

8/14
Players ready to roll into hockey season

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



Shot party helps fight debilitating diseases

HEALTH, PAGE C6

Exclusive interview with Fash Bash designer, Carlos Miele



PINK PAGE C8

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David Somerville

First Step cuts victim advocate job

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence will no longer have a full-time advocate to help them at Westland's district court and police department.

First Step — a nonprofit agency that provides shelter, courtroom support, crisis counseling and other services — has blamed funding cuts for its deci-

sion to pull victim's advocate Betsy Minor out of Westland.

"It's a huge and unexpected loss," Westland 18th District Judge Gail McKnight said.

Many victims depended on Minor for emotional support and guidance as their abuse cases worked their way through the justice system — a process that can prove grueling and intimidating.

Minor worked out of the Westland

Police Department, where she had easy access to domestic violence cases, and she spent much of her time next door in district court.

"Obviously, her presence here will be greatly missed," Police Chief Daniel Pfannes said.

Minor, who already was planning an out-of-state move, has been reassigned in the meantime to First Step's domestic violence shelter. Judy Ellis, the agency's executive director, wrote a

one-page letter to police and court officials informing them that Minor will not be replaced.

"First Step has valued our relationship with Westland for many years," Ellis wrote. "It is with difficulty that I inform you that due to current and forecasted funding cuts on the federal, state and local levels, we will no longer be able to maintain a victim advocate

PLEASE SEE FIRST STEP, A5

'Idol's' call makes day for Marine

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Marine David Somerville of Westland had hoped to see his childhood baby sitter — country music star Josh Gracin — perform Sunday evening at the Michigan State Fair.

Instead, 18-year-old Somerville has to leave home early Sunday for Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he'll ship out Aug. 27 for duty in Iraq.

"I wish his concert was, like, Saturday," Somerville said Thursday. "I like the song *Nothing To Lose* by Josh. That's my favorite song by him, besides the fact that he used to be my baby sitter."

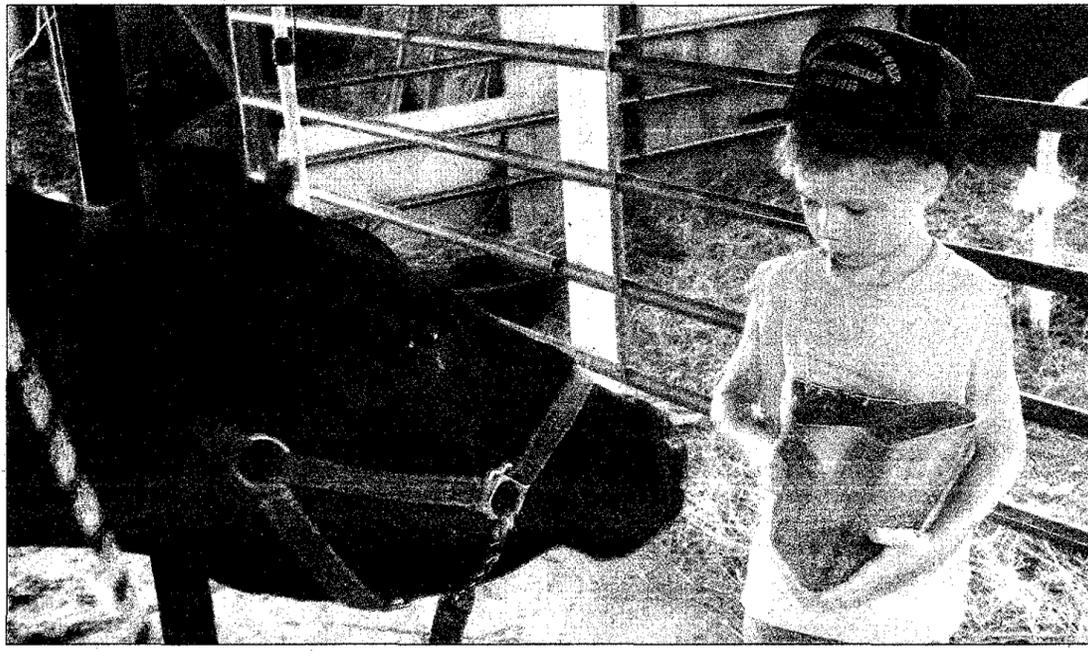
Although he'll miss Gracin's 7 p.m. concert, Somerville got a call from the former *American Idol* finalist during a going away party thrown Saturday, Aug. 6, by his father, Bud Somerville.

"It was a surprise for me," the younger Somerville said. "He asked me how I was doing and said he would do some kind of a tribute to me at the state fair."

At least a portion of Gracin's concert is expected to be recorded and sent to Somerville in Iraq, where he said he will be on duty for several months as part of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines.

"I'll be on the convoys taking the supplies to the infantry,"

PLEASE SEE MARINE, A4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fair amount of work

There was plenty to do for 6-year-old Tim Huziak who offers feed to Noelle, an Angus/Holstein cross that was shown in last week's Wayne County Fair. Participants from throughout Wayne County brought their animals, crafts, produce and even pocket pets to the fair in hopes of winning ribbons. For more photos, see Page A3.

EPA confident 'nothing left the site' of EQ fire

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has good news for residents of Wayne and Romulus whose homes and property were peppered with the debris following a series of explosions and massive fire at EQ Resource Recovery Inc. Tuesday night.

Results of tests done on the debris showed no signs of toxins that might be found following such a fire.

"We feel confident that nothing left the site," said Jon Gulch, on-scene

coordinator for the EPA. "We tested for the worse-case scenario and found the fallout to be normal ash."

The announcement was what EQ representatives expected. According to Dan Gilbert, EQ director of communications, the firm "was confident that was going to be the case."

"It's a positive thing to be able to get the data and share it with residents, but it's a lot better hearing it from a regulatory agency," he said. "We took a big step forward by being able to assure people that there is no potential for major health risks to

come."

Gulch praised Romulus firefighters for allowing the fire to burn. The high temperatures generated prevented toxins from being released into the air, he said.

"We still can't tell you what it is, but we can tell you it's not toxic," added Steve Tackitt, Wayne County's Director of Environmental Health. "We sampled and tested for the most toxic chemicals and it came back not detected."

The results were from tests conducted on Wednesday. Results of a

second round of tests for lesser toxins are expected on Monday.

But even the good news came with a cautionary message for weary residents as Tackitt urged them to "wash their hands frequently, and encourage children to do the same."

"I can't stress this enough when you're dealing with particulate matter," he said.

The announcement came at a time when Romulus firefighters were bringing in equipment to lift a roof

PLEASE SEE FIRE, A5

Friend's birthday party evolves to free concert

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Playing at a birthday party for a friend has evolved into a free fan appreciation concert at 9 p.m. Wednesday in City Park for Christian alternative rock band Portable Vision.

"It's taken on a life of its own. We hope all of Garden City and beyond will attend," drummer Scott Catalo said. "We don't know what to anticipate on attendance."

The band was formed by

Catalo, an architect; guitarist Brian Milne, who works in skilled trades; bassist Aaron Steffka, an engineering student; and singer Dave Jordan, working on a doctorate in physics, just over a year ago.

All of the band members attend Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Canton, where they began performing at youth services.

"Individually, we each have our own sort of testimony," said Catalo, a Westland resident. "Collectively, we get the

message out — this made a difference in our lives. We mentor people."

Having played for churches and youth groups, Portable Vision began performing at secular clubs to reach a broader audience with their message. In this area, the band has performed at nightspots including the Token Lounge in Westland and Redford's the Bullfrog, where they recently held a release party for their self-titled CD.

"Those are all original

songs. We do some covers. We can do whatever — light acoustic for church or blow the roof," Catalo said.

Another congregation member, Kim Marquette of Garden City, was planning a 16th birthday party for her son Alan, who helps the band informally as a roadie.

"Kim is the best, so we said yes when she asked us to play at the birthday party," Catalo said. "Then it became a fan appreciation party, also."

Portable Vision will per-

form for party guests earlier in the evening and open it up to the public at 9 p.m.

"It's a great thing for church and community groups to hear a free concert," Kim Marquette said. "It's not a full-time (job) for them — it's a way of spreading the Gospel. They're a great group of guys with a great message."

Marquette has been working to publicize the concert and also visiting area churches to drop off a Portable Vision CD and fliers.



Christian alternative rock band Portable Vision will perform a free concert at 9 p.m. Wednesday in Garden City's City Park.

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Volume 41
Number 24

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Coming Thursday
in Filter

Ready to Cruise

We have everything you'll need for the Woodward Dream Cruise

Storm door builder celebrates 75 years

EVERYTHING IN PLACE

A husband and wife team recently opened their own chiropractic clinic back home in Livonia.

Jesse Shakarian, a Franklin High School graduate and Livonia native, met his wife Andrea while earning his doctorate in chiropractic at Life University in Atlanta.

The two returned to his hometown to open Health Restoration Center, a wellness-oriented practice which aims to provide the latest chiropractic technology to "help their patients return to optimal health."

The Shakarians use the newest technology available, the Insight Subluxation Station to detect abnormal positions or movements in the spinal vertebrae. Tests are painless and non-invasive.

"Often times subluxations do not create pain or discomfort until they have progressed to an advanced stage," said Jesse Shakarian. "The Subluxation Station helps me to accurately identify these problems before they become symptomatic."



Andrea and Jesse Shakarian

Andrea Shakarian specializes in the Body Restoration Technique (BRT), a method that focuses on removing blockages of communication between the brain and organs in the body. It can be used in patients suffering with pain, fatigue, weight issues, sleep disorders, headaches and stress.

Free spinal screenings and BRT evaluations are now available.

The Health Restoration Center is located at 16801 Newburgh Road, Suite 109, in



Livonia. For more information, call (734) 432-7071 or send e-mail to hcredts@sbcglobal.net.

ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Redford's George W. Trapp Co. celebrates 75 years in business, and a longstanding relationship with the township's Chamber of Commerce.

The company, which manufactures aluminum storm doors and storm windows, has been a member for 55 years.

Founder George Trapp started the business by focusing on retail in 1930 in Detroit. By 1943, he had purchased the Redford plant and begun manufacturing his products. Trapp died in March 2003 at the age of 97.

Still, the family business

remains just that. Grandson Bill Trapp handles customer service and sales. His sister, Darby Trapp, manages the office and works with vendors. Their father, Dick Trapp, serves as company president and manages production.

The company produces 16 styles of storm doors in 13 colors.

More than 35,000 doors are sold a year - to distributors around Michigan, as well as neighboring cities like Chicago and Toledo.

The George W. Trapp Co. is at 26015 Glendale in Redford. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call (313) 531-7180 or (800) 788-7277. Visit the Web site at <http://www.trappdoors.com>.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Staff Writer Matt Jachman contributed to this report. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@oe.homecomm.net or call (734) 953-2054.

Local man arrested on cybersex charge

Livonia police officers arrested a 28-year-old Westland man Wednesday at Botsford Park on charges of arranging for a sexual encounter with someone assumed to be a 14-year-old girl.

Instead, police charge that the man had contacted and solicited sex from the Michigan Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force detective posing as an underage girl in an online chat room. Police say the suspect had, unknowingly, been communicating for months with the detective.

On Thursday, Robert Leroy Brent Jr. was arraigned on two felony charges in Livonia's 16th District Court. He was charged with one count of child sexually abusive activity and one count of using a computer or the Internet to communicate with another to commit a crime.

Brent is being held on \$150,000 bond. A search warrant was obtained for his home, and his computer was seized by

Police say the suspect had, unknowingly, been communicating for months with the detective.

police. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and/or a \$100,000 fine for child sexually abusive activity, and 20 years in prison and/or a \$20,000 fine plus expenses incurred by the government for using a computer to communicate with another to commit a crime.

The ICAC task force is funded through a federal grant. It includes police officers from Livonia and several other state and local departments. Report Internet crimes by calling (877) 5CYBER3.

AROUND WESTLAND

Youth group

Youth Matters, an after-school recreation and skill building program for parents and children 7-12 years old is being offered by the Garden City Family Resource Center. It

is aimed at children who are having problems with acting out, anger management and other issues.

The program, open to western Wayne County residents, runs for seven weeks beginning Sept. 20. Children attend twice

weekly, parents once a week.

Space is limited. Call (734) 793-1860 to register.

Surplus food

The City of Westland will be distributing surplus federal food to eligible residents north of Michigan Avenue 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18, at the Dorsey Community.

Residents living south of Michigan Avenue should pick up their commodities on the third Monday of the month at St. James United Methodist Church at 30055 Annapolis between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers can pick up their food at the apartment building. Contact the building manager for the distribution date.

This month residents will receive bakery mix, peaches and peanut butter through the program administered by the Wayne County Office of Nutrition Services.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Golf outing

The Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Scholarship Program will host its annual golf outing on Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Gateway Golf Club.

The outing will have a scramble format with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. It includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, hot dog on the turn, door prizes and a barbecue dinner.

The cost is \$100 per golfer. Sponsorships are also available. Call Dennis Hermatz at (734) 728-6151.

Gardening program

The William P. Faust Public Library will host a program on earth friendly gardening 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway north of Ford.

Speakers will be garden consultants Nancy Szerlag and Jeff Ball. The program is free and sponsored by the City of Westland. To register, call (734) 467-3198 weekdays or register by e-mail at LFDean@aol.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI, August 27, 2005 @ 1:00 PM.
#207 Crystal Shaw, #212 Mary Smith c/o Sharon Conry, #308 Michael Pruzniak, #331 John Alewine, #338 Michael Smith, #357 George Dobos, #380 Susan Foster, #1507 Mary Smith.
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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
The Westland Observer • Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

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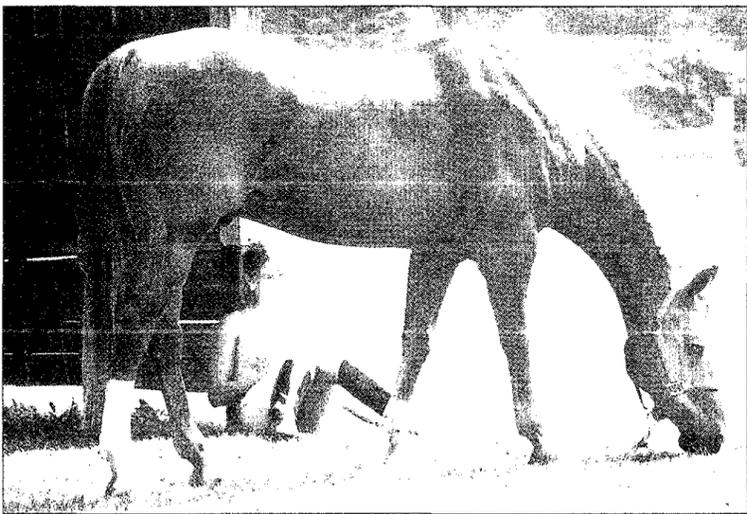
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fair

Hailey Missant cuddles with one of the rabbits her family brought to the fair.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chelsea Keller and her horse, Sun's Fancy Dancer, take a break from the competition at last week's Wayne County Fair.



Westland's Dana Rudnicki took third place for this basket of vegetables.

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FOR THE RECORD

DEATHS

A
Sophia Dines Ayotte
 Ayotte, 85, of Plymouth, died Aug. 10.
Shirley M. Ayotte
 Ayotte, of Plymouth Township, died July 29.
B
John R. Baldwin
 Baldwin, 82, of Auburn Hills, died Aug. 6.
C
Ronald E. Chamberlain
 Chamberlain, of Clarkston, died Aug. 10.
Dorothy Irene Connor
 Connor, 96, of Rochester Hills, died Aug. 8.
D
Yvonne L. Davis
 Davis, 68, of Bonita Springs, formerly of West Bloomfield, died Aug. 9.
E
Stewart Edgerton
 Edgerton, 86, died Aug. 5.



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life in *Passages* on page C5.

Natale Gagliardi
 Gagliardi, 91, of Livonia, died Aug. 4.
H
Helen Sybill Hay
 Hay, 87, of Livonia, died Aug. 7.
Helen Doris Haynes
 Haynes, 96, of Chelsea, died Aug. 6.
James A. Hope
 Hope, 69, of Farmington Hills, died Aug. 11.

I
Stella Ann Itofe
 Itofe, 80, of Canton, died Aug. 4.
L
Dorothy D. Lehmann
 Lehmann, 85, of Orion Township, died Aug. 6.
Helen Tso-Zue Liu
 Liu, 98, of West Bloomfield, died Aug. 11.
N
Evelyn B. Nagler
 Nagler, 87, of Ann Arbor, died Aug. 6.
P
Christopher G. Piazzl
 Piazzl, 40, of Westland, died Aug. 11.
R
Nell William Roberts
 Roberts, 83, of Canton, died Aug. 11.
S
Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz
 Schwartz, 34, of Washington, D.C., formerly of Rochester Hills.
Ann Gardiner Swan
 Swan, 80, of Bloomfield Hills, died July 22.

Toy provides forms for Merck discounts

Westland residents interested in the Merck Prescription Discount Program can now get brochures and applications through the office of State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia. "This is a wonderful opportunity for residents of the 6th Senate District to save money on their prescription drugs," said Toy. "I am glad to make information about the program and applications available to my constituents in Westland." The program is available to individuals who

lack prescription drug coverage. Under the program, patients would present an "instant savings certificate" to their pharmacist and save at least 10 percent on many Merck prescriptions. Enrollment in the program, regardless of age or income, is free and there are no annual memberships or hidden fees. For more information about the program or to obtain a brochure or application, call Toy's office at (517) 373-1707.

MARINE

FROM PAGE A1

Somerville said. That worries his father. "It's scary because that's where all the soldiers are who are getting hurt," he said. David Somerville and Gracin grew up in the same neighborhood, and they both are graduates of Westland John Glenn High School. Gracin and Somerville's older brother, Ryan, were good friends growing up. Like Somerville, Gracin also

was a Marine, earning the nickname of America's singing Marine during his 2003 run on *American Idol*. "Josh and Ryan used to hang out all the time together," Bud Somerville said. "Ryan went into the Air Force, and Josh went into the Marines." The Somerville family saw Gracin when he had a music CD-signing party at the Westland Knart. They also saw him perform with other country music artists during a Christmas show at the Detroit Opera House. "Josh just blew the ceiling off the place," Bud Somerville said.

Gracin advanced to the final four contestants on *American Idol*. Although he didn't win the competition, he went on to land a recording contract and country hits. "He called from Nashville right during David's party," Bud Somerville said. "They probably talked for a half-hour on the phone. He said he would record some of his concert, and we'll send it to my son in a care package. For this Marine to call David, it's something we will always remember." dclcm@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110

Steep gas prices hitting home

BY JULIE BROWN
 STAFF WRITER

Paying higher gas prices has western Wayne County residents singing the blues. "I think they're awfully high," said Ron Denomme, who was gassing up his SUV at the BP at Five Mile and Northville roads in Plymouth Township. "Fortunately, I have one car that's a Focus that gets pretty good mileage." Denomme, a Plymouth Township resident, was filling up Thursday morning even though he didn't need to immediately. "I know the prices are going up today," he said.

John Higgins of Livonia, at that BP Thursday morning, is also unhappy about prices for fuel. Higgins drives a Taurus and a work van, the latter requiring some \$120-\$150 a week in gas. The BP was charging \$2.45 a gallon for regular Thursday. "It's had a real effect on me," said Higgins, who has a furniture installation business. "They should cut the fuel tax until they get a handle on prices."

Down the road at Five Mile and Newburgh in Livonia, the price for regular was four cents higher at the Shell. By Thursday evening, it was \$2.59 at the Speedway at Wayne and Cherry Hill in Westland. AAA Michigan was reporting prices for Aug. 8 of \$2.368 per gallon regular in Detroit, \$2.392 statewide.

Individual motorists aren't the only ones feeling the pinch. School districts and others who operate a number of vehicles are watching fuel prices closely. In the Garden City school district, gas prices were \$16,000 higher this past school year than in the year before.

"Pretty significant, when you don't have \$16,000 laying around," said Sheryl Quinn, executive director for business services for the district. "It's just another cost we have to factor in." The district pays less than customers do at the pump, she said, but gas costs are still a major concern.

Buses don't get good mileage, she said, only four-five miles a gallon despite the best efforts of district



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The signs of the increasing cost of crude oil started showing up Thursday with the per gallon price at some stations like this one at Ford and Middlebelt, hitting a record \$2.59.

mechanics. Diesel buses mean savings on maintenance, but not necessarily on fuel.

"Especially this last year, it has not been any less expensive," Quinn said. The district will need to increase what it charges buildings for field trips, although the specifics are still being worked out.

"We know we're going to have to increase it," she said. "It's always a concern." Quinn, who drives an SUV, has also noted gas prices for her personal driving, seeing them climb daily.

So far, customers aren't giving up their larger vehicles in droves, said Tom North, vice president of North Brothers Ford in Westland. "We haven't seen a huge swing in the mix of product we're selling," he said. New products, including cars, are doing well.

"We've seen a modest swing to smaller vehicles, but not a huge swing," North said. Sales are hard to quantify; they've sold more

Focuses of late. "But we've also sold a lot of F150s and Explorers."

Ford's offered a hybrid almost a year. It has a hybrid powertrain in the Escape SUV. The dealership is selling some, he said.

Kathie Gladden of Canton would like to see alternative fuel sources and public transportation. Gladden, internal communications coordinator at the Canton Public Library, noted other cities worldwide boast mass transit.

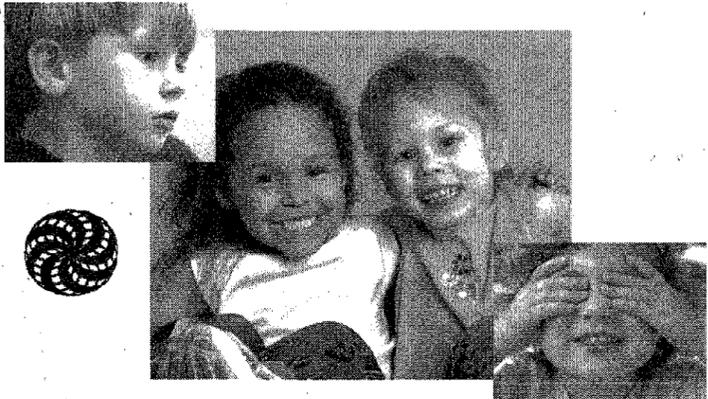
"Chicago has a great public transport system," she said.

Gladden's drive to work is short, about five miles round-trip, so she doesn't have to fill up too often. Her Honda Civic gets good mileage.

She's pleased she doesn't use much gas, but noted short trips are hard on the car's exhaust system.

"I'm kind of going with the flow," said Gladden, who doesn't favor government action to dip into reserves.

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FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

where a fire still burned. According to Gilbert, they will not leave until they deem it safe and only then will officials be able to look for a cause of the inferno.

And once they are done, EQ's emergency response division will go in and do its own investigation.

EQ has picked up the tab for 150-200 hotel rooms used by displaced residents and also has set up a 24-hour hotline - (877) 278-7630 - for residents to call.

"We realize they're anxious and concerned and we want to make them as comfortable as possible," Gilbert said. "But I think there's still some people who are waiting for the EPA to say that it has done all the tests and there's nothing there."

Rich and Kathy Huffman were among residents who were waiting to hear the bottom line on what the fire and explosions spewed into the air Tuesday evening.

They live on Currier west of Howe within a mile of the plant, and while they were spared the falling debris that rained from the sky after the initial blasts, they're worried about what they can't see that might have hit the ground.

"Oh, God, yes, I was concerned, Rich had put fertilizer on the lawn Tuesday afternoon, and with the chemicals falling and mixing with what's on the grass..." said Kathy. "I'm still being careful with the dogs. They go out and come right back in."

The Huffmans were ordered

out of their home just after 11 p.m. Tuesday. They grabbed their two dogs, daughter Stephanie and son Zach and went to Kathy's mother's home in Dearborn Heights.

They were in their home when they heard the first of several explosions, and Rich rode his bicycle to the site to see what had happened. He decided to leave when he saw what looked to him like the arrival of a hazardous materials team.

"We were upstairs and we heard a little boom," he said. "At first we heard it was an airplane crash and then we heard it was a chemical explosion."

Even with the inconvenience, they are able to find some humor in the situation. Kathy said the dogs haven't "started walking backwards yet" and Rich said he's fine after his bike ride.

"I can see really good in the dark now," he said with a laugh.

Attorney Liz Thompson is asking residents who have suffered health problems or property damage to call her at (248) 351-2200.

Thompson of the Southfield law firm Weiner & Cox filed a class action Wednesday in Wayne County Circuit Court on behalf of the residents affected by the explosions.

Jeffrey Carter and Douglas Warden of Wayne are co-class representatives in the suit.

They are seeking damages in excess of \$25,000 each, plus expenses and legal fees.

It also seeks a permanent injunction against EQ Resource Recovery.

smason@oe.hometown.net | (734) 953-2112

FIRST STEP

FROM PAGE A1

in your court/police department."

First Step's share of local Community Development Block Grant dollars has plummeted from \$20,000 a year to just \$5,000 in Westland, associate director Amy Youngquist said.

"We're still adamant that we're going to provide services," she said. "We're just going to have to find more creative ways to do it."

For now, First Step has assigned victim's advocate Barbara Glasson Terry to Westland, although just part-time. Rather than work out of the police department, she visits to pick up domestic violence reports, and then she contacts victims. As the wife of former police Sgt. Michael Terry, she is familiar with the city.

"She has an affinity for the city of Westland and a passion for those she serves," Pfannes said.

Much like city government officials, First Step has had to adapt to funding cuts, and a full-time victim's advocate position in Westland became a casualty.

"While we are discontinuing the full-time advocate services," Ellis wrote to local officials, "we feel a strong commitment to the welfare of domestic and sexual assault survivors in your community. We will continue to explore and consider alternate ways to provide community-based services as we redesign our program."

First Step's other services, such as its shelter, will not be affected by budgetary woes,

Ellis said. One abuse victim initiated a phone call to the *Observer* to commend Minor for helping her through a difficult time. That kind of praise didn't surprise McKnight.

"The victim's advocate, especially Betsy Minor, was a huge assistance to the victims at various times, particularly when a prosecutor was not available in court," McKnight said. "It's not something that the court's probation office or anybody else here can pick up."

Probation officials will continue to assess the potential dangers of domestic violence cases and prioritize the services it can provide.

"What probation cannot do is to give the person the half-hour of crisis counseling they need or make referrals to shelters and other services," McKnight said.

The judge lauded First Step for struggling in past years to provide services with limited dollars.

"First Step has got a reputation for stretching the dollars as far as they can be stretched, but has always relied on block grant funding," McKnight said. "The money is just disappearing."

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McCotter: Iraq and jobs are major issues for 11th District

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER



McCotter

Iraq and jobs are the two topics that residents of the 11th Congressional District want to discuss with their representative.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, is home for a summer break and spending time meeting with his constituents. On Monday, he met with *Observer* editors.

"Iraq is dominating. They all want to know what's going on there," said McCotter. "They're still concerned about job loss and retention. We're a practical state, very matter of fact. They are worried about their future here."

The congressional recess follows a couple of weeks in which several major pieces of legislation were passed including a transportation bill, an energy bill, reauthorization of the Patriot Act and the Central America Free Trade Agreement.

"I would think for our district the transportation bill was critical, given the job situation

and infrastructure problems we have," McCotter said.

"We specifically targeted local communities, taking into account revenue sharing and other problems they have."

McCotter and other members of Congress were able to announce last week scores of local road projects for their communities. The \$286.4 billion package was signed Wednesday by President George W. Bush, though it exceeded his budget recommendation by \$30 billion. Critics complain that the bill includes too many pork barrel projects.

"The old joke is one man's pork is another man's progress," McCotter said.

He said once the House and Senate produced a conference report, his concern was how the 11th District would benefit.

ENERGY BILL

The \$12.3 billion energy bill,

signed by Bush on Monday, includes money for energy companies but requires them to comply with federal regulations for the electricity grid in an effort to prevent blackouts like the one in 2003. It also provides funding for development of alternative energy sources to reduce American dependence on foreign oil.

"The energy bill is a long term strategic investment. I don't think there'll be an immediate payoff at the pumps," McCotter said. "I don't think people will respond to that one way or the other."

A proposal to extract oil from the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve in Alaska was pulled from the energy bill to avoid a filibuster by Democrats. Senate and House Republican leaders are discussing introducing the proposal as part of a budget procedure that isn't subject to filibuster.

"I support ANWR," McCotter said. "I've been open about that. I think if we want to decrease our energy reliance - the energy bill will help but

you have to have a national source of exploration and extraction. In terms of how it gets done, I think it was better to take it out of the energy bill to some extent. I don't make these decisions, but I think it's better to have an energy bill without it than not have an energy bill with it."

In opposing the Bush Administration on CAFTA, McCotter argued that the treaty would take jobs away from Michigan and did not provide adequate protections for Central American workers.

PATRIOT ACT

McCotter supported reauthorization of the Patriot Act but said he continues to have reservations about some portions of the bill, particularly Section 215 which authorizes government inspection of library, bookstore, medical and other records.

He said he is interested in seeing what comes out of conference discussions with the Senate. He said the House often takes a "hardball" position on issues that are later

"watered down" in conference with the Senate. Discussion has already moved to reducing a sunset on Section 215 from 10 years, as approved in the House, to four years.

He said the bill may have helped prevent a repeat of 9/11.

"We can look at London, we can look at Madrid. We can look at other places and while you can't say the Patriot Act was the singular reason for it, you can't say it was counter productive," he said. "But you have to have a sunset on this. Most Americans look on this as a war measure."

McCotter said the first line of defense against another terrorist attack is the Arab American community.

"They're the ones who know the people coming in, they've housed them and sheltered them. The Arab American community has done a fine job of self policing their community. There has to be an understanding of that," he said.

IRAQ CRITIC

McCotter continues to be a critic of the administration's prosecution of the war in Iraq, which he supports.

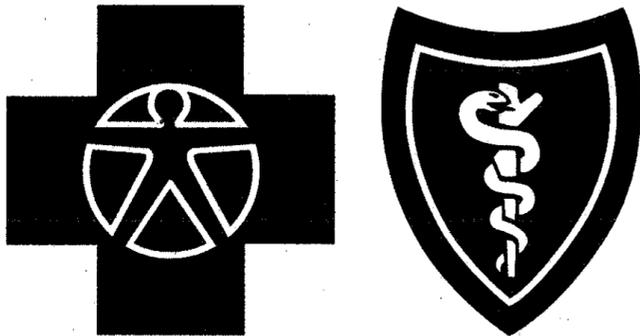
"The insurgency continues to become more resilient and technologically advanced as time goes on," McCotter said.

"I've been watching the developments in the constitutional process and I don't know if the Shi'a through the prime minister could have done more to alienate the Sunnis in the process than to ask Iran to potentially train some of the security forces."

McCotter said the United States hasn't been involved enough in the process of developing a constitution for Iraq. The Shi'a are the majority Muslim population in Iraq. The Sunni Muslims are the minority that held power under Saddam Hussein. The Kurds in northern Iraq are the other major population group in the country.

"The Sunni minority was not constrained in how they dealt with the Shi'a majority and the Shi'a won't be constrained in how they deal with the Sunni," McCotter said. "I hope the Shi'a don't think we will fight the civil war for them."

McCotter said he is concerned about the future of the Great Lakes as Midwest states continue to lose population and representation in Congress. He said the federal government needs to provide funding to protect water quality but that the funding should not come with "strings" that might lead to taking lake water for other parts of the country.



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Job and family pull reporter in opposite directions after explosion

I had just stopped by to visit a friend at the south end of the city of Wayne on Tuesday evening when we both heard a tremendous boom. That was shortly after 9 p.m. and just the beginning of what turned out to be one wild night.

Immediately after the explosion that shook many homes, people in my buddy's neighborhood started spilling out onto the streets to find out what had happened. Everywhere people were shouting and speculating what could have caused such a blast. A few of the people I spoke to swore they saw an airplane go down, and that seemed to be the general consensus on the streets.

As a newspaper reporter, my first inclination was to grab my notepad and camera and try to get close to the fire, which was almost immediately visible in the sky just to the southwest of where we were. My thoughts immediately went back to the crash of Flight 255 near Metro Airport in 1987, and I feared the worst.

My friend and I jumped in his truck and tried to get close to the scene, but police and fire personnel from Wayne, Romulus and a number of other communities were quickly out in droves and closed down Wayne and Van Born roads, making it impossible to get there by the easiest route. So we got creative and decided to cut through a number of neighborhood streets, the same ones that police would soon be evacuating.

As we navigated through the neighborhood, hundreds of people were on the streets, gathering around and wondering. Even as darkness set in, everyone could see the dark, black smoke billowing up from the southwest side of town. Depending on your vantage point, you could also see the orange glow of flames just below the smoke. It was obvious to everyone that this was a huge fire. And a big news story.

Speculations about an airplane crash were soon quelled by news reports, however, and it was learned the explosion occurred at a chemical plant called EQ Resource Recovery, which is actually in Romulus on Van Born Road, just across the city limits of Wayne.

A little after 10 p.m., Wayne city officials, having no idea what exactly was burning, decided to declare a state of emergency and ordered the neighborhoods closest to the site evacuated — an area containing more than 1,000 homes. Police officers went street by street, home by home, telling people to evacuate, by force if necessary. Spotlights flashed around, bullhorns rang out and people were shepherded away. It was an eerie scene. It wasn't quite panic or bedlam. Perhaps mass confusion sums it up best — although everyone left in an orderly way.

At that point, the question immediately rose

in my mind, and probably in the minds of most of the other people around the scene: Was this something more than just a fire? Could it have been a terrorist attack?

With the bombings in London fresh in my mind, and the tragic incidents of Sept. 11, 2001, seared into all our memories, the possibility of a terrorist attack didn't seem out of the realm of possibility. Especially when it was learned that the plant stored all types of hazardous chemicals, including PCBs and formaldehyde.

At that point, my fatherly instincts kicked in. I, too, live in Wayne — north of Michigan Avenue and probably about a mile from EQ Resource Recovery. And my wife and two young children were at home. As much as I wanted to stick around to learn what was happening, I decided to return home, where I struggled with the notion of sending my family away from town, to stay the night with a relative. I was especially worried because the slight wind was blowing the smoke directly over our home, though it seemed fairly high in the atmosphere.

Ultimately my wife and I decided they would stay in the house with the doors and windows closed tightly, and I went back out to do my job, which was to talk to people and try to find out what was going on. When I left the house, I kissed my 2-year-old daughter and hugged her tighter than I think I ever have.

The rest of the night my family was never too far from my thoughts. Suddenly the victims of past terrorist attacks seemed more real to me. More than just names in a news story. I began to understand the confusion they must have gone through.

Unfortunately, this is the world we now live in. The terrorists that struck the World Trade Center and Pentagon have forever changed our lives, at least for the foreseeable future. Nobody knows this more than emergency officials. Every time something like this happens — an explosion, a plane crash, etc. — their first thought must turn to terrorism.

We must face the fact that we are all targets to the likes of bin Laden and his followers. Women, children, the infirm. It doesn't matter. Suicide bombers aren't picky about who they kill. It's a chilling thought, really. Although I suppose the bombs our jets drop are no more finicky.

By the end of the night, it was learned that there had been no terrorist attack at EQ Resource Recovery, and the explosion was an industrial accident with the cause to still be determined. It may be days or weeks before investigators figure it all out.

Personally, I never thought I would be so relieved to learn it was merely a massive chemical fire burning in my hometown.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the *Canton Observer*. He welcomes your feedback at (734) 459-2700, or via e-mail at kkuban@oe.homecomm.net.



Kurt Kuban

Rising tuition should not be bar to college education

There are many scenarios that can keep a college president awake at night: A student injured on campus. An accident in a university laboratory. New government regulations.

Yet no situation concerns me more as president of the University of Michigan than knowing some parents across our state mistakenly believe our doors are closed to their children because of cost. Nothing could be further from the truth.

For generations of Michigan families, public higher education has been a gateway of opportunity. That path, at U-M and Michigan's other universities, remains open to qualified students because of significant increases in financial aid packages that will help them achieve their goals.

Last week, the U-M took the difficult step of raising tuition to counter a significant shortfall in support from the state; our fellow public universities across the state have done the same. Given the state's current economic climate, the pressures on tuition increases are unlikely to subside. Our challenge is to ensure that college remains affordable for students of the most modest means, and U-M's commitment to providing strong financial aid packages makes



Mary Sue Coleman

that possible.

We have always told our prospective students who live in Michigan that if they are admitted to U-M, we will find a way for them to pay the bills using grants, loans and campus jobs. The basic cost of a U-M education will never force a Michigan resident from our campus, and that guarantee remains firmly in place — with more financial aid available to our students than ever before. While our in-state tuition will rise 12.3 percent, our overall grant support for Michigan resident undergraduates is growing by more than 28 percent.

Students whose families earn up to \$45,000 will receive \$2,400 more in grant aid this fall than they did a year ago. At \$60,000 family income, grant aid will rise by some \$1,400. These increases in grant aid will more than exceed the increases students will see in tuition costs, and will equal or exceed the increase in the total costs of attendance, including room and board and books. I am proud we are offering greater assistance to our most financially vulnerable students.

Under our M-FACT program, the cost of attending U-M actually will fall next year for the 13 percent of our students with the lowest family incomes. Overall, some 40 percent of our undergraduates receive need-based aid, and

Public higher education has been a gateway of opportunity.

two-thirds of our students receive some form of financial aid.

Our commitment to access is fundamental. No university in our state provides more financial aid to its students.

For parents, a child's college education is second only to purchasing a home as the largest investment they will make. And yet a college education will pay more returns than the most beautiful house on the block. Census data tell us that college graduates will earn, on the average, \$1.3 million more over a lifetime than their peers who only hold high school diplomas.

As a state, Michigan is desperate for more college graduates to strengthen the economy and improve our quality of life. As a state university, U-M is committed to making opportunity as broadly available as possible. Financial aid is an essential component in our mission to open our doors wide, creating educated graduates who contribute to our communities with their ideas, their talents and their leadership.

Higher education is not simply a private good; the pursuit of knowledge is not the purview of the wealthy. To fulfill our public purpose, we must lower the real financial barriers — and also the perceived financial barriers — to a college education. I am adamant that necessary increases in tuition not create an insurmountable barrier to access for the students of our state.

The U-M has established itself nationally as an institution that believes strongly in diversity, as best exemplified by our defense of our admissions practices before the U.S. Supreme Court. Yet diversity means more than a student body rich in ethnicity and race. Our students must come from all socioeconomic backgrounds, and strong financial aid packages allow us to achieve economic diversity on our campus.

My message to students and their parents is direct: a U-M education is more than possible. I encourage high school students to talk with their guidance counselors, who can assist them in obtaining information about aid. Current U-M students concerned about costs should talk with our experts in the Office of Financial Aid.

We want the state's brightest students in our classrooms, and tuition bills should never hinder them from walking through our doors.

Mary Sue Coleman is president of the University of Michigan.

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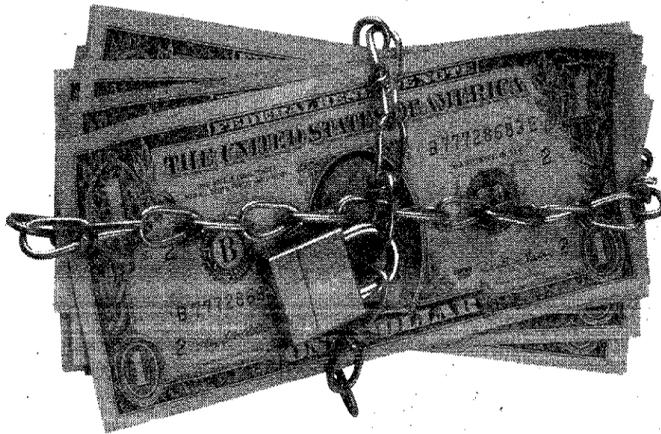


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Franklin chief named top cop at Metro

BY LARRY RUEHLEN
STAFF WRITER

Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Chief Edward Glomb is retiring, but he won't be out of work a single day. "I'm extremely proud of this department," said Glomb, who came to Franklin in 1982. "Our guys do an excellent job and they are well-respected in the community. This department won't miss a beat without me." On Monday, Glomb took over as chief of police for Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport — a department with 140 officers. For Glomb, the new job is a homecoming to Wayne County. He began his law enforcement career in 1971 with the Wayne County Sheriff's

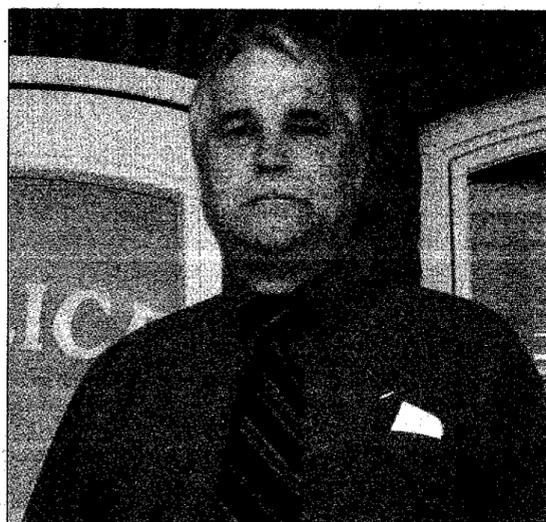
Department, spending most his time in the narcotics unit. Glomb said he is looking forward to future challenges, but he also reflected on his days in Franklin. "This is great place to work," he said. "And I'm going to miss the many, many friends I've made working in the great little towns of Franklin and Bingham Farms." The bordering communities are known for being quiet and peaceful — perfect settings to raise a family. The local department of 10 officers is charged with keeping it that way and, for the most part, serious crime rarely occurred during Glomb's tenure. In 1991, a Brinks truck was held up in Bingham and the robber shot and killed a security

'I'm going to miss the many, many friends I've made working in the great little towns of Franklin and Bingham Farms.'

Edward Glomb
airport police chief

guard. It took two years, but the department eventually got its man. "It was dogged detective work," Glomb said. "They (officers) didn't give up and he's now serving life in prison."

The department had a suspect from the beginning, but couldn't get enough proof for a conviction. The robber eventually confided in the wrong person, who later told Franklin police. Franklin Village Council President Mark Jahnke said Glomb will be missed and that the council is taking steps to replace him. "We haven't had to do this in 23 years, so we are going to take enough time and do it right," Jahnke said on hiring a new chief. "We may hire a consultant or organize a hiring committee." Jahnke said the process could take months and that a salary range hasn't yet been set. In the meantime, Sgt. William Castro will serve as interim chief.



Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Chief Edward Glomb is leaving to take over chief of police for Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

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