear shorts, T-shirt and gym shoes. Be ready to participate and be active.

For more information, contact Ashli at (586) 876-9035.

Volunteers needed

Compassionate Care Hospice seeks caring,

compassionate volunteers to help with office tasks or to serve as friendly visitors for its patients. Their service area includes the counties of Oakland, Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw and Livingston. Volunteers set their own schedules and typically donate one-two hours of their time per week.

Compassionate Care Hospice is a community-based hospice organization committed to the highest quality of hospice care for patients, their families and other loved ones. Volunteers receive training and ongoing coaching, and social opportunities are available as well.

The next new volunteer orientation will take place at the Compassionate Care office at 5730 N. Lilley Road, Suite A, Canton. Contact Justine Galat, volunteer coordinator, to apply for a brief interview at jgalat@cch-net.net or call (888) 983-9050.

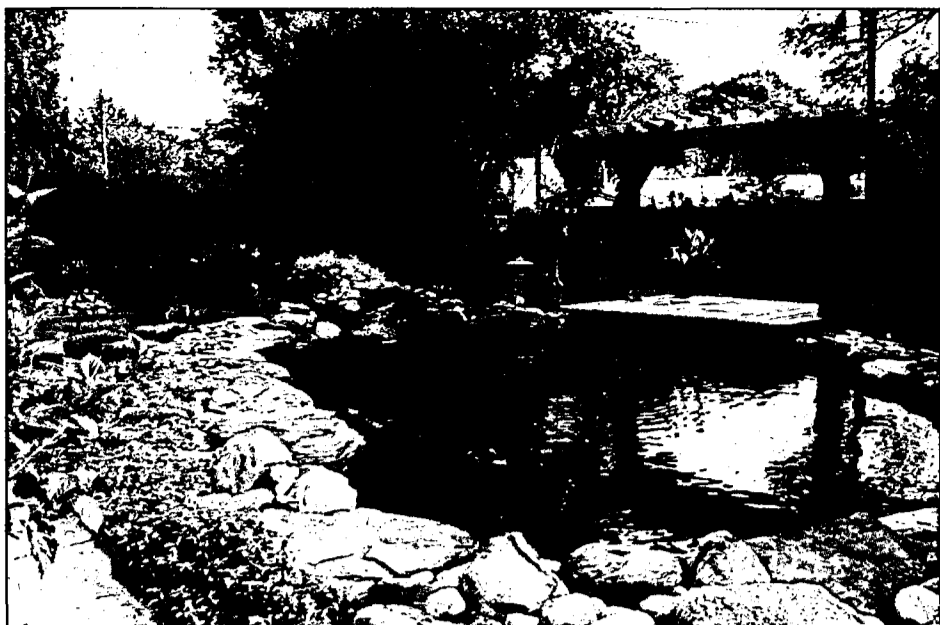
Rocket Camp

The Glenn Wrestling Program will hold its annual Rocket Camp 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 23-27 in the Wrestling Room of John Glenn High School, on Marquette, west of Wayne Road.

The camp is open to high school students and costs \$100, including a T-shirt. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. Monday, July 23.

There will also be a Youth Camp 4:30-6 p.m. July 25-27 for kindergarten through eighth-grade students in the Wrestling Room. The cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is at 4 p.m. Monday, July 25.

Registration forms are available at glennwrestling.com. For more information, contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.



The pond of Ray of Teri Alexander of Livonia will be featured during Saturday's tour.

Club hosts pond, water garden tour

Ten homes in Livonia, Westland and Garden City will be featured in the Michigan Koi and Pond Club's 14th annual pond and water garden tour this weekend.

The self-guided tour will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 21, and feature 10 unique backyard settings.

The home owner's yards express their personalities, hobbies and interests along with various garden and aquatic plants, according to Ron Kardynski, MKPC vice-president and pond tour chairperson.

"Our club's annual tours are unique in a way that we select different areas of southeast Michigan to host the tour," he said. "This year the ten homes selected will be in the Livonia, Westland and Garden City. We are excited to have such a wide variety of Koi along with beautiful gardens."

The backyards include water features and ponds up to 12,000 gallons. There also are several small fairy gardens. "In the past two years, we have noticed that

fairy gardens are gaining in popularity and this year is no different," Kardynski said. "Two will be on display with one being a 150-square-foot area nestled under a group of evergreens."

The tour costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-15 with an adult. Wristbands and a tour booklet will be given with ticket purchases. The booklet contains a description of each yard and a map to the homes. Koi Cops (MKPC club members) will be at each location to handle any questions.

Tour wristbands and tour booklets can be purchased the day of the tour at 32525 Six Mile, on the south side between Farmington Road and Merriman.

For more information, visit the club website at www.mkpc-se.com or call Kardynski at (734) 646-7607.

The MKPC was founded March of 1996 after the founder, Gil Orris, took some advice from a pond supply store on how to get rid of algae in his pond which resulted in the death of every

fish in his pond except one.

After losing 15 mature Koi, he felt there had to be a better way to learn about the hobby and that others in the area were probably also experiencing "learning pains" and may want to join in. Seventeen people attended that first meeting at his home, and the club has met continuously ever since.

MKPC is one of the oldest and largest Koi and pond clubs in Michigan and a member of the Associated Koi Clubs of America. Members range from those just learning about the hobby who have yet to have their first pond to members with three decades of experience in the hobby. Some members have very small ponds with either a few or even no fish to one of the largest being a garden with a half dozen ponds from 1,000 gallons up to 25,000 gallons.

Over the years the club has been affiliated with several knowledgeable vendors, including Barson's Greenhouses in Westland.

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CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland, 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before the date of **July 26, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):

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Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185, or at www.cityofwestland.com. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Dan Bourdeau at (734) 467-7952. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

William Gabriel
City Controller

Publish: July 19, 2012

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

Case #971B, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Retail Hot Tub Outlet, 5930 N Hix Road, Parcel #028-02-0006-000, East Side of N Hix Road, North of Ford Road, Edward Sabotchick (John W Arthurs) *

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 8, 2012.

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

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: July 19, 2012

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Buyout seminar a success; don't fall for latest scam

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I want to thank the nearly 600 people who attended our seminar last week (sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers) regarding the Ford and General Motors pension buyout.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

It was great to see so many people and to hear so many intelligent questions. It was obvious that people understood the importance of this decision regarding whether to accept a buyout for their pension. Hopefully, the seminar accomplished our goal of helping people make the right decision for their individual situation.

Unlike so many oth-

er seminars I've heard about where the goal was to sell a product, our goal was, and always is, to help you keep more money in your pocket — exactly where it belongs. As a side note, when Ford comes out with its information, I plan to do educational seminars targeted specifically for the Ford buyout.

Don't get scammed

Sometimes I shake my head and say, "What were they thinking?" Then I realize they weren't thinking at all. What I am referring to is a story last week about many metro Detroiters who have been swindled due to a utility paying scheme. People were told either in person, via email or on social media that President Obama would pay their utility bills. They were told that all they needed to do was forward their Social

One of the reasons why scam artists are successful is because we allow them to be. We let our guard down because we don't think we have to protect ourselves or we sometimes just don't think. The bottom line is that it is up to us to protect ourselves from the low lives in our society who prey on our good nature.

Security number and bank routing information, along with information on their utility bills, and they would be reimbursed.

Unfortunately, many people provided the necessary information and, as opposed to having their utility bills paid, money was stolen from them. I know that many people think that the government pays for everything, but come on, we have to be reasonable. My philosophy has always

been if something smells too good to be true, it's smelly.

Scam artists don't take the summer off, they work 24/7 365 days a year. Unfortunately, government and law enforcement officials can only do so much to protect us. You and I have to be the ultimate protector of our personal finances.

As far as I'm concerned, when anyone asks for sensitive financial information such as a bank account number

or Social Security number, the automatic answer ought to be no. Of course, there are certain situations where you have to surrender your Social Security number, however, these are few. Remember, just because someone asks that does not mean you have to give it to them.

One of the reasons why scam artists are successful is because we allow them to be. We let our guard down because we don't think we have to protect ourselves or we sometimes just don't think. The bottom line is that it is up to us to protect ourselves from the low lives in our society who prey on our good nature.

One mistake people make is not reporting an incident to the proper authorities. I suspect that many people are so embarrassed that they don't want to report

that they've been taken advantage of. As difficult as it is, you must.

In the old days when the crooks robbed you, they generally had a weapon in their hand and looked very intimidating. In today's world, the crooks don't carry weapons and don't look intimidating. In fact, many times they are very friendly and outgoing. However, the results are the same. In today's world, we have no choice but to constantly remain on guard and always protect ourselves. The crooks never take a day off and they have no shame.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Westland resident Jessica Border shares a laugh with Red Cross nurse Erika Lach of Lincoln Park as she gets ready to donate blood.

Annual blood drive attracts a crowd at Gordon Chevrolet

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

A blood drive that brings in 360 units of bloods and 94 new donors is worth celebrating for the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross, which is facing a blood shortage.

And that's the number of units blood collected at the third annual blood drive held last Thursday at Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City.

"It was phenomenal. For every pint we took in, we can potentially help three people," Diane Risko of the Red Cross said. "It's one of our highest drives in southeastern Michigan."

"It was huge," said Susan Ianni, general manager of the Gordon Chevrolet. "We had 421 donors and 360 were able to give blood, which means we were able to save 1,080 lives."

Ianni worked with radio station WMUZ-FM (103.5) on the blood drive. The radio station promoted the blood drive and registered donors. The donation slots were filled in less than a week, due in part to the dealership giving a free Cedar Point ticket to donors who made it through the initial registration.

The radio station sent staff and it also broadcast live from the dealership. Gordon Chevrolet staff also helped, as did volunteers from the Red Cross.

The service bay at the dealership was used to check in the 421 people who signed up. The Red Cross set up donor beds in the Activities Center at St. Raphael Church and even brought its mobile blood donation vehicle to accommodate the crowd.

The blood drive also was a community event. There was a bounce house for kids, face paint-



Gordon Chevrolet employee Brian Thomas gets in some snacks as directed by Red Cross after giving blood.

ing, hot dogs and refreshments. When the hot dogs ran out, Ianni brought in pizza. When Garden City Hospital heard about it, it sent over its mobile wellness bus and did free cholesterol and blood pressure screenings.

"It does impact our ability to sell cars, but it's still worth doing," Ianni said.

The blood drive comes at a time when the Red Cross has put out an emergency appeal for donations, meaning it has less than a one-day supply of blood on hand. The Red Cross provides blood to 43 hospitals in southeast Michigan.

"One car accident victim can use 50 units, that means it takes 50 people to help one person," Risko said. "We need 700-900 units a day every day, 365 days a year. Whether it's a holiday or not, the need is still there."

Also needed are platelets for cancer patients. The Red Cross is able to get just two tablespoons of platelets from a unit of blood and it can take up to 10 people to make up one unit, Risko said.

"It's very critical; platelets only have a five-day shelf life," she said. "We call them the gold in your blood."



The showroom of Gordon Chevrolet was one of two locations used for the dealership's annual Red Cross blood drive.



Lukus Bojanic and his sister Brooklynn sit in the canteen after their mother Christina of Canton had donated blood.

Blood donations drop off during the summer. Schools are closed, auto plants go on shutdown and people go on vacation, so blood drives like the one at Gordon Chevrolet are important in meeting the need.

"The average blood drive brings in 25-31 units of blood. When we get a drive like this that brings in hundreds of units, it's phenomenal," Risko said.

Ianni is committed to doing the blood drive next year and is looking

to use the parking lot at St. Raphael to accommodate more parking.

"I'm a military mom. I have a son in the Navy in Afghanistan. I understand what it means to have a shortage of blood," she said. "People don't realize how much blood

we go through because of the war. I do.

"We had 90 new donors and I hope they realize how easy it is and go in and give every three months," she added.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751



Blood done wait to be checked in the service bay at Gordon Chevrolet. More than 400 people signed up to donate blood at the dealership's third annual blood drive.



Blood donations also were done in activities center at St. Raphael Church.

Oakwood Annapolis earns new trauma certification

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne is now a Level III Trauma Center. The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACSCOT) verified the facility this month, making the hospital the first in the region to earn the distinction. "This achievement recognizes our dedication to providing the highest levels of clinical quality to injured patients and is central to our vision of becoming the recognized

leader in clinical quality, service and value as an independent health care system," said Eric W. Widner, division president of Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. The trauma center verification is a voluntary process overseen by the ACSCOT, which is designed to improve trauma care. It includes an on-site review of the hospital by a team of experts that look at everything from readiness, resources, pol-

icies, patient care and patient outcomes, and performance improvement. Drs. Mohammad Hakim and Ralph Scolari, along with John Cargill, RN, trauma and emergency management coordinator, led the team for Annapolis, but Widner said the credit does not stop there. "This is a big win for our entire team, including our EMS partners in care," he said. "For our patients and the communities we serve, this accomplish-

ment confirms our commitment that the best possible care will be provided to injured patients." There are three main levels of trauma verification, ranging from Level III to Level I, each with specific criteria that must be met by a facility seeking that level of verification. Oakwood Annapolis Hospital opened in 1957 and became part of the Oakwood Healthcare System in 1989. A \$4 million

renovation and expansion of the emergency department is currently under way at the hospital that is designed to increase bed capacity and significantly improve efficiency, patient privacy, geriatric and bariatric care safety and provide a greater capacity for isolation and decontamination services. The new waiting room and other internal improvements will support the "Start Up" and

"Fast Track" initiatives, which are designed to ensure that patients are seen by a physician sooner. "It's a continuation of our commitment to provide the highest level of care to the community," Widner said. "We are confident that through these changes we will improve community access to and satisfaction with emergency care services provided at Oakwood Annapolis."



A new, 54,000-square-foot store in Canton will complement Busch's locations in nearby Farmington, Plymouth and Livonia, among the market's 16 southeast Michigan locations.

Busch's brings 100 jobs to new market

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

By this time next year, western Wayne County residents are going to have another popular place to shop for groceries. Ann Arbor-based Busch's Fresh Food Market, an independent family supermarket chain, has announced plans to open a new 54,000-square-foot store in Canton. The announcement was made by CEO John Busch. The store will anchor the shopping plaza at 225 S. Canton Center (where Farmer Jack used to be). Busch said the store is expected to open by summer 2013 and will employ approximately 100 full- and part-time associates. The Canton location will mark the 16th Busch's supermarket in Michigan. "We've wanted to bring Busch's to the Canton community for several years, and finally the tim-

ing and opportunity are right," Busch said. "We look forward to serving our new neighbors in this wonderfully diverse and family-friendly community with the finest quality products and personal service every shopper deserves." Busch's real estate entity purchased the Canton location building and the accompanying multi-tenant building. Busch said the chain got help completing the transaction through support from Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Terry Bixler of ROC Real Estate. In addition to Canton and Plymouth, Busch's other locations throughout southeast Michigan include markets in Ann Arbor, Carleton, Clinton, Dexter, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Novi, Pinckney, Rochester Hills, Saline, South Lyon, Tecumseh and West Bloomfield. Busch's Fresh Food

Market, which celebrates its 37th anniversary this year, is a locally-owned Michigan company that blends the best of today's freshness, selection and quality with the personal service and wholesomeness of a neighborhood grocer. In addition to fresh produce, local and organic choices, deli and bakery items made from scratch, USDA Choice meat, fresh seafood and an extensive beer and wine collection, Busch's offers popular national brands, imported specialty foods and convenient meal solutions. Busch's supports charitable organizations and school children in the communities it serves. In addition, Busch's offers MyWay, a personalized shopping program that provides online ordering and advance notice of sale prices.

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Setbacks set us up for greater success

By Clarity Patton Newhouse
Guest Columnist

It's going to be a sunny day! This morning I woke up thinking about someone I met about eight years ago, who is one of the sunniest people I know. His name is Willie Jolley and he's the author of a delightful book whose key message is right there in the title: *A Setback Is a Setup for a Comeback*. We all face setbacks in our lives. No matter how successful we are or want to be, success involves overcoming setbacks. Sure, let's make the most of the good



Clarity Patton Newhouse

A SUNNY NOTE

times. But we can also bounce back from the bad times. As Willie Jolley puts it, sometimes you're the windshield and sometimes you're the bug. "When you're the windshield, you are big and strong and invincible; when you're the bug, you will keep running into obstacles." He reminds us that even on the days when we're the bug, the outcome depends on our attitude. A positive attitude helps develop resiliency. "When you hit the windshield, you no longer smash and crash and die." You bounce off the windshield and are "thrust into a higher trajectory and you start to fly at a higher level." Willie's book touching-ly reminds us that we can survive setbacks and use

them to propel ourselves to even greater success. Today - whether windshield or bug - let's have a sunny day!

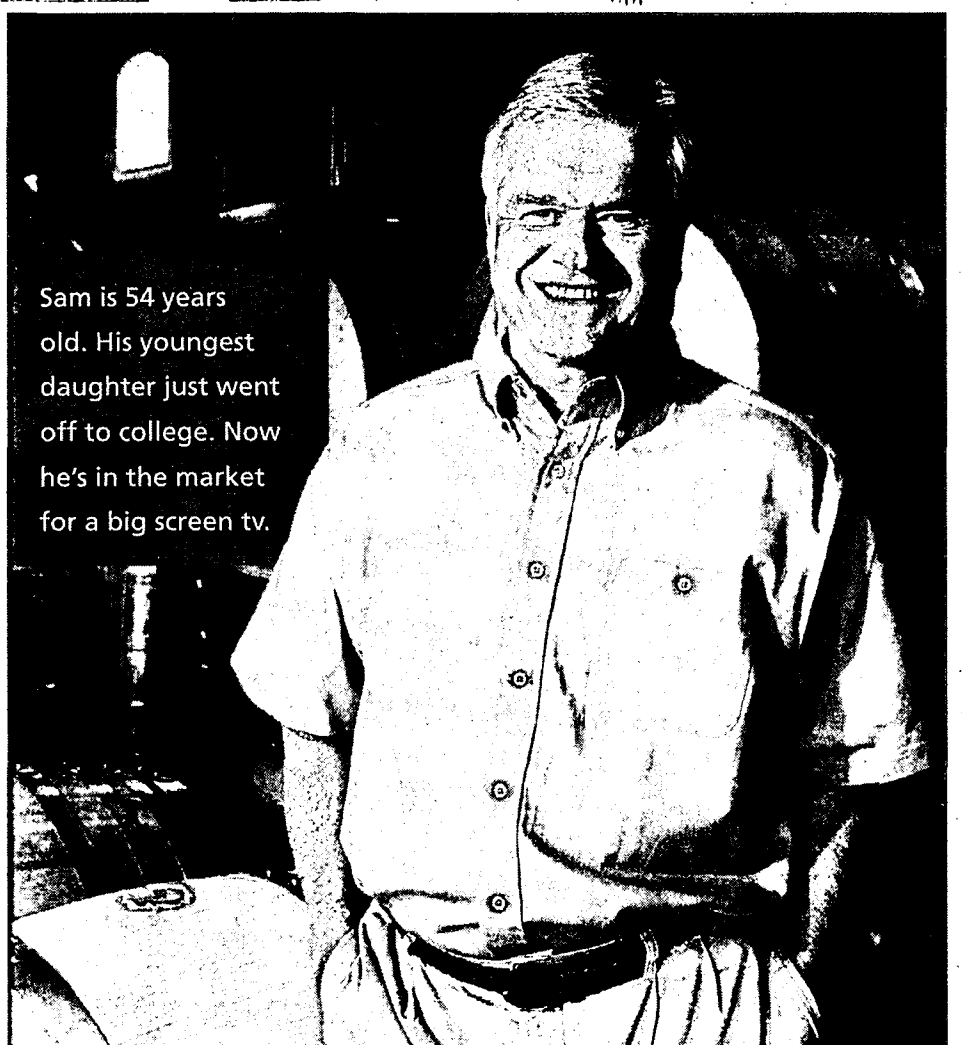
Clarity

P.S. "There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative."

W. Clement Stone

Clarity Patton Newhouse is president of Sunny Media Group Inc., located at 39209 Six Mile, Suite 165, Livonia. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond. To reach her call (734) 855-4728 or find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sunnynotes.

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BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Financial classes

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center will present a financial tools workshop Aug. 14 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia to help small business CEOs better understand their financials. "Five Keys to Achieving Fiscal Fitness" is designed to help the non-financial manager business owner strengthen financial literacy and improve the ability to access capital businesses need to grow. The state-wide program is sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. Topics to be discussed include:


- Identifying problems using your balance sheet and income statement
- Providing ways to increase your company's cash flow
- Using breakeven analysis to improve decision-making
- Planning the working capital to support your growth
- How to keep your

banker on your side. Cost is \$25 per participant with scholarships available for Fifth Third clients. Networking and continental breakfast start at 8 a.m. and the seminar is from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Register online or call (734) 487-0355 for more information. The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center is a statewide business assistance program.

New PVM hire

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan is pleased to announce Lynn Alexander as vice president of public affairs. PVM has acquired Your Aging Well Advisor, LLC, which was founded by Ms. Alexander. She will remain as resident and will also serve as vice president of public affairs for PVM. PVM, headquartered in Southfield, is a faith-based, non-profit, multi-site system that has served seniors of all faiths since 1945. Serving 3,500 seniors, PVM has

25 senior living communities with choices across the entire spectrum of senior living. Your Aging Well Advisor has provided seniors and their communities with education programs and consulting on issues which impact 50+ in age individuals. Alexander is a former Michigan cabinet official and director of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging. Many communities and agencies, as well as citizens, have called upon her expertise as a policy maker and consultant. She also is the author of the book, *Caregiver Tsunami*, and a columnist for *The Best of Aging Magazine*. PVM will continue the work of Your Aging Well Advisor as part of its mission to provide a community support system for its residents and neighbors. Assisting seniors in aging well has been a key part of our strategic planning while providing award winning wellness programs and communities for aging well.



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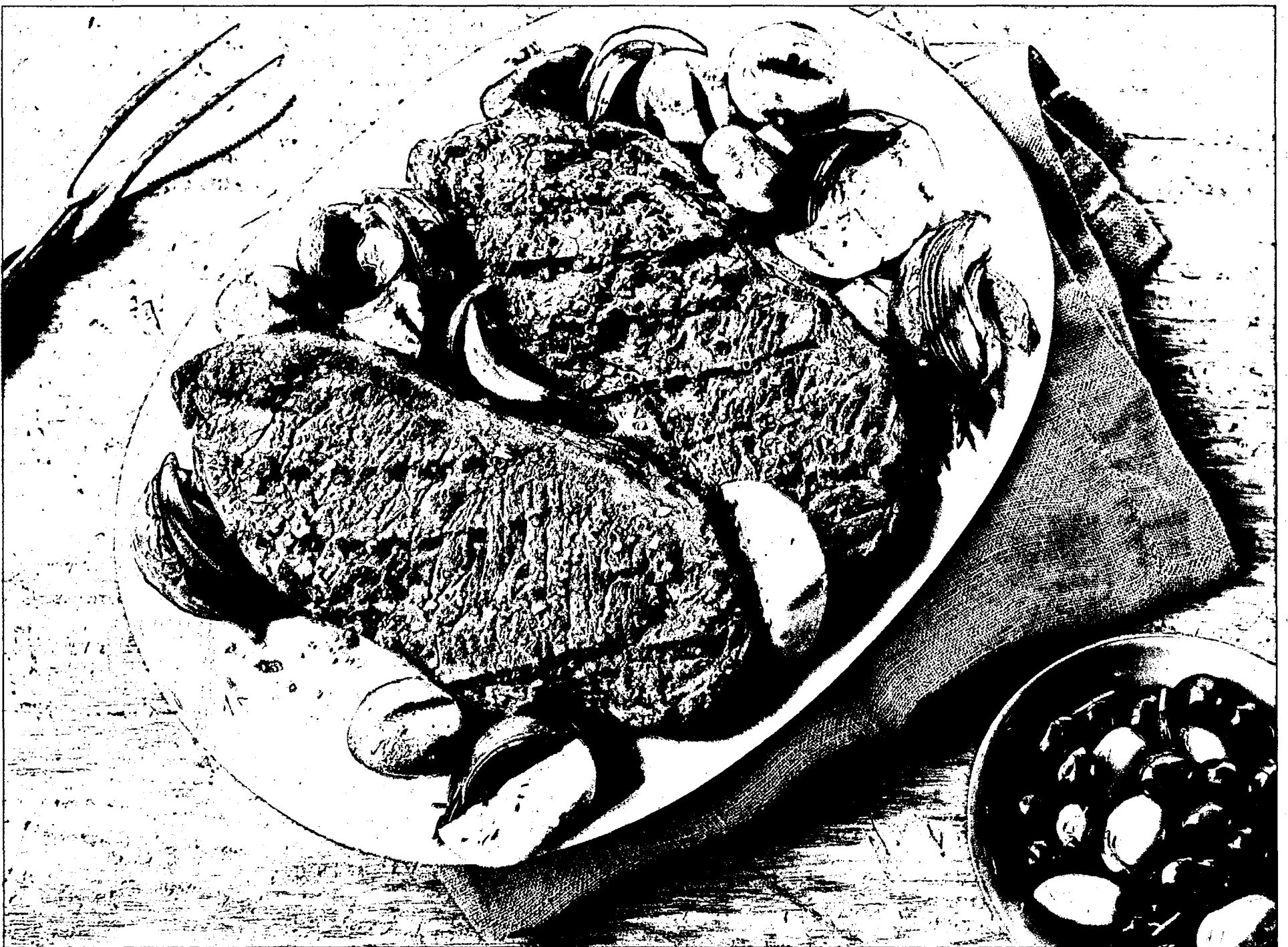


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Grecian Top Loin Steaks and Mushroom Kabobs

FIRING UP FOR A Grilliant Summer

Simple steps for grilling brilliantly

Whether cooking on a gas or charcoal grill, at home, at a park or at a tailgate, grilling provides an unmistakable aroma, a sizzling sound and maximum flavor. And research shows that when it comes to grilling, nearly three out of four Americans choose beef as the meat they grill the most often; but nearly 30 percent are still looking for more information on how to harness the power of the grill.

For guaranteed, delicious results when grilling beef, try following these three easy steps:

1. Choose your cut

Some of the best cuts for grilling include naturally tender ribeye, top loin (aka strip) and ground beef. Flank steak is also an excellent choice after a dip in a tenderizing marinade.

Tip: Rubs and marinades are easy ways to add flavor and tenderize.

2. Prepare your beef

Prepare grill (gas or charcoal) according to manufacturer's directions for medium heat. Remove beef from refrigerator and season with herbs and spices, as desired.

Tip: Wait to salt until after cooking so you don't draw out the natural, flavorful juices from the meat.

3. Grill

Place beef on grates and grill, covered, turning occasionally. Test doneness with meat thermometer: Cook burgers to 160°F and steaks to 145°F for medium rare or 160°F for medium.

Tip: Turn steaks with long handled tongs instead of a fork. Do not press down on steaks or burgers as flavorful juices will be lost.

Tip: For detailed grilling time by cut, visit www.BeefitsWhatsForDinner.com and type in "grilling."

Grecian Top Loin Steaks and Mushroom Kabobs

Total Recipe Time: 30 minutes
Makes 4 servings

Lemon Pepper Rub:
3 large cloves garlic, minced
2½ teaspoons lemon pepper
1½ teaspoons dried oregano

Steak and Kabobs:
1 pound medium mushrooms
1 medium red onion, cut into wedges
2 tablespoons olive oil
6 lemon wedges
2 boneless beef top loin steaks, cut 1 inch thick (about 1½ pounds)

¼ cup crumbled feta cheese (optional)
Combine rub ingredients.
Combine mushrooms, onion, oil and 2 teaspoons rub in medium bowl; toss. Alternately thread mushrooms and onion onto six 12-inch metal skewers. Finish with a lemon wedge.

Press remaining rub onto beef steaks. Place steaks and kabobs on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill steaks, covered, 11 to 14 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 11 to 15 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally. Grill kabobs 6 to 8 minutes or until mushrooms are tender, turning occasionally.

Remove vegetables from skewers; toss with cheese, if desired. Carve steaks. Season beef and vegetables with salt.

— Courtesy of The Beef Checkoff



Grecian Top Loin Steaks and Mushroom Kabobs



Place steaks and kabobs on grid over medium, ash-covered coals.



Firecracker Burgers with Cooling Lime Sauce

Total Recipe Time: 35 minutes
Makes 6 servings

1½ pounds ground beef
6 sesame seed sandwich rolls, split, toasted
1 cup watercress or mixed spring greens

Seasoning:
1 tablespoon curry powder
1 tablespoon Caribbean jerk seasoning

Sauce:
1 teaspoon salt
½ cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
¼ cup low-fat plain yogurt
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
2 teaspoons grated lime peel
¼ teaspoon salt

Combine ground beef and seasoning ingredients in large bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Shape into six ½-inch-thick patties.

Place patties on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 8 to 10 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 7 to 9 minutes) until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally.

Meanwhile, combine sauce ingredients in small bowl; set aside. Spread sauce on cut sides of rolls. Place one burger on bottom half of each roll; top evenly with watercress. Close sandwiches.

— Courtesy of The Beef Checkoff

— Courtesy Family Features

MORE WAYS TO MASTER YOUR 'GRILLIANCE'

- Temperature is critical when grilling. Don't grill over high heat. This may cause charring on the outside before the inside has reached desired doneness, which is why it's best to grill over medium heat. If using a charcoal grill, make sure the coals are white, ash-covered.
 - Trim visible fat before grilling to prevent flare-ups.
 - Less tender cuts, like flank steak, benefit from a tenderizing marinade. Think acidic ingredients like lime juice or vinaigrette.
 - Keep raw meat separate from other foods. Use clean plates and utensils for cooked food.
- For more delicious recipes, grilling tips and simple rub or marinade ideas, visit www.BeefitsWhatsForDinner.com.

