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# WESTLAND Observer

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## Chamber to move office to historic village

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

One of the houses in Westland's emerging historic village will likely have a tenant in coming months. Either the 1837 Rowe House or the early-1900s Collins House will likely house the Westland Chamber of Commerce offices, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said Tuesday. "The Rowe House is definitely the front-runner," she said. Whichever house is chosen, it also would serve as a visitors center for those who want to learn more about Westland — a city of 86,000 people

that will celebrate its 40th birthday next year. Cicirelli unveiled the joint city chamber proposal Tuesday during her annual address to chamber members. About 40-50 people attended the luncheon at the Hellenic Cultural Center, on Joy Road east of Newburgh. City administration officials and chamber President Lori Brist met later Tuesday with the Westland Historical Commission, which seemed to favor the plan. Cicirelli described the proposal as a partnership that will benefit all sides. The chamber would likely sell or lease its current office, on Ford east of

Newburgh, and donate as much as \$50,000 to the historic village, on Wayne Road south of Marquette, Cicirelli said. Said Brist, "We've outgrown our current building." The chamber would gain some much-needed space, Brist said, and it would occupy a building that would double as a visitors center. The chamber money would likely be used to help restore either the Rowe House or the 1800s Octagon House — both of which have been moved to the historic village from other locations. In another partnership, Cicirelli

said city officials hope to have some of the historic village restoration work donated by construction trades students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. Cicirelli seemed encouraged about the city-chamber proposal after Tuesday's talks, as did historical commission President Jo Johnson. "I think the commission will favor it," Johnson said. "I think it will help us get one of the houses finished." The eight-sided Octagon House, flanked by two additions, and the Greek revival style Rowe House both need extensive renovations. Some historians favor completing

the Octagon House first; others have said the Rowe House needs more immediate repairs. Just last week, the Westland City Council approved a bid to have a new roof put on the Rowe House. It has been leaking for years, and officials feared that the house would be further damaged unless it received a new roof. On Tuesday, Brist couldn't say with certainty when the chamber's move might occur. "We'd like to do it in eight to 10 months," she said.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bargain hunters filled the Westland City Hall parking lot as they browsed the items for sale at the city garage sale Saturday afternoon.

Kristin Herzog of Westland (left) and Charles Ruckhaber of Livonia complete their sale Saturday at the Westland Community Garage Sale Saturday.



## Bonanza

Shoppers find bargains galore at sale

Warm weather and bright sunshine brought out the bargain hunters to the Westland civic center complex for the spring community garage sale. Some 100 vendors filled the parking lot west of Westland City Hall, selling everything from clothing and housewares to books, tools and toys. There was even a table for the Westland Historical Commission's ongoing fund-raiser to benefit the

Westland Historical Village. Organizations like the Westland Stars performance cheerleading squad manned food booths, selling such things as "non-Atkins" baked goods, according to Stars coach Toni Lay. The twice-annual event is sponsored by the Westland Youth Assistance, Westland Therapeutic Recreation Club and Kicks 4 Kids. The next sale will be Saturday, Sept. 17.

## Kenyan minister forms ties with Westland

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland community leaders are receiving praise from a Kenya minister for their efforts to celebrate African-American history and culture. The Rev. Leonard Mungai was so impressed in February with Westland's Black History Month program that he recently gave the city a colorful, wooden rod from the Maasai tribe in Kenya. "It's called a standard stick, and whoever has it has authority," he said Wednesday. "I decided to donate it because of the

emphasis that Westland gave to African-Americans (during Black History Month)," Mungai said. He attended and participated in a program at the Westland Public Library. It was organized by longtime city resident Nellie Williams, who accompanied Mungai when he presented his gift during a recent Westland City Council meeting. The city will display the "standard stick" at the Westland Public Library. Mayor Sandra Cicirelli pledged to Mungai that the gift will be given the same respect that the city gives to this country's flag. Mungai, minister of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, is

visiting the Harambee Community Baptist Church in Inkster through August. In Africa, he spreads Christianity by working with missions. "I am a missionary to our own people," he said. Mungai commended Westland city leaders and residents, such as Williams, who has long been involved with the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association. "There are responsible leaders of all colors in Westland," he said. "This is an ideal town or area in the United States."

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## Suspect in shooting surrenders to police

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

After surrendering to police at a Dearborn drive-in theater, a Westland man is facing criminal charges amid accusations he fired a gun into a van and tried to kill his girlfriend and their two children. Charles Edward Withers, 24, turned himself in after a relative arranged for him to meet Westland police Friday evening at the Ford-Wyoming Theater. "It was a peaceful surrender," said police Sgt. Scott Murray, one of three special investigators who arrested Withers. Withers has denied riddling a van with shots from a long gun while his girlfriend and their children — a 1-year-old girl and a 2-year-old boy — sat inside. No one was injured. "He said he wasn't there and that it wasn't him," said police Sgt. James Dexter, who interviewed Withers on Saturday. Withers was arraigned Sunday on charges stemming from an incident that started about 2 a.m. Wednesday, May 4, on Belding Court, near Glenwood and Venoy. Withers, jailed in lieu of a \$200,000 bond, is expected to

PLEASE SEE SUSPECT, A8

## City plans on paying more to 'fill 'er up'

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Stung by rising fuel costs, Westland officials have projected a 45-percent increase in spending to gas up city vehicles. Public Services Director Tom Wilson has estimated that fuel for more than 300 city cars could cost as much as \$322,000 during the new budget year that starts July 1. That would mark a \$100,000 increase over the \$222,000 that city officials set aside for the current budget year. Mayor Sandra Cicirelli has proposed the 45-percent increase in a new spending plan she has submitted to the Westland City Council. Although Westland pools with other communities to buy fuel at cheaper costs, the city still saw its per-gallon expenses range from \$1 to \$1.75 during

the last year, Wilson said. Administration officials have suggested the \$100,000 increase to offset any more increases in fuel costs. "If I knew where the prices were going, I could make a better judgment," Wilson said Monday, during budget talks between council members and administration officials. Council members are expected to approve a new city budget in June. The spending plan would become effective July 1. Cicirelli, who has struggled to boost the city's budget surplus from \$200,000 to \$1.5 million, has said that rising fuel costs have made the job more difficult. The city can store 30,000 gallons of fuel at the Westland Public Services Department, on Marquette east of Newburgh. The city's tanks are filled once every two weeks, Wilson said.

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**INDEX**

APARTMENTS	F9
AT HOME	B1
BELIEFS & VALUES	C13
AUTOMOTIVE	G6
CLASSIFIED INDEX	F5
CROSSWORD	F6
JOBS	F11
MOVIES	D14
OBITUARIES	C13
REAL ESTATE	F1
SPORTS	C1
TASTE	B5

Coming Sunday on the PINK page

Why Meredith Baxter thinks Simple Works

# Board sets \$100 max on pay-to-participate

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

## LIVONIA SCHOOLS

Starting in the 2005-06 school year, Livonia Public Schools high school athletes can expect to pay a maximum of \$100, while middle school athletes would pay a maximum of \$50.

In a committee meeting Monday, school board members nailed down suggestions for fee structures in the administrative proposal. The measure, part of an effort to make up an expected \$3 million shortfall in the district's upcoming budget, still needs to be OK'd by the board in regular session.

Proposed fees include \$100 for high school sports, with second and subsequent sports or activities costing nothing and \$50 activity fees for band, drama and student government. A cap would be set at a maximum of \$400 per family.

Middle school fees would be \$50 for the first sport, no charge for second and subsequent sports and no activity fees.

Trustee Dan Lessard said that instituting pay-to-participate isn't intended to be a budget cure-all.

"This money is not going to make us (financially) well," Lessard said.

Trustee Tom Bailey said the lack of public outcry was one reason the board decided to institute the fees.

"I'm not really happy about any of the cuts that we're making," Bailey said. "But we haven't had anyone come to the

board meeting. However, it's a way of generating money."

Rodney Hosman, director of secondary instruction, said he estimates \$250,000 will be generated in pay-to-participate fees. It costs \$2.2 million annually for the district to offer athletics and activities to middle and high school students.

Many questions remain. One issue discussed at length was whether the fees would cause a drop-off in participation and a drop in projected revenue. Hosman said that studies of pay-to-participate programs in other local school districts showed decreased participation rates as high as 13 percent, while some districts saw no change.

If the district doesn't generate \$250,000 from pay-to-participate, then it would likely have to dip into its fund balance to cover the difference, according to Hosman.

The fees are not intended to fully cover the cost of athletics (\$2.2 million) and activities, but to offset other costs associated with athletics, such as hiring coaches.

For families in financial hardship, scholarships would be available.

Funding for the scholarships would come from individual school funds, for which revenue would be generated by gate receipts from games and other school activities.

"We want to make sure (pay-to-participate) is not a financial burden," Hosman said.

# Concert series marks 20th anniversary

A Westland summer concert series will reach a milestone, its 20th year this season.

Musical styles ranging from Motown to country to big band will be featured during the series, which runs June 12 through Aug. 21.

Concerts start at 6 p.m. on Sundays in a performance pavilion behind the Westland public library. They are free.

The event is organized by the Westland Cultural Society and sponsored by the Westland City Council, with help from the city parks department.

Here's this season's lineup:  
■ June 12 will feature a tribute to Ray Charles by the Tyrone Hamilton All Star Band.

■ June 26 will include Motown, doo-wop and classic rock by Trilogly.

■ July 10 will feature country-western music by Ramblin Country with J.R. Hart.

■ July 17 will feature a variety of music performed by the 30-musician Novi Concert Band.

■ July 24 will feature country-western music by the Waco Country Band with Dean Stacy.

■ July 31 will include Dixieland, polka and marches performed by the Birmingham Straw Hat Band.

■ Aug. 7 will feature Bluegrass music by Roy Cobb & the Coachmen.

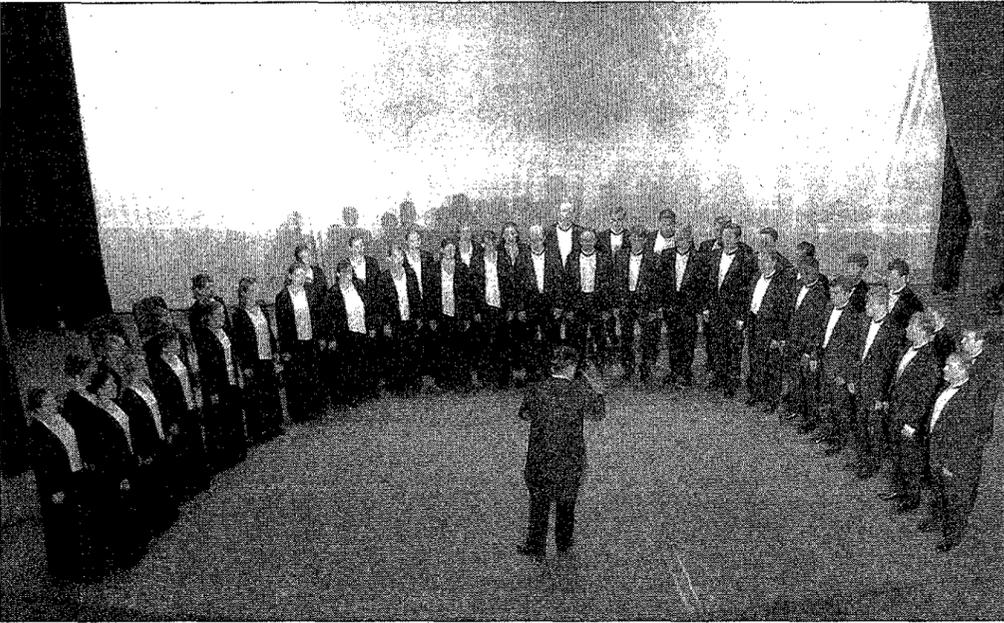
■ Aug. 14 will feature easy listening by Pam & Scott.

■ Aug. 21 will feature big band music by the Tommy James Orchestra All Star Band.

Concert-goers are encouraged to bring their own chair or blankets.

In the event of rain, concerts may be moved to the Bailey Recreation Center.

For more information, call (734) 722-7620 or (734) 522-3918.



## In concert

There's still time to get tickets to a performance by the Brigham Young University Singers 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, at Norman Stockmeyer Auditorium at Wayne Memorial High School on Glenwood east of Fourth Street, Wayne. Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 per student and are available through Matthew Diroff at (734) 419-2244 or diroffm@wwcsd.net and Howard Mehler at (734) 419-2245 or mehlerh@wwcsd.net. The Singers' repertoire includes pieces from almost every musical period and style, such as folk songs, spirituals and musical theater hits.

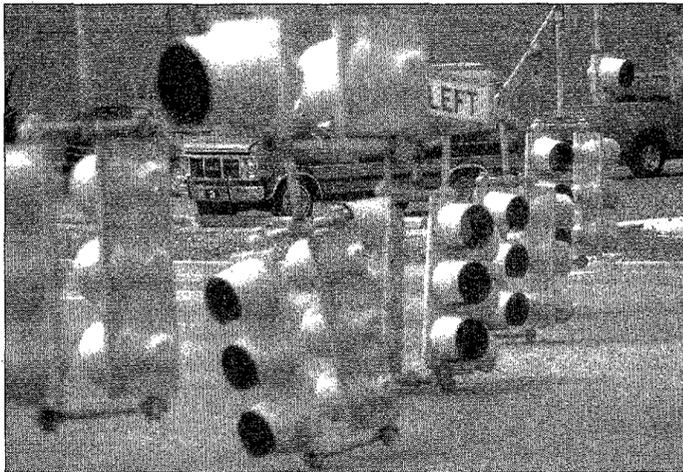
# Driver hits utility pole after failure of brakes

The intersection of Cherry Hill and Merriman was closed for about 10 hours Sunday after a vehicle hit a traffic signal pole.

"The traffic signals and live wires came down, so the intersection was dangerous," said Garden City Police Deputy Chief Michael Lindman. "The intersection was closed in all directions. We sent traffic through on side streets."

The accident was reported at 12:55 p.m. when Aleah Abdellatif, 20, of Westland was driving south on Merriman in the curb lane. He told police he was preparing to stop for a red light at Cherry Hill when he realized the brakes were not working on his 1991 Lincoln Town Car.

Abdellatif told police that he swerved onto the grassy area along the shoulder to avoid hitting vehicles in front of him. Once he left the roadway, Abdellatif struck the traffic signal pole on the northwest corner of the intersection. No injuries were reported. Wayne County Road Commission and DTE crews were called to repair the damages. No citations were issued, Lindman said, and alcohol was not a factor in the accident.



Traffic lights stretched across the Merriman Cherry Hill intersection following an accident Sunday.

# Man driving semi-truck killed in early morning crash

David Perez, a 56-year-old Westland man, was killed in a semi-truck accident at just after 4 a.m. Tuesday after losing control of his vehicle.

According to Livonia police Sgt. Dave Studt, Perez was driving when he lost control of his truck as it left the Farmer

Jack warehouse on Plymouth Road. Studt said the Wayne County Medical Examiner determined that Perez suffered a heart attack.

Before reaching Middlebelt and Industrial roads, the truck veered off the road, went over a grassy median, crashed into a

light pole, went over a small hill and stopped near a parking lot.

Livonia Fire & Rescue responded but Perez was pronounced dead at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Perez was scheduled to retire from Farmer Jack next week.

Employees were told of his death at a meeting Tuesday when they were also told about the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company's plan to sell the Detroit-based Farmer Jack Supermarket chain.

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**FOR THE RECORD**

**DEATHS**

**C**  
Rose M. Cerne, 86, of Canton, died May 7.

**F**  
James Farnstrom, 47.

**G**  
Thelma Ruth Gies, 87, of Livonia, died May 7.

**M**  
Judith S. McKenzie, 69, of Westland, died May 8.

**N**  
Pasquale A. C. Nuccitelli, 82, of Farmington Hills, died May 9.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 8855 Yale, Westland, MI, May 28 @ 1:00 PM.

#671 Olburn Dickerson, #668 Lawrence Rice III, #1106 Kyle Gosik, #602 Wendell Fletcher, #824 Bernard D. Gordon, #1207 Lynda Mousel, #323 John Ronchetto, #924 Edythe Jackson, #129 Matthew Dukes, #345 John Stevens.

Units contain: misc household items.

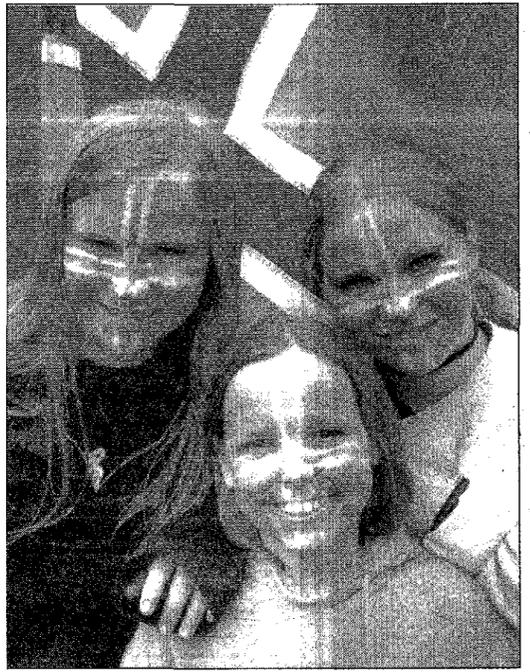
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LOUISE GILES

Trying his luck in the annual codfish-tossing competition staged by the Sons of Norway's Nordkap Lodge last year was Erik Vingsness of Livonia, on the left. The competition will be held this year on May 15th at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills.



BOB GILES

Ready to celebrate the 100th birthday of Norway with faces painted like the Norwegian flag are Heather Vingsness (left) and her twin sister Haley (right), both of Livonia, and Ashley of Canton.

## Celebration marks Norway's centennial

The 100th anniversary of Norway as an independent nation will be celebrated Sunday, May 15, with the "world premiere" of a historical pageant authored by the honorary consul of Norway for Michigan.

The young people of the Sons of Norway's Nordkap Lodge of Detroit will perform the children's pageant, *A Voice of Our Own*, at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills.

Huntington Woods resident Dennis Flessland, honorary consul of Norway for Michigan, wrote the original production as the dramatic equivalent of an historical novel so that the extraordinary events in Norway's long road to independence "would be more realistic and memorable."

The pageant is based on *1905 - A Peaceful Separation* by Øystein Sørensen, professor of history at the University of Oslo. Flessland said he designed the pageant "for children of all ages" with the idea it would require "no rehearsal, no lines - just costumes, action, noise, and fun."

The pageant will be part of an afternoon of family-oriented activities 12:30-4 p.m. on the grounds of the Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth St., Farmington Hills.

The pageant will begin shortly after 1:45 p.m., following a parade at 1:30 p.m. The Scandinavian-American musical group, Spelmanslag, under the direction of Karin Arnesen of Dearborn, will lead the parade.

After the pageant, the lodge

will stage traditional games, including its third annual "cod toss," in which participants compete to throw a frozen fillet of codfish for distance. Cod is a staple food in Norway.

The sponsor of the cod toss for the second year is Superior Fish of Royal Oak. Hot dogs, pop and Norwegian desserts will be available for purchase.

The afternoon's events, which are free and open to the public, will commemorate Norway's Constitution Day, called Sytennde Mai (17th of May) in Norway, the day in 1814 when a new Norwegian Constitution was signed.

The constitution established Norway as a sovereign state and a constitutional monarchy ruled by the principles of liberty and democracy. It was written at the end of the

Napoleonic wars, which had broken up the established power structure in Europe.

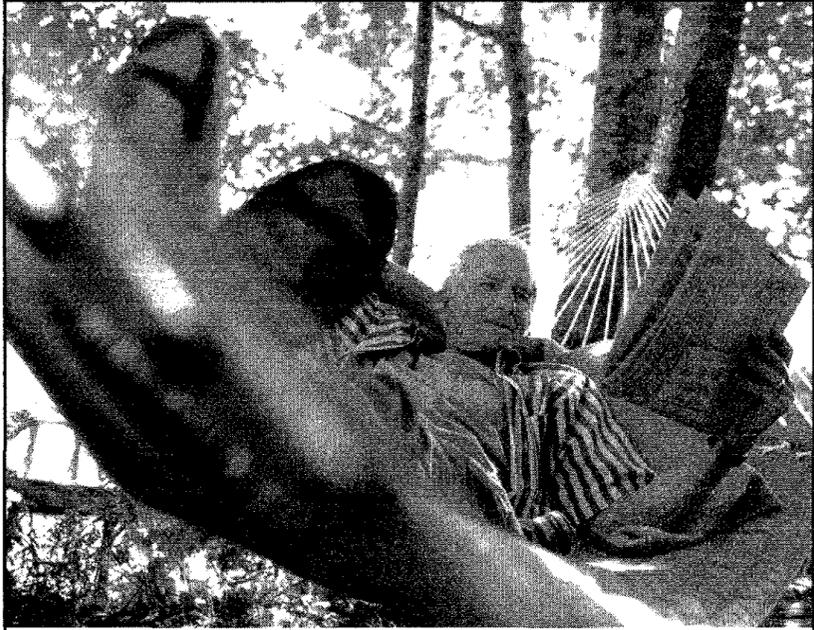
Denmark had dominated Norway for more than 400 years, but in 1814 it was forced to cede Norway to Sweden. Norwegian leaders quickly called a constituent assembly and took one month to produce a constitution, enabling Norway to enter the new union with Sweden as an equal partner.

On June 7, 1905, Norway dissolved her 91-year union with Sweden by declaring that the monarch of the union was no longer the king of Norway. Membership in the Sons of Norway is open to all who are interested in the preservation of Norwegian culture and heritage. For more information, call (248) 398-5976.



Knut Erichsen of Birmingham (left) and fellow Sons of Norway members Thad Aardal of Redford and Rita Bergsrud of West Bloomfield discuss the plans being made to celebrate Norway's centennial.

BOB GILES



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# Professor Hill woos River City folks in Wayne High musical

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Trouble may start with "T" and rhyme with "P" and stand for pool, but there's no trouble in sight for students at Wayne Memorial High School who are staging Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* this week.

"It's a difficult and challenging show, but we have a lot of great talent here, and after the response to the fall play, I wanted to do something with a large cast," said director Kate Sullivan. "I thought about the Wizard of Oz, but it didn't have a lot of lead parts and I wanted to involve more students."

The musical will be presented at 7 p.m. tonight and Friday at the auditorium on the east end of the Wayne Memorial campus on Glenwood east of Fourth Street in Wayne. Tickets cost \$5 for students and \$7 for adults.

*The Music Man* follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize even though he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the town's librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by the end of the play.

Students have spent 4 1/2 hours a day, four days a week, for five weeks rehearsing. It has a cast of 40, including 12 youngsters from Schweitzer and Edison Elementary Schools who play the River City kids.

"They come in and rehearse a few hours a day," said Sullivan. "They're doing a great job."

Joining Sullivan on the production side is choreographer Marjorie Wright, assistant directors Tori Bradley and Travis Manning and technical directors Justin Monit and Andy Rowland.

The cast includes Gideon Nult, Sammy Banks, Cameo Bond, Tori Bradley, Jason Burleson, Tirrell Davis, Briana Dewyer, Ashley Evans, Antonio James, April Kersey, Olivia LaFortune, Alicia LaRoque, Dominique Love, Travis Manning, Karissa Matson, Mikey McBee, Carolyn McCaffery, Audra Meagher, Kristina Monty, Najla Muta, Paige Paulos, Andy Rodriguez, Steve Saferian, Rosé Seguin, Daniel Slaughter, Christian Smith, Sarah Strum, Tricia Terrien and Evan Williams.

Appearing as the River City Kids are Mason Bird, Rebecca Bizek, Jessica Peterson, Meagan Ferguson, Alexa Girouard, Kelly Kraning, Emily Luke, Andrew Roberts, Hannah Shepard, Chloe Sparkman, Tyler Wiggle and Alex Zeidman.

The play is a collaborative effort when it comes to set changes because of the small size of the crew - just seven students (Jim Curtis Jr. Jennifer Guthrie, Tyler Honeycutt, Jacque Matheson, Jessica Matheson, Nathan Polen and Zainy) - and the number of sets. Some hanging backdrops have been flown in, limiting the amount of scenes that needed to be created in wood.

"We have one for the library and it looks like a library, with books on the shelves and bookcases," Sullivan said. "All we have to do is add a few other pieces like tables and chairs and create a scene."

There also are rolling props like the train used in the beginning of the play. It splits in half and the cast and crew together turn it around to become River City.

"It's definitely a challenging show, but we have a lot of great talent here," she added.

The musical comes in the school year later than usual and is because of Sullivan's newness to the high school. She came in late and had to work around other events



Gideon Ault rehearses his part as Professor Harold Hill during dress rehearsal for the Wayne Memorial High School production of 'The Music Man.'

already scheduled for the auditorium.

In addition to the two evening performances, the students will present the musical to seniors from the Dyer Center and to one elementary and one middle school Wednesday. The troupe used to do a student matinee for the high school, but Sullivan dropped it in favor of the middle school performance to help build the drama program.

"I want the middle school students who'll be coming here to get excited about drama," she said.

As for the students in this year's musical ...

"They're wonderful," said Sullivan. "They've been working real hard especially this week and last. It's crunch time."



The River City school board - Mike McBee (from left), Daniel Slaughter, Tirrell Davis, and Antonio James - serenade the ladies in a scene from *The Music Man*.

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# Orin Jewelers hosts Hidalgo trunk show

## STACK IT UP

Garden City residents can choose their favorite Hidalgo stackable ring designs when Orin Jewelers hosts a special trunk show Wednesday-Saturday, May 18-21.

Hidalgo rings come in 18-karat white or yellow gold, or platinum. They are accented by enamel artwork or diamonds. Because the rings are stackable, sets of three, four, and five rings are sold together. In addition, the jeweler will feature Hidalgo necklaces, earrings, pins, watches, cufflinks, bangles and charm bracelets.

Hidalgo stackable rings cost between \$150 and \$2,000. Enamel watches retail from \$490 and watches with diamonds start at \$990.

Trunk show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 18; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 19; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, May 20; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 21.

Orin Jewelers Inc. is located at 29317 Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 422-7030.

## THE GROUND UP

After 25 years in the Livonia community, The Ground Round Grill & Bar has recently completed a full renovation. The new look aims to bring this local establishment up-to-date, inside and out.

"We are so proud of the new Livonia Ground Round," said Sam Matar, owner. "We are excited to serve our current and new customers in this state-of-the-art facility with the most innovative and finest cuisine."

The Livonia Ground Round

features a diverse menu including everything from steak, pasta and seafood, to burgers and a wide variety of salads, wraps and sandwiches. The family-friendly environment remains the same, as kids



can eat for free every Tuesday. The restaurant features also private rooms for special occasions.

Matar has organized several festivities this coming week, all to celebrate the newly renovated eatery. On Monday, May 16, seniors can buy one dinner and get a second one free between 5-9 p.m. The Senior Night special is limited to meals under \$9.

Family Fun Night will follow from 5-9 p.m. Tuesday May 17, as kids eat free while ordering from the children's menu. On Wednesday, May 18, the restaurant offers Guest Appreciation Night, also from 5-9 p.m., allowing customers to buy one dinner and get a second one for half price.

Hours are 11 a.m. to midnight, Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday-Saturday; and noon to midnight on Sunday. The Livonia Ground Round is located at 17050 Laurel Park South, just off the southeast corner of Newburgh and Six Mile roads.

For more information, call (734) 462-1735 or see the Web site at [www.livoniaground.com](http://www.livoniaground.com).

## DECKED OUT

Mans Lumber and Millwork recently celebrated the completion of its new facility - on 18 acres in Canton - with a grand opening event.

Formerly located on Ford Road, the new address is 47255 Michigan Avenue, near



Orin Jewelers in Garden City and Northville are hosting a trunk show of Silvio Hidalgo's collection mix-and-match stackable rings and ring jackets.

Beck Road. It features a 24,000-square-foot retail facility, complete with showroom, and a 60,000-square-foot warehouse and manufacturing facility.

The business itself is not new. According to Marketing Director Kristin Schrader, the family-owned operation has been in business for 105 years. Mans operates five lumber yards and deals with a range of customers - from contracted builders to homeowners.

As deck-building season hits full swing, Schrader said, the company can serve do-it-yourselfers and professional builders alike.

"I have been really surprised by the walk-in traffic we've had," said Schrader of the grand opening.

She said Mans has always been a good place for homeowners to start when beginning a project at home, such as building a deck or refinishing a basement. The new location might be bringing more exposure to a Canton institution,

she said. "We're not one of the big industrial lumberyards," she said. "They don't deal with homeowners. We really enjoy working with the public."

In addition to the lumberyards, the company offers kitchen and bath services, finished carpentry services and more.

Mans Lumber and Millwork is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (734) 714-5800 or see the Web at <http://www.namans.com>.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to [scasola@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:scasola@oe.homecomm.net) or call (734) 953-2054.

## CLUBS IN ACTION

Listings for Clubs in Action should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at [sason@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:sason@oe.homecomm.net). For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

### T.O.P.S.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M128, a support group for sensible weight loss, meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M153 meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at St. John Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 721-5023. Call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299 for more information.

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club No. 6694 (formerly Holy Smokemasters) teaches public speaking at the club's weekly meetings 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 N. Wayne Road, next to Westland Shopping Center. Call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 noon to 8 p.m.

The Dearborn Dynamic Toastmasters meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 N. Merriman in Westland. For information, visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).

Toastmasters International meets 7 p.m. every first and third Monday of the month at St. John Episcopal Church, on Sheldon in Plymouth. Guests are welcome, and there is no pressure to speak. Call (734) 459-0715 for information.

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at

the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile. Beginning genealogy and computer classes start at 6:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.

The Oakwood-Annapolis Retirees meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venoy at Howe in Wayne. All Oakwood Retirees are welcome to attend.

Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, penny-whistle, ukulele and upright bass. Call (734) 482-2902 or check out the Web site at <http://geocities.com/ssdsociety>.

The Westland Rotary Club meets 12:15 p.m. Thursdays at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt in Westland.

The County Connection Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is looking for women who love to sing. The group sings a cappella music in barbershop style. Rehearsals are 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays at UAW Local 898 at 8975 Textile, Ypsilanti. For more information, call (734) 480-8843 or visit [www.sweetadelines.org](http://www.sweetadelines.org).

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Essay winner

Stephanie McCanns, a John Glenn High School student, won a Law Day essay contest sponsored by City Attorney Angelo Plakas' office. McCanns won an engraved plaque and a \$100 savings bond during the 10th annual contest. This year's essay topic was "The American Jury: We Fly the People In Action."

Go fly a kite

KB Toys is inviting kite enthusiasts to fly kites every weekend in May, weather permitting, in the JC Penney parking lot next to Nankin Boulevard, at Westland Shopping Center. Scheduled times are 1-7 p.m. Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. KB Toys will provide kites for children to use, and kites also will be sold in the store for those who want to buy them.

Meet the mayor

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and her administration will have their next Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at Holliday Park Townhouses Cooperative, on Fountain Boulevard off of Wayne Road on the city's north side. All residents are welcome.

Coffee with Glenn

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has announced that his next local coffee hour with constituents will be 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, May 16, at the Westland Big Boy restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter. Citizens are welcome to discuss issues or ask questions. Anderson's coffee hours are scheduled the third Monday of each month.

Jaycees campaign

Westland Jaycees will sponsor another event to raise money to help the city fire department buy thermal imaging cameras, which can help locate people during fires. Billed as "One Hot Crop," it will be a scrap-booking event 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center, behind City Hall on Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne. Minimum donation for the event, which includes cropping space, lunch, snacks and a "goody" bag, is \$25 per person. There will be

door prizes and raffles. Those new to scrap-booking can bring 4-by-6-inch photos and \$10 to attend a beginner class at 11 a.m. or 3 p.m. For more information, call Lisa Graham at (734) 226-0400. Reservations are requested by May 17.

Help Save Lives

Hayes Elementary School is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, at the school, 30600 Louise, Westland. Call (734) 427-2810 for a blood donation appointment.

Food Drive

After they've delivered mail Saturday to Westland homes, mail carriers are hoping to come away with some nonperishable food. It's the 13th annual food drive sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers, the U.S. Postal Service and Campbell Foods. Residents are asked to place canned goods and other nonperishable foods near their mail box by 9 a.m. Locally, the food donations are given to the Gleaners Community Food Bank which serves the metro Detroit area.

Flea market

VFW Harris-Kehrer Post 3323 will sponsor an outdoor flea market 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at its 1055 S. Wayne Road location. Cost is \$25 per parking space. No food or beverages may be sold. For more information, call (734) 812-7978.

Surplus food

The city will distribute surplus federal food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey south of Palmer and east of Venoy. That distribution will be for residents north of Michigan Avenue. Residents south of Michigan should pick up their commodities on the third Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Senior citizens in Taylor Towers should contact their building manager to learn when to

pick up their food. Food distributed in May will include green beans, mixed fruit, pineapple juice and pudding. For more information, call (734) 595-0366.

Need a pet?

The Michigan Humane Society will bring its mobile adoption until to Art Van Furniture, 8300 N. Wayne Road, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 15. For more information, call (866)-MHU-MANE. For a complete listing of mobile adoption events, go online at www.michiganhumane.org.

Memorial service

The Vermeulen Funeral Homes in Plymouth and Westland will hold two memorial balloon release services for people to pay tribute to their loved ones. The services will be: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the Vermeulen Funeral Home at 980 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, in Westland. For more information call (734) 326-1300. 7 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at the Vermeulen Funeral Home at 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck, in Plymouth. For more information call (734) 459-2250. Each balloon release will include a presentation by licensed grief counselor Wes Baldwin. Anyone planning to attend is asked to call ahead because the funeral home, in preparation for serving refreshments, would like a head-count.

Curtain call

The City of Wane Arts and Entertainment Department Actors Community Theatre will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 13-14 and 20-21, and 2 p.m. 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15, at the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$13 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for children. For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

Free seminar

Kate Ferrett, hospital liaison for Arbor Hospice and Home Care, will speak about such

issues as advanced directives in a presentation 5-6 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at Westland Convalescent Center. Ferrett will discuss such topics as what are advance directives, when is it time to think about advance directives, who needs advance directives, what is the difference between advance directives and a living will and how to get started. The seminar is free of charge and open to the public. Contact Judy Bianchi at (734) 728-6100 to sign up for this event.

Golf outing

The Westland Rotary Club will hold a Centennial Golf Celebration Thursday, May 26, at the Golden Fox at Fox Hills in Salem Township. The outing will have a scramble format and 11 a.m. shotgun start. It includes 18 holes of golf, lunch and beverages at the turn, door prizes and a filet mignon dinner and banquet. The costs is \$160 per golfer or \$600 for a foursome. Sponsorships also are available. For more information, call Dr. Kim Shunkwiler at (734) 728-5533, Tom North at (734) 421-1300, Todd Blevins at (734) 425-7766 or Capt. Matt O'Neil at (734) 722-3660. To register, send a check, payable to Westland Rotary to the Rotary Golf Outing, Shunkwiler Chiropractic Health Center, 5978 N. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48185. Proceeds will benefit the Salvation Army and Westland Rotary charities.

Meet the author

Native Detroit Richard Bak, award winning author and historian, will discuss the history of the Civil War with an emphasis on Michigan's role during the tumultuous time when he speaks at the Wayne Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26. Bak has written numerous books about such subjects as the city of Detroit, Ty Cobb, Henry and Edsel Ford, Abraham Lincoln, Joe Louis, Lou Gehrig, the Detroit Red Wings and Tiger Stadium. There is no charge for the program, however, seating is limited, so registration is required. Call the library at (734) 721-7832.

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THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM Classes/field trips Swimming The Westland Parks and Recreation Department sponsors a variety of activities and field trips for people with special needs through its Therapeutic Recreation Program now through June. The program includes classes in golf, cooking, exercise and arts and crafts for those 13 years and older. There also is bowling and fun nights, swimming fishing and a dance planned. There is at least one field trip each month, including seeing the Harlem Globetrotters, the Detroit Tigers, a Michigan State-University of Michigan hockey game and a mystery trip.

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**SUMMER CAMPS**

**Rockers Soccer**  
Rockers Soccer, along with the Border Stars Professional Outdoor Team, will be conducting a summer soccer camp July 25-29 at Central City Park. Qualified instructors (professional and college players) will share their knowledge of the game. The camps are designed for boys and girls ages 4-14 of all skill levels. Players will learn how to develop individual technique and team strategy. Each camper will receive a soccer ball, T-shirt and one free Border Star game ticket. The camp will be 1:30-4 p.m. and costs \$140 per camper - each additional family or team member will receive \$10 off the regular price. Register by July 8 at the Bailey Center or with the Rockers Soccer by phone at (734) 427-6017 or look them up on line at www.detroitrockers.net.

**Dance Camp**  
Join Ms. Helen's Westland Dance Summer Day Camp, learning tap, jazz, hip hop, pom-pom and ballet. Youngsters will participate in three dance classes each day, swimming every day and do a craft each day. Snacks and drinks will be provided each day, but participants should bring a sack lunch. On the last day, there will be a pizza party. The program is for ages 7-12 years. Session 1 is 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, July 12-15, preregister by July 1, and Session 2 will be 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Aug. 9-12, preregister by July 29. Cost is \$180 per student, or \$170 per student, if preregistered before June 1. Enrollment is limited, and each student will receive a camp shirt. For more information, call (734) 261-3744.

**Lacrosse Camp**  
An all pro and college Division I, II and III coach and player staff will teach introductory lacrosse sessions 9 a.m.-noon July 25-July 28 at Central City Park soccer area behind Bailey Recreation Center. The camp is for kids in grades 1-4. It is non-contact with loaner sticks available. For sessions for grades 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, all players must be fully equipped. Grades 11-12, call (248) 788-7020 for private lessons. The cost is \$225 per student, which includes a camp jersey.

**Basketball Camp**  
Kids will spend the week learning fundamentals of basketball, such as dribbling, passing, shooting and defense. There will be a variety of fun and challenging games and drills, at least two full-court games, three-on-three tournaments, free throw contests and beat the counselor events. The camp is for kids ages 7-15. It will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 18-22 and Aug. 1-5. The cost is \$125 for one week or \$210 for both weeks. Bring a bag lunch or money to purchase pizza and chips, a water bottle, and gym shoes. Each camper will receive a T-shirt. For more information, call (248) 496-3268.

**Basketball Skills Camp**  
Kids will receive a Michigan Dragons' basketball camp T-shirt, composite leather ball, Michigan Dragons' basketball skills assessment, certificate and lunch at the camp. Participants will be able to compete in one-on-one and three-on-three tournaments, with the first- and second-place winners receiving trophies. The camp is for kids in grades 5-8. It will be 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 20-23. The cost is \$175 per student; \$200 per student with lunch. Enrollment is limited to 100 kids. Preregister by June 1 at the Bailey Center or online at: www.michigandragons.com. For more information call (734) 394-0487. If registering at the Bailey Center, must pay at time of registration. If registering on line, you must fill out the form and mail in check or money order per instructions.

**Euro Soccer Camp**  
Learn different soccer styles from around the world in this camp which employs coaches from about 20 countries like the U.S.A., Romania, Hungary, Serbia, Italy, Greece, France, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, England. They will teach youngsters of all ages all the various soccer styles and techniques used across the world. The will be two sessions - 9:30 a.m. -noon soccer and noon-1:00 p.m. swimming July 11-15 and 5:30-8 p.m. July 25-29. The cost is \$125 per camper per session. A coach signing up an entire team will pay \$100 per camper per session. Register at the Bailey Recreation Center. Call (248) 280-9434.

**YWCA Summer Day Camp**  
The YWCA of Western Wayne County is offering an Explorer Summer Day Camp and Counselor in Training Program. The day camp will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 27 through Aug. 19, for age 6-15. The CIT program will be for those ages 11-15. Before and after care will be available 7-8 a.m. and 5-6 p.m. There will be sports, learning activities, field trips and more. Campers should bring a sack lunch. The cost is \$100 per child per week or \$30 per day. A \$50 nonrefundable registration fee can be applied to camp tuition. Before and after care costs \$5 per family per day. Call Sarah Riplet at (313) 561-4110, Ex. 17.

**Parents' Night out**  
Parents can leave children with Hoop Stars Basketball and Academic Tutoring and the Parks and Recreation Department Friday, June 3, for a night of fun and exciting activities and have a night to themselves. Children will be able to choose two activities to take part in - basketball, cheerleading, math games and arts and craft. The night out is for children in first-eighth-grades. Orientation, where participants will be split into activity groups, will be 6-6:15 p.m., with the first activity at 6:15-7:45 p.m. followed by a pizza dinner at 7:45-8:30 p.m. and the second activity 8:30-10 p.m. The cost is \$20 per student; preregister by May 3. Enrollment is limited. For more information call Ron Levin at (248) 496-3268.

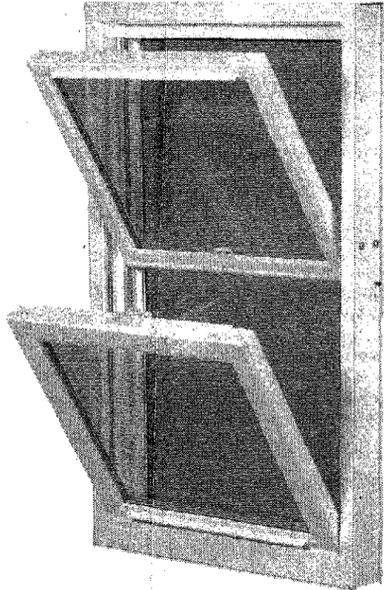
**Flag Day Ceremony**  
Join with Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, the Westland Civitan Club, the VFW and many others in memory of the first patriots whose vision gave birth to United States at a Flag Day ceremony at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 14, at the flagpole in front of the Bailey Recreation Center and behind City Hall on Ford Road. Rain location will be under the awning of the Bailey Center. The ceremony includes the pledge of allegiance, a performance of the Star Spangled Banner and a sing-along of patriotic songs.

**Fishing Derby**  
Co-sponsored by Westland Parks and Recreation Department and the Westland Fire Department, youngsters 14 years old and under are invited to show off their fishing skills at the sixth annual Westland Fishing Derby 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at Friendship Lake in Central City Park. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Space is limited, so preregister by Aug. 17. The goal is to catch and release as

many fish as you can in a two-hour period. Prizes will be awarded for the most fish caught for various age groups. Bring a fishing pole and bait or those without fishing poles can reserve a pole in advance by contacting the Bailey Recreation Center at (734) 722-7620. Juice, coffee and doughnuts will be provided for breakfast. Hot dog lunch also provided.

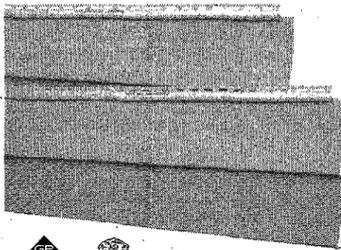
**Relay for Life**  
The American Cancer Society Relay for Life allows individuals from all walks of life to celebrate life for survivors, to remember lost loved ones and to rally together as a community to fight cancer. It begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 11, and ends on Sunday, June 12. Kicking off the relay, cancer survivors will take a victory lap around the track. As the sun goes down, luminaries will line the track in remembrance of those touched by cancer and remind participants of the incredible importance of their contribution. People interested in receiving more information or in participating in Relay for Life Westland, call Megan Holt at (248) 483-4344.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

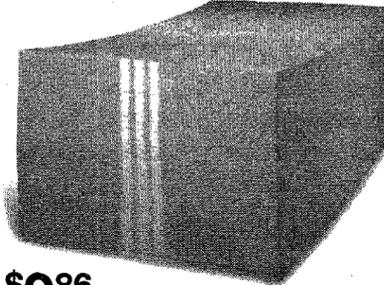


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28"W x 38"H 20 Series Double-Hung Vinyl Replacement Window  
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36"W x 38"H	#133678	\$107
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**SPECIAL VALUE**  
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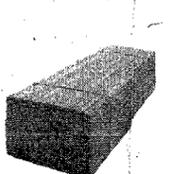


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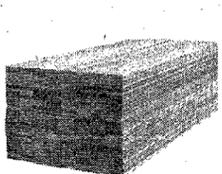
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•Decorative glass with black patina casing •Insulating glass for energy efficiency •Magnetic weatherstripping for a tight seal



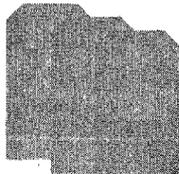
**\$2.75** each  
**2" x 4" Pre-Cut Stud**  
•Precision end trimmed •Lightweight •Easy to cut and nail #7020, 702, 6003



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**1/2 HP Garage Door Opener with Intellicode® #104550**  
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**\$3.97** each  
**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
5/4" x 6" x 8' STD Treated Lumber #21210



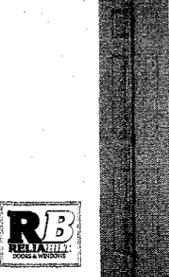
**\$1.39** each  
**5/8" x 6" x 6' Dog-Ear Wood Fence Board**  
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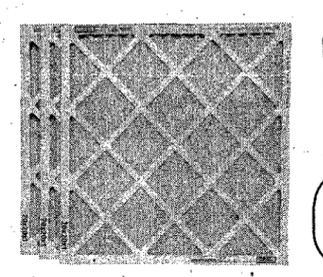
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24", 30", 32", 36"  
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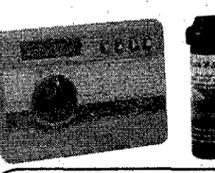
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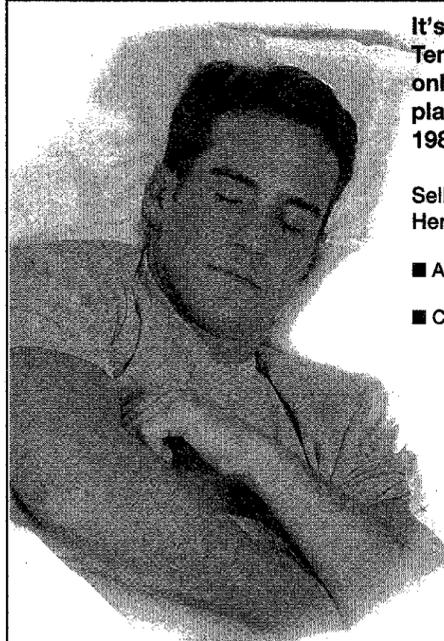
**SUSPECT**

FROM PAGE A1  
appear next Thursday in Westland District Court for a preliminary hearing on three counts of assault with intent to murder, three counts of assault with intent to commit great bodily harm, three counts of felonious assault and one count of felony firearms. Withers rejected the accusations and told authorities that he fled because he feared being

beaten by police. Withers also denied having any guns in the Belding Court house, Dexter said. The defendant is accused of opening fire on the van during a domestic dispute. Police arrived on the scene and surrounded the home on Belding Court, believing Withers was inside, but a search revealed he had already fled. The incident prompted Wayne-Westland Community

Schools to close two nearby buildings - Adams Middle School and Lincoln Elementary - for the day. Authorities said Withers decided to surrender as police initiated an extensive search for him. "Everything went well," Murray said, referring to efforts to take Withers into custody. dclem@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110

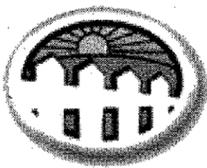
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**FRANKLIN HONOR ROLL**

Named to the third honor roll for the 2004-2005 school year at Franklin Middle School are:  
Ali Ahmad, Adeela Ali, Muhammad Ali, Charity Allen, Ryan Allen, Danielle Anderson, David Arnold, Shelby Arnold, Robert Baker, William Baker, Alexander Balli, Farrah Barnes, Jasmine Barnes, Delancey Barron, Tileshia Bates, Jacob Bean, Matthew Beard, Berlynn Beaver, Jasmine Bell, Alexis Benefield, Cynthia Berean, Andrew Berry, Cole Berthet, Chelsea Blamer, Brittany Blanton, Karissa Bolish, Parris Bowen, Christopher Bowie, Amanda Bowman, James Bryant, Jonathan Bryant, Samantha Buglione, Dominic Burnett, Christopher Burtraw, Alaina Butner, Aaron Byrd, Jonathan Cahill, William Cain, Samantha Calladine, Cody Campbell, Brittanie Candy, Danielle Capraro, Erina Carmelo, Amanda Chalmers, Denecia Charles, Taylor Clark, Brittney Coleman, Samantha Collings, Megan Connolly, Kiara Cook, Heather Copeland, Nastika Cukali, Patrik Culey, Melissa Dabelstein, Alexander Dayton, Cierra Decraene, Staci Delezene, Jessica Denny, Samantha Desselles, Michael Dewulf, Brittney Diegido, Samantha Domeier, Elizabeth Douglas, Ashley Elliott, Shelby Erickson, Antwanetta Faulk, Brittany Faulk, Heather Favazza, Pilar Felan, Jessica Fielhauer, Alyssa Fiori, Katie Fogg, Scott Franklin, Anita Freeman, Scot Fretwell, Shaunessie Fuchs, Michael Gallagher, Adrienne Gardner, Chelsea Gilbert, Thomas Goachee, David Gonzalez, Michelle Good, Elizabeth

Gottlieb, Jenna Graham, Ian Green, Joshua Green, Kayla Greene, Heather Greenshields, Cassandra Hardy, Richard Hardyniec, Zakkary Hardyniec, Brandon Harnos, Renee Hartert, Amber Hartford, Anita Hatch, Haley Hays, Lalita Hayes, Christopher Henisse, Donald Herber, Kelsie Honeycutt, Paris Horgrow, Jeffrey Horne, Chisea Housewright, Bobby Hubbard, Stefanie Huffman, Briana Hunter, Jacob Hurst, Gabrielle Jackson, Alicia Jacobs, Taylor Jacobs, Arooba Javed, Anthony Jett, Cody Johannes, Cassie Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Ienna Johnson, Kaitlyn Johnson, Tyler Johnson, Alexis Jones, Kaitland Jones, Hope Kaminski, Jordyn Kapinski, Ishpreet Kaur, Kaitlyn Kelow, Hunter Kennedy, Vivian Kennedy, Ionica Kmet, Kayla Korinek, Kayla Korijek, Dylan Korzetki, Christopher Kouri, Jeremy Kowlowski, Henry Kozlowski, Mary Kreutzkamp, Kyle Kruckow, Courtney Kucharski, Jessica Kuder, Samantha Kull, Jessica Labean, Jory Labert, Patrick Laferty, Halee Lankton, Timothy Laderbach, Tony Lave, Heather Læque, Shayna Lenox, Kateri Little, Trisha Lloyd, Bradley Lockhart, Leah Long, Joshua Lowe, Alyssa Lucas, Eric MacDonald, Kayteland Manning, Emily Marshall, Paris Martir, Ashley Mashatt, Brianne Mason, Rebecca McClester, Megan McGregor, Derek McManaway, Shae Miller, Brittany Miskovitch, Christina Mitchell, Saah Mitchell, Kristy Molner, John Moore, Raymond Moore, Michael Morgan, Tial Napolitano, Vera Neci, Gary Neill,

James Nettie, Allen Nugal, Stephani O'Harris, Brandee Ochel, Jacqueline Odien, Steven Ogg, Kelsey Osborne, Candace Papineau, Callee Parendo, Cory Parendo, Laura Pegg, Emily Penner, Daniel Pianowski, Jacob Pipe, Sean Pipe, Chelsea Pobur, Amanda Poirier, Trevor Pollard, Meghan Pollington, Jeremy Powell, Renaldo Powell, Brandon Quinn, Aaron Rankins, Briean Rice, Dylan Ritter, Justin Robinson, Hailey Ross, Keshia Ross, Rebecca Rowings, Vivian Ruczynski, Jerold Runion, Avery Rushlow, Tremor Sambrone, Kelsey Schmiyyou, Rachel Shackelford, Yasmine Shitta, Solomon Shurge, Andrea Sigler, Andrea Sims, Chelsea Skivers, Danielle Smith, Jamie Smith, Lauren Smith, Zachary Smith, Bernardina Spagi, Shantelle Spencer, Camille Springer, Jessica Spytko, Ashley Stamper, Heather Stawasz, Keiara Stevenson, Chorey Stewart, Christopher Stewart, Taylor Stewart, Eric Story, Rachel Sullivan, Brianna Swales, Sara Tackett, Nicholas Tarnowsky, Jacob Tenerovich, Jane Thayer, Brandon Thomas, Kristy Thomas, Matthew Thompson, William Toms, Alyssa Torres, Ashley Trobley, Taylor Tucker, Martin Urbaniak, Shawn Van Dyke, Kneco Veres, Ashlee Vernon, Ashley Wasik, Neil Wasinski, Shelby Watts, Jordan Weatherwax, Alesha Whaley, Edina Whittenberg, Daniel Wilson, Devanese Wilson, Kailee Wilson, Krysta Wilson, Barbara Wimberly, Joanna Witte, Kellie Woodart, Katherine Yax, Torri York and Andrew Zimmerman.

**RECREATIONAL SPORTS**

**Dad's Athletic Club of Westland**  
Softball for boys and girls ages 7-18. Sign up in March and April for summer season. Call Bud Prough at (734) 595-2951 or Michelle at (734) 721-7614 for more information.  
**Wayne Dolphin Swim Team**  
Come join one of the longest running recreational swim teams in the area. We need boys and girls ages 6-18 to continue a tradition of friendship and fun. For more information visit the Web site or contact President Mary Schirmer at (734) 397-8196, Vice-President Donna Fox at (734) 729-5049 or Treasurer Tammy Deck at (734) 728-1099.  
**Warriors of Westland**  
The Warriors of Westland sports team for the physically challenged trains people ages 5 and up to participate in track and field events. Call Head Coach

Cindy Hawlat (734) 513-8745.  
**Wayne Ford Civic League**  
The Wayne Ford Civic League provides T-ball, coed pitch, baseball and spring and fall soccer for children ages 4-10. For more information, call Patricia Taum at (734) 467-8243.  
**Wayne-Westland Soccer Association**  
For more information, call (734) 467-5260.  
**Westland Hockey Association**  
For more information, call Chris Simonian at (734) 326-2146.  
**Westland Lawn Bowling Association**  
For more information call (734) 722-7630 or (734) 5228229.  
**Westland Wizard**  
The Westland Wizardz wheelchair basketball team is for individuals 16 years of age or older with any impairment that prevents them from playing regular basketball. There is also a junior

team for ages 10-16. For more information, call Shaun Graham at (734) 762-9573 or Jose Zavala at (734) 721-1835.  
**Westland Youth Athletic Association**  
The Westland Youth Athletic Association offers youth basketball, baseball, cheerleading and volleyball. For information, call (734) 421-0640.  
**FUN-4-ALL**  
This children's recreation scholarship program that was started by several concerned parents who wanted to find a way for children from financially stressed families who live in Westland to be able to participate in recreation programs. All applications must be turned in at least two weeks before the first class. Those who are interested in helping the program or need an application can contact Margaret Martin, program supervisor, at (734) 722-7620.

**Newspaper-In-Education**

**Activity Column**

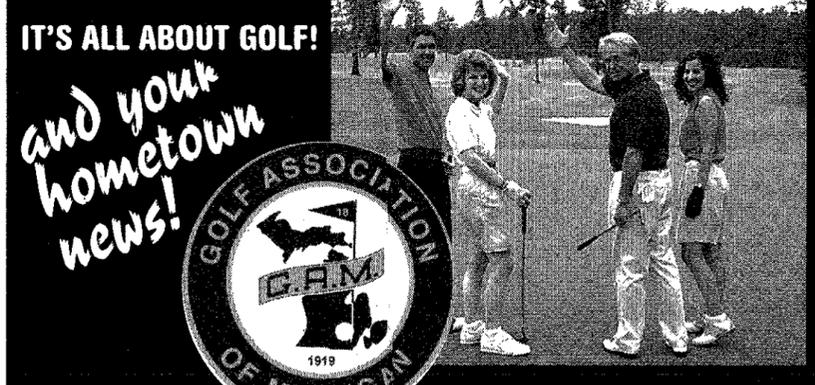
**May 3rd is National Teachers Day.** In your form, create a classified Help-Wanted ad describing the qualities needed for a good teacher.  
**May 5th-Cinco De Mayo.** Find out why this day is celebrated in Mexican Communities and check your newspaper for events happening in your area. Write a brief summary on what kind of activities are done and what kinds of different foods are eaten by the Spanish.  
**May 8th is Mothers Day!!!** Congratulations to all the Mothers out there. Many kids just think of Mothers Day as another holiday, however, if it was not for your mother, you would not have the privilege of celebrating this Holiday. Using your own drawing and creativity, create a card for your Mother or Grandmother and let them know no matter how much you get grounded or are told "No", you still love them and appreciate them watching out for you.  
**May 30th Memorial Day** is observed. Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our Nations service. Write a paragraph about someone whom you consider to be a Hero. Also, write a letter to a Service Veteran letting them know how much they are appreciated for keeping our country's freedom.

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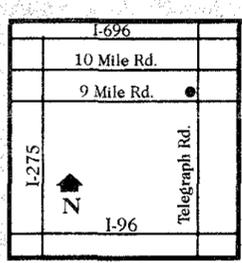
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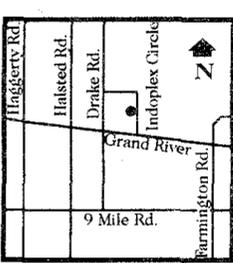
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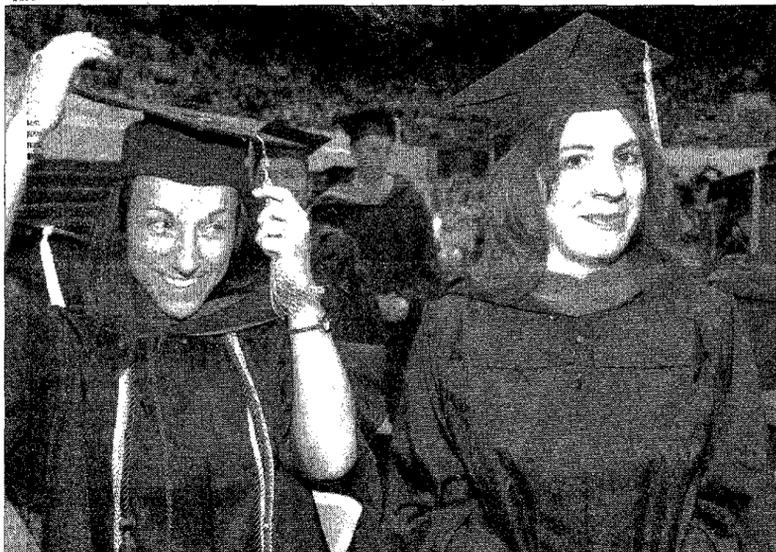


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Andrea Miller (left) of Allen Park and Kati Laszlo of Garden City move their tassels, symbolizing their graduation from Madonna.

PHOTOS BY DONALD J. ALLEY

## Madonna University graduates 865

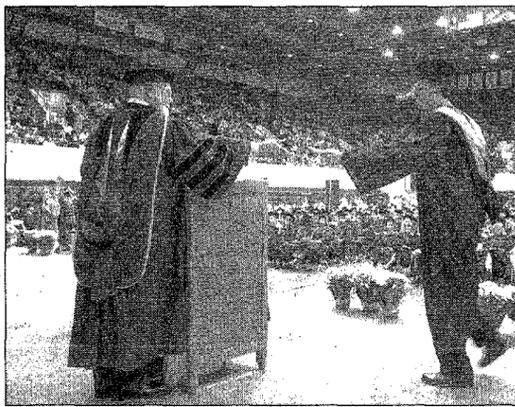
On Saturday, May 7, Madonna University held its 58th commencement in Callihan Hall at the University of Detroit-Mercy.

Approximately 865 graduates joined the Madonna University alumni ranks, with 573 students receiving a bachelor's degree, associate's degree or certificate, and the remainder earning a master's degree.

Honorary doctorate degrees were bestowed upon Sister Mary Raymond Kasprzak, CSSF, Ph.D., of Rome, and Rochester Hills residents Michael and Jo Obloy.

Recipient of this year's Madonna University Distinguished Alumna Award is Sister Edith Marie Agdanowski, CSSF. Through her love for music, Sister Edith has brought out the beauty in God's creation.

Madonna University, at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia, offers more than 70 career-oriented majors for men and women, including programs in e-commerce, fire



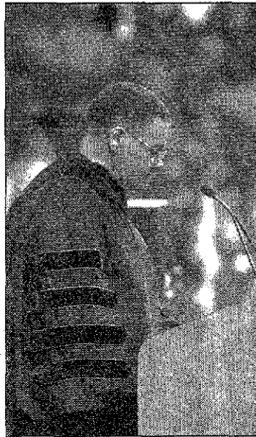
Joseph Timothy Fox gives his name to the announcer before receiving his baccalaureate during the Madonna University graduation ceremony on Saturday. It was held at the University of Detroit Mercy's Callihan Hall.

science, forensic science, sign language studies and sport management.

Twenty-two master's degree programs are available in the diverse areas of business, clin-

ical psychology, education, health services, hospice education, liberal studies, nursing, pastoral ministry and teaching English to speakers of other languages.

## Schoolcraft class more than 1,000



PHOTOS BY DONALD J. ALLEY

Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress begins the graduation ceremony on Saturday.

More than 1,000 students were eligible to receive diplomas at Schoolcraft College's 40th commencement, Saturday. Approximately 430 graduates were expected to attend the formal ceremony.

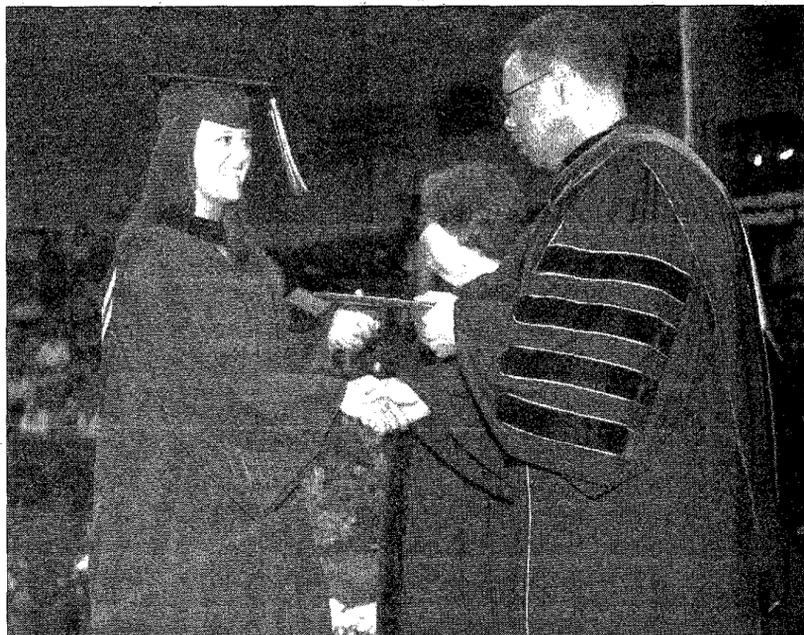
Maura D. Corrigan, Michigan Supreme Court justice, delivered the commencement address at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

The college conferred honorary degrees on Corrigan; Leonard Rezmierski, superintendent of Northville Public Schools; and Thomas Marek, manager of corporate food services at Ford Motor Co. and a member of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors.

On Friday, May 6, 140 Policy Academy, Policy Reserve Officer Training and Fire Technology graduates convened for their graduation, where they heard an address from Robert A. Ficano, Wayne County Executive.

Corrigan served two terms as Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court, was Chief Justice of the Michigan Court of Appeals, and was the first woman to hold the position of Chief Assistant United States Attorney. She is an advocate for child welfare and is recognized as a national leader in the areas of foster care, adoption and mentoring foster youth.

Ficano was elected Wayne County Executive in January 2003. He had served as Wayne County Sheriff for almost 20 years, and began his public service career as assistant city attorney in Westland.



Jill Annette Blakely receives her degree during Schoolcraft College's commencement last weekend.



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Standing, Left to right: Bryan Hinch, MD; Anil Sil, MD; Walid Harb, MD; Bobby Lee, MD; Vijaya Annachalam, MD.  
Seated, Left to right: Cynthia Piko, MD; Jonathan Zimmerman, MD; Catherine Foster, MD.

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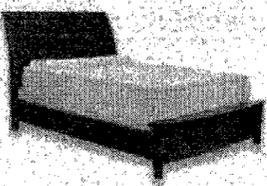
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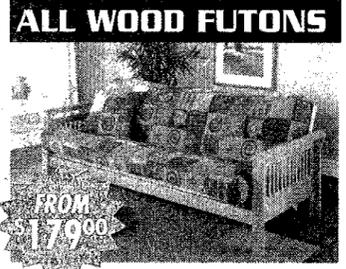
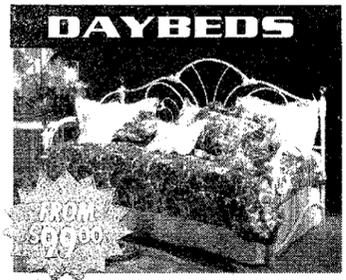
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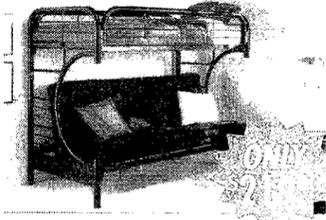
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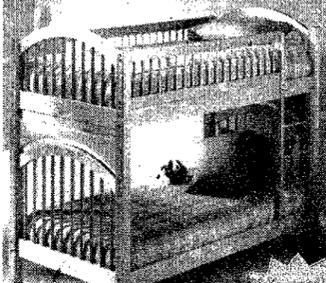
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## OUR VIEWS

### Tragedies help drive home safety message

We may not know all the details and causes yet of this recent horrible string of fatal crashes across the *Observer & Eccentric* area, but we do know the results. Relationships shattered, families torn apart, mourners left to ponder what could have been. And, of course, lives cut short.

There are no guarantees, but we know that there are safeguards we can all take to improve safety.

On Saturday, April 30, a fiery five-car crash on I-75 near Sashabaw Road left three people dead and a fourth critically injured. Police say a pickup truck crossed the narrow median in an area of the freeway where there are no guard rails, sparking the fatal pileup. Since then, state officials have announced they'll be adding guard rails on that section of I-75.

The next day, another crash. In Farmington Hills, two young men argued, got in their cars, and drove off onto Eight Mile, where one slammed on the brakes and bumped the other's car, causing it to hit a curb and roll — ejecting the driver. This one wasn't fatal, though witnesses wondered how it wasn't. The man broke his collarbone.

A day later, Monday, came the highly publicized Farmington Hills crash where a driver with an almost unfathomable 0.43 blood-alcohol level slammed into a car driven by a Farmington Hills woman and her two sons, 12 and 9, along 12 Mile. The woman and her sons were all killed.

Each tragedy comes with a lesson. Sure, there are obvious protections — guard rails will help keep drivers off the wrong side of the freeway; making drinking/driving even more socially unacceptable; rage isn't something to be acted out behind the wheel; and the adage "speed kills" still applies.

But there are also some less-obvious lessons. It's important to remain a defensive driver, scanning the situation, leaving yourself an "out" as you drive. It's also important, experts say, to limit our distractions — passenger conversations, cell phones, eating, CDs, even DVDs, etc.

These accidents serve as a reminder of the inherent dangers of something many of us take for granted — operating a motor vehicle. Drivers should remember these stories every time they get behind the wheel and turn the key.

### Young scholars earn praise, recognition

This marks the 20th year the *Observer Newspapers* has honored outstanding young scholars as members of the Academic All-Star Team. As a local newspaper, we devote a good amount of news space to local schools and education, so it just makes sense to honor those who excel.

We have high expectations for our Academic All-Stars and over the years those expectations have been met and surpassed. In Sunday's *Observer*, we profiled some of the All-Stars who have received this honor over the last 20 years. Today we honor the 2005 team and Runners-up.

They are smart, motivated and eager to expand their world. They are also generous with their time and talent and eager to make the world a better place. They know and value the importance of a good education and they want others to enjoy this benefit. They are grateful to teachers who have inspired them and parents who have provided for and nurtured them along their path to academic and personal success.

Today, in a special section inside this newspaper, we salute the more than 45 students who have achieved outstanding academic success throughout their high school careers. They are indeed some of the best and brightest high school students from public and private schools throughout the *Observer* coverage area.

Congratulations to the 2005 Academic All-Star Team of David Budde, Detroit Catholic Central High; Lisa Tian, Canton High; Han Zhu, Canton High; Joy Schultz, Lutheran High Westland; Ann Marie Brouillette, Farmington High; Rishi Khetrapal, Harrison High; Scott Pfeffer, Detroit Catholic Central High; Meghan Warren, Mercy High; Sarah Crane, North Farmington High; Jeff Fishman, North Farmington High; Kathryn Schalek, Mercy High; Timothy W. Francisco, Churchill High; Jill S. Garrity, Stevenson High; Rachel Cannon, Harrison High; Michael Y. Han, Churchill High; Joel Thompson, Thurston High; Adriana Blazeski, Salem High; Jocelyn Sielski, Belleville High; Kathryn Chadwick, Stevenson High; and Claire Zelmanski, Salem High.

The *Observer Newspapers* salutes these outstanding young men and women — All-Stars and Runners-up — as they close the door on a successful high school career and move on to what promises to be an outstanding future.



## LETTERS

### Inadequate response

On April 14, as I was traveling I-275 north from Ohio, I found the exit ramps to I-94 closed. Turning on a local radio news program, I found the highway was closed five hours earlier due to a car chase and subsequent crash.

It was startling that there was no traffic redirection sign or traffic control. There were no police officers assisting traffic to get to their destination. The only police vehicles were blocking exit ramps.

Moving further on I-275, the traffic exiting the next several exits was backed up for miles at each, many of the motorists unaware of the depth of the backup and hazards involved.

Last spring, we had several storms which knocked out traffic lights. After a particularly stormy night, a few traffic lights were knocked out in the area. A very tortuous drive along Ford Road corridor revealed one light out at Outer Drive. There were barrels with stop signs in the intersection. The traffic was backed up four or more miles on Ford Road.

There were many accidents in the left turn lane as motorists attempted to turn around and travel another route. I was dumbfounded that one traffic light could cause so much and that no police officer could step out and control traffic flow.

There are traffic situations weekly in the metropolitan area which could use a public servant to assist, but it never happens. I believe motorists are so injured to the inadequate response from the police departments that they believe this is not their responsibility.

Even though I feel it is inadequate, I can accept the nonresponse. I can deal with the alternate routes found by looking quickly to a map. I can also tolerate and even expect like many southeastern Michigan residents the one-two-hour ride to travel 15 miles from time to time.

The experiences above are a regular part of commuting in southeast Michigan. What is very troubling is the proposal by our attorney general to have our police departments involved in rapid response and evacuation in case of chemical or other mass attack and fund the departments.

Our police departments have not demonstrated the ability to coordinate traffic flow for accidents temporarily closing down our highways, how could they coordinate evacuation in the case of large scale attack. Is our Attorney General Mike Cox so removed from everyday life that he is completely unaware of these hazardous conditions?

I would suggest we have our police departments manage our traffic problems created by accidents before we assign other duties. These are low-risk, low-cost training exercises for emergency management. And it would save the motoring public millions of hours a year.

Alan Bilber  
Westland

### Don't delay hard decisions

Our Livonia school board has made available statements regarding their vision, their standards of best practice and collective commitments. They go into detail regarding board members

supporting the board as opposed to being advocates for the children and the community and developing a continuous dialogue all year on issues of concern to the stakeholders.

I believe the mission, the vision and the district's goals could be more simply stated:

Mission — the mission of the Livonia Public Schools is to develop a customer and data-driven, student-centered learning environment in which students are motivated to become productive citizens and lifelong learners, equipped with skills to meet the needs of their next customer: higher education or the world of work.

Vision — the Livonia Public Schools will be a competitive leader in academic and vocational achievement through the use of continuous improvement strategies making our schools the first choice for Livonia residents.

Goal — Improving student achievement and performance is the goal of Livonia Public Schools. To help make this happen, we are creating clean and safe school environments; enhancing parental and community involvement; and transforming the district into an effective and efficient organization.

These ideas are not original, but are simply stated and easily understood to be a benefit to all the stakeholders. The present board members are too concerned with small details rather than setting board objectives that benefit students, the classroom teachers and classroom support staff.

I believe it is important for the school board to provide unions with the opportunity to keep the entire staff and programs together by spreading financial concessions throughout the district, rather than resorting to employee layoffs and program cuts with raises given to the remaining staff.

I do not believe the present Livonia school board members are fully aware of the current financial crunch the Michigan business sector is in, much less the serious financial state of the State of Michigan and its local units of government. The sooner the LPS considers the unthinkable, the better off we all will be in the future. The more the board delays in making the hard decisions in order to balance each year's disbursements with each year's receipts, the more drastic the required cuts in personnel and programs will be in the future.

William C. Fried  
Livonia

### Unjust charges

I would like to give your readers two examples of why our medical costs are so very high. I am a high-risk heart patient. My wife took me to a hospital emergency twice in one week. After another catheterization, angioplasty and stent procedure I was released the next day before noon.

While waiting for the volunteer to arrive to transport me, a doctor who I had never seen before walked over to me, introduced himself, said he was a vascular surgeon and wanted to leave me his business card.

For this moment in time he charged Medicare \$148 for an initial patient consult. Another billing the same day, by a doctor that I had never met, saw or

heard of charged Medicare \$100 to sign my hospital discharge papers.

Can you believe this — \$100 for a signature? These examples go on and on. When complaining by phone to the doctors' offices, the hospital, Medicare and the insurance company I was told that these were legitimate charges.

The doctors are allowed to charge up to the approved amounts and when I signed the paperwork I signed a contract to pay these charges. In so many words, "just shut up and pay." It does not matter how unjust the charges are.

George Moltke  
Bloomfield Township

### Tell the truth

The White House press corps asked the right questions at the recent press conference, but they did not get a candid response from the president. This is because the administration prefers to keep its motives hidden — what the president and his representatives say in public often belies their real intentions.

During the first term, for example, "Clear Skies" was their euphemistic name for legislation that would decrease environmental regulation. "Healthy Forests" was the name of a program designed to hasten the destruction of healthy forests... and so on.

The president says he wants to strengthen Social Security but actually the hard-liners in the Republican Party have long desired to dismantle this hugely successful program. And when George W. Bush's religious backers claim that the filibuster on judicial nominations is "against people of faith," they are ingenious. What they are really trying to do is to marshal the Christian troops. The filibuster is not about religion. It would be against seven judges who have already been voted down for possessing opinions far out of the mainstream.

The press can ask the right questions but they won't get a frank reply unless they demand to be told the how, what, when, where and why. It is past time that we had some accountability from this administration. It is time that they told us the truth.

Katie Jacob  
Birmingham

## SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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

## QUOTABLE

"To have 5,000 people in such close proximity and not to have any major incident — from the police department's perspective, I couldn't be happier about it."

— Police Chief Daniel Pfannes, about the way the crowds behaved in waiting to register for federal housing assistance last week

## Time for state's parents to realize value of education

Over my years in this business, I've read a lot of sad stories. But one of the saddest ran last week in *The Detroit News*. It reported the results of an EPIC-MRA poll on the attitudes of Michigan parents toward their kids' education and jobs in today's economy. The findings are, frankly, terrifying:

- Only 27 percent think a good education is essential for getting ahead.
- Around a quarter say that a good career choice for their children is "whatever makes them happy." Only 8 percent chose "successful."
- Nearly half of parents don't think everyone needs a college education.

- Fewer than 5 percent think careers in engineering or computers are worthwhile for their children.

The disconnect between these parents and hard cold reality is astonishing. Don't they know that the high-paying, muscle-based, low-skilled jobs of the past are evaporating? Don't they realize parents in China and India see that their kids need to learn the math, science and thinking skills essential in the new globally competitive economy?

Those kids are going to blow our kids away. No wonder Gov. Jennifer Granholm pounded the podium at the Detroit Economic Club last week: "Wake up!" she barked at Michigan parents. No wonder state economic czar David Hollister keeps warning that a high school education just isn't enough for Michigan kids to make it.

And no wonder that economists, business leaders and journalists are all waving the red flag of alarm.

In the past, I've grouched at the governor for being reluctant about the kinds of radical restructurings Michigan needs in order to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century. But on this fundamentally important issue, she's been absolutely right from the start.

Last year, she had Lt. Gov. John Cherry put together a heavyweight commission on higher education in Michigan. I served on it — and found it a disturbing but energizing experience. We found that only 22 percent of adults in Michigan hold a bachelor's degree, more than 10 points less than our competitor states. We discovered that a distressingly high percentage of kids plan to go to college when they start high school, but somehow never get there. In our report, we recommended that Michigan take all the steps necessary to double the number of college graduates within a decade.

Much of the problem is cultural: Michigan families for generations have figured all you had to do was get a high school diploma to get a

good-paying job in manufacturing and you'd be all set. Plainly, that day is over. But changing deeply ingrained cultural habits is tough.

That's why Granholm is pushing bills to re-jigger the Michigan Merit Scholarship to provide at least \$4,000 in aid to any student who completes two years at any Michigan college or university.

That's enough to pay for an associate's degree at most community colleges. Some students will go directly into good technical jobs, while others will finish their four-year degree \$4,000 less in debt than before.

By combining state money for the Merit award and federal Pell grant funds, Michigan would be the first state to guarantee that all students who finish two years of college would receive enough scholarship support to pay for at least a two-year associate's degree from a community college.

The old \$2,500 Merit program bribed kids into taking the MEAP test and gave high scorers a pay-off. But that did nothing to encourage kids to actually obtain a college degree. Of the 100,000 or so students who graduate from high school each year, about half qualify for a Merit award, but less than half of these ever actually finish a college program. What's worse is that most of the 50,000 who don't qualify (based on just one test) conclude they're just not college material — and never try.

State House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Nov, is whining that the old Merit program works just fine and that taking away the \$2,500 awards penalizes high achievers. He's got it wrong. Our economy does not need kids who score well on standardized tests; it needs more people who obtain college degrees. The speaker surely has enough business experience to know that you get what you pay for. If we want more people entering the labor force with college degrees, that's what we ought to subsidize.

And with the state in the financial bind it's in, it makes no sense at all to cough up millions for the Merit award without getting something useful for it. When I talked with the governor about all this last week, I mentioned something that happened to me a long time ago when I was applying to colleges. The acceptance letter that most impressed me was one that said it was the college's policy that if I didn't flunk out, they would find the money somewhere to keep me in school until I earned my degree.

That's the kind of solid, concrete commitment from the state that could make a big difference in changing today's deep-rooted and deeply dangerous attitudes. I hope the governor takes the ball and runs with it — and that Michigan parents get their eyes on the ball.

Phil Power, the former chairman of HomeTown Communications Network and regent of the University of Michigan, is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan.



Phil Power

## Michigan deserves fair share for highway repairs

Highways laden with potholes. Bumper-to-bumper traffic on overcrowded streets. Large orange barrels and "detour" signs and roadway closures.

Sound familiar? Traffic congestion and weathered roads have become all-too-familiar to Michigan motorists, who end up with deteriorating cars and white knuckles. We need adequate federal funding to get our roads back in working order.

The Senate is currently considering a highway funding bill that provides federal funding for highways and bridges, highway safety initiatives, and transit programs.

Unfortunately, the bill maintains discriminatory funding formulas that require about 20 states, including Michigan — known as "donor" states — to send more gas tax dollars to the Highway Trust Fund in Washington than they receive in transportation infrastructure spending, while the remaining 30 states — known as "donee" states — receive more in transportation funding than they pay into the Highway Trust Fund.

This formula was developed in 1956, and for the past 50 years, those states that benefit from it have fought tenaciously to defend it.

For many years, I have worked with other members of the Michigan congressional delegation to fight for a fairer return on our state's highway dollars.

We have made some progress over the years — for instance, 25 years ago Michigan received

about 75 cents out of every dollar we paid in federal gas taxes, and we've clawed our way to where we now receive over 90 cents. I won't be satisfied until we get our full return.

I introduced a bill earlier this year with Republican Sen. George Voinovich from Ohio that would increase the federal minimum guaranteed funding level, which would bring us one step closer to achieving fairness in the distribution of federal highway funding to states. At stake are tens of millions of dollars a year in additional funding for Michigan to pay for badly needed transportation improvements — as well as the jobs that go with it.

Last year, the Senate passed a highway bill that would have given Michigan about \$7.4 billion in highway funding over six years, which would produce about 100,000 new jobs. While it would not have fully corrected the inequities in funding formulas, it would have made some progress. The bill was never signed into law, however, because the president vowed to veto the Senate-passed bill, despite the fact that a strong, bipartisan majority approved the legislation.

The bill that the Senate is currently considering falls short of last year's effort. It provides fewer resources than the bipartisan bill that the Senate passed last year, and it fails to adequately raise the guaranteed rate of return to the states to 95 cents.

I'm going to fight for a fairer bill — along with senators from some other donor states — but we need the president to agree to support a bill that does not favor one group of states over another. We need a bill that is fair to everyone.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.



Carl Levin

### LETTERS

#### FOC hearings needed

In response to the Bennie Blades child support article, the attorney general got on radio talk shows trying to portray himself as a champion of helping the mothers. He referred to one, Sarah, saying that he helped her and she was getting a monthly check from Bennie's disability.

Truth be told, he had nothing to do with her payroll deduct order. She had to initiate it herself or she would not have it. She has a court order for \$379 per month and she got \$21 of it. Is she supposed to be very happy about that? The state's distribution formula had the rest of the money appropriated to the Wayne County mother (who got the \$170,000 and has a payroll deduction for \$750 of his disability) — the case the attorney

general is so proud of.

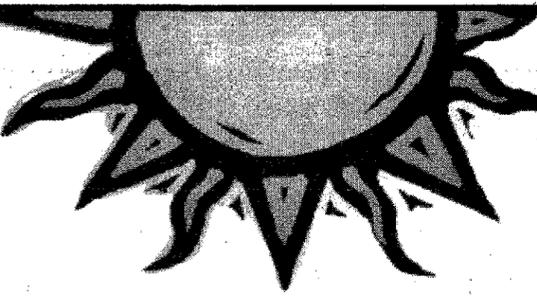
Will he do anything to get Sarah's money from her court order back to her? Absolutely not! How can a formula violate a court order?

There is something radically wrong with the system, and we are asking for a Senate hearing in Lansing to address this issue. To continue to do something over and over that doesn't work is criminal. Just as seizing \$170,000 and giving it to one child is criminal. And the attorney general can take credit for all of it.

He can take no credit for helping four mothers and four children.

Please contact the senators and insist on hearings — especially if you have been involved with Friend of the Court.

Hope Brown  
Citizens Taking America Back



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# First Step director Ellis lauded as role model

Judith A. Ellis was recognized as one of the 2005 Role Models of the Year by Alternatives for Girls. She is executive director of First Step The Western Wayne County Project on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The award was given Thursday, April 21, at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center.

Recognizing the continued need for inspired leadership and positive role models for girls and young women, the AFG Role Model Award seeks to identify and honor exceptional women for their professional accomplishments, personal attributes and community commitment.

These women, by example, affirm the principles embodied in the AFG mission and provide inspiration and concrete evidence of what women can achieve when afforded the opportunity and guidance to make positive life choices. Two other metro leaders, Maha Freij, the CFO of ACCESS, and Rochelle Riley, a columnist for the *Detroit Free Press*, were also recognized as 2005 Role Models of the Year.

Previous recipients include: Venice Davis Anthony, Judge June Blackwell-Hatcher, Alexia Canady, Julie Fisher Cummings, Nancy J. Diehl, Maureen A. Fay, O.P., Ann H. Hoag, Denise Page Hood, Marilyn French Hubbard,

Mildred Jeffrey, Mary Kramer, Guadalupe G. Lara, Helen B. Love, Marilyn Malin, Dr. Glenda D. Price, Nanette Lee Reynolds, Claire J. Roberts, SIOR, Pamela Rodgers, Brenda Naomi Rosenberg, Roberta Sanders, Shirley R. Stancato, Joanne E. Start, Vista Swenson, JoAnn Watson, and Angela B. Wilson.

Wanting to help those who are most vulnerable in our community, Ellis started as a

volunteer with the First Step Western Wayne County Project on Domestic Violence more than 26 years ago and quickly moved up to become the executive director.

Under her leadership, the agency has grown from a small grassroots agency with one building and a 20-bed, short-term shelter, to a multisite, multiservice organization serving 35 Wayne County and Downriver communities and

close to 7,000 clients a year. First Step's comprehensive services include a 24-hour crisis and help line, on-call advocates to help victims, group and individual counseling, prevention and educational programs, some legal support, and a shelter for individuals and families in crisis.

This shelter houses between 330-350 children a year. Under her management, First Step has partnered with law

enforcement agencies, court systems, hospitals, and the state to devise viable solutions and to empower victims.

In her acceptance speech, Ellis said "it has been my privilege to witness the courage and strength of women and children as they moved out of the darkness of violence into a future filled with possibilities." She added, "We must role model a path of freedom where victimization is not allowed."



Ellis



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## REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

### Birmingham High School

Class of 1955  
A 50-year reunion will be Sept. 22-23, 2005, at the Radisson Kingsley Inn, Bloomfield Hills. Contact Nancy Yarnell Schutte at (248) 646-0235 or nys1937@comcast.net.

### Bishop Borgess

Class of 1985  
A 20-year reunion is planned for Friday, Nov. 25, 2005, at the Novi Sheraton. For details contact Dean Lundberg at (734) 718-2720 or dlundberg@comcast.net

### Camp Nahelu

1940-1970  
Camp Nahelu, located in Ortonville, is planning a reunion on Sunday, May 29, in Orchard Lake. Organizers are looking for anyone who attended or worked at the camp from 1940 to 1970. Please contact Fran Gurwin Bell at (248) 706-0738 or e-mail JFARBell@aol.com.

### Glawson High School

Class of 1955  
A 50-year reunion is being planned. For more information, call Barbara or Warner at (248) 435-4351 or e-mail wiseppi@wideopenwest.com.  
Class of 1975  
A 30-year reunion is planned for July 9, 2005, at San Marino Club in Troy. For more information, visit www.glawson1975.com or contact Bev Serre-Raine at (248) 689-3381.

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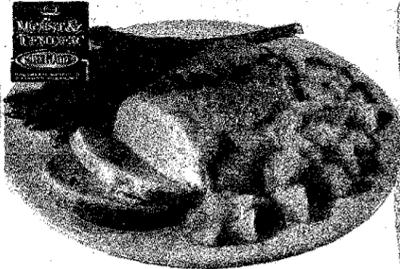
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This is to notify all Michigan health care providers that Blue Care Network of Michigan accepts applications for affiliation at all times from qualified providers. Applications are reviewed on the basis of access needs and provider qualifications. Providers wishing to apply for affiliation may obtain application materials and instructions by calling Provider Registration at 1-800-822-2761.

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