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WESTLAND Observer

THURSDAY
May 18, 2006

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Westland Fire Capt. John Adams flips pancakes for the city's 40th anniversary celebration.

Celebration brings city's founders back home

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Gene McKinney and Charles McIlhargey, both 70, talked like childhood friends Tuesday morning during a celebratory breakfast marking Westland's 40th anniversary as a city.

It seemed fitting for two men who became friends at age 6, long before their old Nankin Township neighborhood became part of Westland - a city they helped start.

"We used to have these two dogs that would run from one house to the other fighting," McKinney recalled with a smile.

Little did McKinney and McIlhargey know as young boys that they would serve on a charter commission that helped create Westland - or that they would be elected as city council members.

Little did they know that McIlhargey would serve

PLEASE SEE 40TH, A6



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former city Councilman Kenneth Mehl releases balloons in honor of Westland employees who have died. He got help in making the release from City Clerk Eileen DeHart and former Councilwoman Sharon Scott.

'Shocking' Library board fires director

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland public library Director John Patane has been fired in a split library board decision that some observers called "shocking" and "disappointing."

Patane, reached Tuesday at his Farmington Hills home, declined to comment on his firing last week in a 3-2 vote by a sharply divided library board.

Patane, who started his job just 18 months ago at age 60, met the same fate as former Director Sandra Wilson, who was fired in June 2004.

Library board members declined this week to discuss specific reasons for their decision, and board attorney Michael McNamara hadn't returned phone calls by Wednesday morning.

The only public statements came from city officials not directly involved in library board decisions.

Reached at her office on Monday, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli called the latest library upheaval "unfortunate" but said, "It's my understanding that there were some serious policy violations."

She made a similar statement Monday night when the issue of Patane's firing arose during a Westland City Council meeting.

On Tuesday, council President William Wild said he had heard of "serious breaches of policy" by Patane, but he said council members still hadn't received extensive details from library officials.

"We're basically waiting to get more information at this point," Wild said.

Library board President

PLEASE SEE LIBRARY, A4

Gracin will see familiar faces at Downtown Hoedown show

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Marine David Somerville of Westland hasn't had much luck catching up with his childhood baby sitter - country music star Josh Gracin.

Somerville, now a lance corporal, missed Gracin's performance last August in the Michigan State Fair because he had to ship out to Iraq.

He'll miss him again when Gracin performs about 9:15 p.m. Friday in Detroit during the Downtown Hoedown.

Somerville, 19, wrapped up a 26-day visit to his Westland home on April 26, when he headed back to Camp Lejeune, N.C., said his father, Bud Somerville.

The younger Somerville will soon be attending sniper school before going back to Iraq in late December or early January, his father said.

David Somerville told the *Observer* last August that his favorite song by Gracin is

See a complete lineup of the Downtown Hoedown in today's *Filter* section.

Nothing to Lose. Bud Somerville said his son still loves the song.

When Gracin performed at the state fair, he dedicated his show to Somerville. The two grew up in the same neighborhood, and Gracin used to be Somerville's baby sitter.

"We've been watching Josh perform since he was 12," Bud Somerville said. "He used to come down here and sing in the back yard. You would have thought it was Tim McGraw."

Even though David Somerville will miss Gracin's performance again, his father plans to attend along with his wife, Vicki, his sister-in-law, Cindy Dunny, and his niece, Shelly Dunny.

"We don't want to miss him," Bud Somerville said. "He was our neighbor, and this kid's a great singer."

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Anderson challenges Toy in 6th

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, announced Monday that he will challenge incumbent state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, in a 6th District race that political observers predict will be spirited.

Anderson vowed he will campaign on issues important to "working men and women" in the district, which includes Garden City, Redford Township, Livonia and Westland.

"Turning Michigan's economy around will help relieve the immense pressures bearing down on families and consumers," he said. "I will work day in and day out to protect and attract good-paying jobs by investing in our workforce and addressing the health care costs that plague so many businesses and families today."

Toy, who has represented the



Anderson



Toy

6th District since 2003, announced her bid for re-election in April, saying she has the experience to work on the economy, job growth and education as top priorities.

Anderson and Toy served as city council members in their respective communities; Toy also was Livonia treasurer.

Anderson, in a statement issued Monday, noted that he is vice chairman of the House Transportation Committee and that he serves on the House Insurance Committee.

He also touted his service to

such community organizations as Westland Goodfellows, Civitans and Wayne-Westland Junior Miss. He is a member of the Western Wayne NAACP and a Democratic precinct delegate.

In April, Toy pointed to such accomplishments as crafting a fund to diversify Michigan's economy and creating good-paying jobs. She also has repeatedly called for fairness in water rates imposed on suburban communities by Detroit.

The state Democratic Party had been pushing Anderson to challenge Toy, and he confirmed Monday that he had considered a Senate bid for some time.

"I really enjoy working in the Legislature," he said.

Anderson conceded that some political supporters want him to campaign in 2007 to become Westland mayor - if the position

PLEASE SEE SENATE, A4

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Volume 41
Number 102



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Coming Sunday

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Ceremony to honor servicemen who died

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Excitement is mounting as plans move ahead for Westland to host a smaller replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

The Moving Wall will be unveiled here during a public ceremony at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 29, on the east lawn of Westland City Hall.

The ceremony will help kick off the Westland Summer Festival, which runs through the Fourth of July. The wall will be on display during the festival.

The wall, a replica of a larger version in Washington, D.C., is expected to draw thousands of visitors from outside the city. It has been touring the nation for 20 years, and Westland is one of two stops in Michigan this year, festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl said.

The names of six Westland men who died in the Vietnam War are listed on the wall, and Eileen DeHart is trying to find their relatives and friends to participate in the June 29 ceremony.

The names of the servicemen are Arlie Spencer Jr., Joseph F. Wells, Dennis Glenn Prince, Michael Anthony Blondin, Joseph Michael Giusta and Refugio Thomas Teran.

Relatives or friends are urged to call DeHart at (734) 467-3185.



Westland Summer Festival committee members are selling this T-shirt to raise money to bring a moving Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to Westland. Wearing the shirts are (left) Garden City resident John H. Rilling of the state organization of Vietnam Veterans of America and (right) Westland resident Ronald Schilm, commander of the VFW Harris-Kehrer Post 3323 of Westland.

467-3185.

Meanwhile, the festival committee is selling Moving Wall T-shirts to help pay the costs of bringing the wall to Westland.

The T-shirts, designed by an Illinois veteran, are on sale through the Westland City Clerk's office. To order a shirt, call (734) 467-3185.

The shirts cost \$20 for sizes up to extra large; \$21 for extra-extra large; and \$22 for extra-extra-extra large, Mehl said. dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Upper elementary students to form school communities

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The District Transition Team in Livonia Public Schools has announced a new educational structure for next year's upper elementary schools.

While students in grades five and six will attend Cooper, Johnson or Riley upper elementary schools next year, the buildings will be further subdivided. Each school will consist of two houses of students. Within each house, students will be divided into two teams — each representing six to eight teachers, and about a quarter of the total school population. Teams will be composed of a combination of fifth- and sixth-graders.

"We're very excited, especially about the format with the houses and teams," said Terry Taylor, a co-principal at Cooper next fall. "It's a novel approach. When we visited other 5/6 schools, they seemed to segregate fifth and sixth grade a lot. It was the only point we felt uncomfortable with."

Taylor said no group of students should feel segregated in the new upper elementary schools. He said staff members are also excited about the organization and school setting plans.

The schools' setting plan is meant to "provide an emotionally warm and welcoming environment with a strong sense of community," according to Donna McDowell, administrative member of DIT. "The setting puts students first and is responsive to their needs."

Teams will take into consideration that siblings will attend the same school. According to McDowell, families with fifth- and sixth-grade students will be placed within the same team. Students are expected to remain in with their team for both years, unless a change is necessary due

to enrollment or placement issues.

In order to create a sense of community, team classrooms will be located near one another. While the exact organization will vary depending on the school, Taylor said every effort will be made to keep team classrooms "as close together as they can be" even though buildings like Cooper were "never built for teaming in any way."

"We'll make due," Taylor said, and choose the rooms that "make the most sense" for each class. Because Cooper and Johnson were originally built as junior high schools, some rooms will be larger than others.

McDowell reiterated that the schools will be run as elementary schools, with a primary teacher and the entire class attending specials together.

"(Students) don't change classes every hour or roam freely like they do in middle school," she said. "These are indeed elementary classrooms."

Since the upper elementary schools will have co-principals, each principal will be responsible for two teams within one house. Though a principal's primary responsibility will lie within that group of students and staff, the principal will remain a resource to everyone in the school's community.

According to Linda Minsterman, soon-to-be a co-principal at Johnson, parents will have a primary contact, but co-principals will work very closely. If one person is unavailable, she said, the other would be as knowledgeable and capable of handling any issue.

"The principals and administrative services have done an awesome job to build a warm, nurturing environment in our schools next year," McDowell said.

scasola@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

County chorus receives regional awards

The County Connection Chorus came back from a trip to Cleveland with honors.

The 50-member women's a cappella chorus placed third place in the Division AA Category (31-60 singers) and fifth overall in regional contest. Fifteen other choruses from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania took part.

County Connection Chorus, affiliated with Sweet Adelines International, sings 4-part a cappella harmony arranged in the barbershop style.

Songs range from gospel to contemporary pop songs, but the chorus turned into rag dolls while donning Raggedy Ann and Andy costumes during their 2-song set "Oh You Beautiful Doll" and "Toyland." Choruses were judged on music, showmanship, expression and sound.

Members of the group hail from six Michigan counties — Wayne, Washtenaw, Monroe, Livingston, Lenawee, and Jackson — and 20 different communities, including Ann

Arbor, Ypsilanti, Belleville and Dexter.

Among longtime members are Barb Williams of Westland and Judy Moody of Wayne who enjoy the camaraderie and singing opportunities the group provides.

The chorus, under the direction and leadership of Certified Music Director Lynne Peirce of Ann Arbor, is looking to expand its membership.

"We have enjoyed tremendous growth over the last year, and this is a win/win for both our chorus and new members alike," said Peirce. "They bring energy, enthusiasm and the love of singing to us, and we provide an educational and fun environment with opportunities for expression and growth in both the musical and performance side of a cappella harmony."

The chorus will host a guest night for interested singers at 7 p.m. June 13 at the UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti.

Sight-reading is not required



Barb Williams (left) of Westland and Judy Moody of Wayne are longtime members of the County Connection Chorus.

and there is no formal audition process for the group. The event is free. For more information, visit the Country

Connection Web site at www.countyconnectionchorus.org or call (734) 480-8843.

GOLF OUTINGS

D.A.R.E.

Westland police have announced the 16th annual golf outing for the department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program on Tuesday, June 13.

Registration will start at 7 a.m. with the event following at 8 a.m. at Woodlands of Van Buren, 39670 Ecorse Road, east of I-275, in Wayne.

Cost is \$125 per person and includes a golf cart, lunch and dinner.

Businesses and others also may be a par sponsor for \$100, which includes getting a sign placed on the course and a quarter-page ad in the program; a birdie sponsor, which includes providing a cash or door prize and being recognized in the program; or an eagle sponsor for \$700, which includes four green fees, two signs placed on the course, a full-page ad in the program and a special framed certificate.

There will be a hole-in-one

contest sponsored by North Bros. Ford.

For more information, call D.A.R.E. instructor Ken Kline at (734) 722-3273.

Rotary

Westland Rotary Club will have its 2006 golf outing Thursday, May 25, at the Golden Fox Golf Course, 8768 N. Territorial Road.

Peg as a for the "Classy Outing for a Classic Cause," golf packages at \$160 per golfer, \$600 for a foursome and \$685 for the Eagle, a four-some and birdie hole sponsorship, and includes a 11 a.m. shotgun start, scrambles format, prizes and filet mignon dinner and banquet.

Sponsorships — birdie hole for \$100, classic premium for \$300 and community champion for \$1,000 — are available.

Call (734) 326-6123, Ext. 222, or (248) 474-1503.

Proceeds to Salvation Army Summer Camp and Westland Rotary Charities.

WESTLAND Observer

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| Sue Mason Community Editor (734) 953-2112 smason@hometownlife.com | |

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Center gets new name and new logo

Changes reflect move to rehabilitative care

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

In an era of mergers and acquisitions, of big is better, Westland Convalescent Center is staying the same ... well, almost the same.

The facility is getting a new name, not because it's been sold. It remains privately owned by the same group that founded it in 1969, although it's now the children who are involved.

The change is in the facility's name and logo to reflect its shift to providing rehabilitative services to its clients.

"Times are changing and things are changing," said Judith G. Caroselli, the center's administrator in announcing the center's new name at a ceremony Monday. "Many of our patients come directly from the hospital. Here, they receive care and therapy and are discharged back into the community."

Caroselli chose the start of National Nursing Home Week to unveil the center's new name. While it will retain the convalescent center, the word Rehab will be added to create the Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center.

The center's logo also is being changed. The familiar block letter W and irises are being replaced by a stylized cursive W in muted shades of brown.

"The emphasis is on Rehab," said Caroselli.

"I don't think people know you provide transition care," said Mayor Sandra Cicirelli who participated in unveiling the new logo. "I think when they think of Westland Convalescent Center, they think of the quality of care."

The changes coincide with updating inside the 230-bed facility. New carpeting and lighting and new, patient friendly nursing stations are being installed throughout the building. A computerized board in the main visiting area will keep patients and staff up-to-date on happenings in and



Judith Caroselli, administrator of Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center (left), and Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli are all smiles as they present the center's new name and logo during ceremonies Monday morning.

around the center.

Caroselli estimates that the center receives 50 admissions a month. Operating at 92-95 percent capacity, it means a like number of patients are discharged each month.

"Twenty-eight years ago, you stayed in the hospital after surgery, but in 1984 when hospitals started DRGs (diagnosis related groups), it started changing for us," said Caroselli. "In 1969, Westland Convalescent Center was a good name for the business, but the level of care and the services we provide have changed dramatically. We've become almost the community hospital of old."

The center now offers daily complete Rehab services, ranging from physical, occupational and speech therapy to post surgical and orthopedic Rehab for hip and knee replacement, fractures and dislocations. Care also is provided for recovery from surgery, the acute onset of a medical condition, stroke, neuromuscular disorders and other complex diagnoses.

While some things are changing, one thing will remain constant at the center, that's its philosophy, "the only choice for people who care."

The center also has been good with employees. At least

30 percent of the 300 staff members have been there at least 10 years. Caroselli has been there since 1972, leaving a nursing position in intensive care at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor to become the center's assistant director of nursing.

"I liked what I saw and thought I could make a difference, and I think I have," she said. "I feel fulfilled, it's been a great experience. I love the people I work with."

The theme for National Nursing Home Week 2006 is "Legends in Our Own Time" and the center is using it to recognize its own legends.

In addition to recognizing staff and residents for their longevity - everything from the oldest male and female residents to the longest married and longest employed at the facility - there are a variety of activities like a staff fashion show, dance contest and picnic.

"We've always had a great reputation," said Caroselli. "Being in the community as long as we have, we're starting to see a second generation of patients. It's nice to see someone who visited mom and dad here long ago, call us because they had a good experience."

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CENTER HONORS

ITS LEGENDS

Recognized as legends during a ceremony Wednesday at the Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center were -

Resident legends - Garry Feast, 20 years; Mary Cordyak, 19 years; Marge Henry, 11 years; Louise Sass, 11 years; and David Ybarra, 10 years.

Employee legends - Judith Caroselli, 34 years; Jeff Watts, 29 years; Mary Taylor, 28 years; Judy Wilson, 28 years; and Steve Thibault, 25 years.

Female Resident Legends - Mary Kenzie, 107; Mary Miller, 105; Nettie Hurley, 105; Dolly Nelson, 101, and Lucy Hack, 1001.

Male Resident Legends - James Fogarty, 93; George Motz, 91; Edward Smalley, 90; Mervin Sobers, 90, and Earl Collins, 88 years.

Married Couple Legend - George and Jayne Motz who have been married 70 years. They exchanged wedding vows on Nov. 28, 1935.

Volunteer Legend - Shirley Whitfield with 30 years of dedication.

New candidates enter House, commission races

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A lone Republican candidate emerged Monday in the 18th District state House race in Westland, in hopes of seizing control of the Democratic stronghold.

Sam Durante, a 64-year-old Terminix employee who has served as a precinct delegate, confirmed that he will challenge the winner of the Aug. 8 Democratic primary.

"It's been a long time since Westland has had a choice in this (18th District) election," Durante said. "It's always a Democrat."

As the sole Republican, Durante is virtually assured a spot on the Nov. 7 ballot. He will face the winner of a three-way Democratic primary contest between Westland City Councilmen James Godbout and Richard LeBlanc, and former state Rep. Vince Petitpren.

In another race, 12th District Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard, seeking her 15th consecutive two-year term as a Westland Democrat, will face Democratic challenger Vernell Massey.

Massey, an Inkster resident, ran unsuccessfully two years ago for Wayne County treasurer. According to county election officials, no Republican

has entered the commission race.

In the 18th District House race, Durante, formerly of Dearborn and Plymouth, declined to comment on specific issues that he will use in his campaign to beat the eventual Democratic nominee.

"I plan to run a very aggressive campaign," he said.

Durante is married to Linda. He has three adult children and six grandchildren. He said he has been involved in the Republican Party and years ago in the Wayne-Westland Family YMCA.

On the Democratic side, Godbout is in his fifth year on the City Council. He also has served on various local boards and commissions.

LeBlanc is in his ninth year on the council and is a former Wayne-Westland school trustee.

Petitpren served a six-year stint in the state House starting in 1965, and he formerly chaired the 15th Congressional District Democratic Party.

The winner of the 18th District race will replace departing state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who is term-limited. Anderson plans to challenge 6th District state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia.

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LIBRARY

FROM PAGE A1

Michael Rintz said Tuesday that Patane had been warned that he needed to change the way he handled certain aspects of his job.

Patane started his job in November 2004 amid praise from library board members. His most recent job had been in Stow-Munroe Falls, Ohio.

He came here and spent months living in a nearby motel before he found a house and moved his wife here. He became involved in the community by joining the Westland Rotary Club.

"I'm very disappointed to hear what's happened to Mr. Patane," said Lori Brist, Westland Chamber of Commerce president. "I had been very impressed with him that he took the initiative from day one to get involved in the community. In my opinion, he was doing an outstanding job."

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt, in a statement during Monday's council meeting, called Patane's firing "shocking and surprising."

Graunstadt said after the meeting that city residents, who pay a 1-mill library tax, deserve answers.

Councilman Richard LeBlanc questioned why the library board was so divided over Patane's firing if, as alleged, he engaged in policy violations.

"If it was indeed as grave as it was made out to be, I'm wondering why it wasn't a unanimous vote," LeBlanc said.

Library board members who voted to dismiss Patane were Rintz, Daniel Bourdeau and Mark Welch. Those who opposed the firing were Debbie Costello and Kathleen Herr.

Only Rintz and Costello served on the board when Wilson was fired and Patane hired. Both supported him then. Costello couldn't be reached for comment early this week.

Rintz confirmed that Bourdeau and Welch have been named to a library board subcommittee that will investigate steps the board should take to replace Patane.

For now, Rintz said, library department heads are keeping the facility running, and he called them highly capable.

"If you walk in," he said, "you won't notice a difference in operations."

The library had a circulation of 499,512 items - books and other materials - in 2005. It has 48,798 cardholders.

dclm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Garden City will keep its library services

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Garden City won't be contracting for library services from the city of Westland. The council last week decided that the city's community center programs and library services will be consolidated at the Maplewood Center in a compromise move to address a projected \$1.8 million budget deficit.

Along with that move approved by the council at a special meeting Wednesday, voters can expect a November ballot question seeking approval of funding to build and operate a new community center, including a library.

The city-owned building which houses the Garden City Library would be sold and the proceeds would be used to help balance the budget.

That followed the recommendation of City Manager David Harvey, whose original budget proposal called for contracting for library services in another community, closing the leased Maplewood Center and relocating community center programs into the vacated library building.

He did not recommend another alternative discussed - combining the library and community center programs at the library building.

"There was a lot of consternation over that (first) proposal. As a result, we have a third option," said Harvey. "The (Maplewood) building is still in no better (condition) but it's the best option to maintain both services and to keep a community center."

Harvey's recommendation was predicated on council following through with seeking voter approval for funding to construct a new community center/library.

One consideration in Harvey's recommendation was what would happen if voters reject funding for a new community center.

"Where can we live the longest? Combining at the library, we would lose programs," said Harvey. "If we bring the library to Maplewood, we keep all the services. We can move things around."

The current lease agreement with Garden City Schools expires in 2008, but the district would be willing to extend the lease or discuss a sale or swap for the city-owned swimming pool at Garden City High School.

The school district is getting an appraisal on the Maplewood property - the city received an appraisal putting the property value at \$1 million. That figure, however, didn't reflect costs for demolition or issues

The current lease agreement with Garden City Schools expires in 2008, but the district would be willing to extend the lease or discuss a sale or swap for the city-owned swimming pool at Garden City High School. The school district is getting an appraisal on the Maplewood property - the city received an appraisal putting the property value at \$1 million. That figure, however, didn't reflect costs for demolition or issues such as asbestos remediation.

such as asbestos remediation.

"The remediation costs will be very high and that eats into the appraised value," said Harvey. "We have a difference of opinion with the schools on the pool vs. community center. They feel the community center is worth more."

If the Maplewood building - a 50-year-old former elementary school - was owned by the city in anticipation of longer use, Harvey said federal Community Development Block Grant funds would be more available for repairs and upgrades.

As the meeting started, Harvey got a consensus among council members that they had agreed with the budget proposal up to the last component - the library and community center issue.

"I would like to keep both buildings open. If not, then I would like to go in the direction of combining them at Maplewood," said Councilwoman Joanne Dodge.

Library Board member Judy Michelis questioned some other city property couldn't be sold instead of the library building.

The city had obtained appraisals for all its property, including neighborhood parks.

"We'd have to sell several of them (to get the value of the library)," Harvey said.

The city will need to act quickly to put together a community center proposal, and get voter approval, Harvey said.

"We don't want to get into a race with Garden City Schools - they're going for millage," said Harvey. "It's not that the schools don't need it, but I represent the city. I want to reduce the time we spend at Maplewood - infrastructure issues can arise."

irogers@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2103

SENATE

FROM PAGE A1

becomes vacant.

Current Mayor Sandra Cicirelli will leave her job Jan. 1, if she succeeds in her bid against attorney Jennifer Thor to become a Westland district judge. If that happens, Westland City Council President William Wild would move into the mayoral position at least through the next round of city elections in November 2007.

Anderson, meanwhile, vowed to mount an "aggressive

and energetic campaign" against Toy, who has shown that she is popular among 6th District voters.

"I'm not totally unknown to a lot of the community leaders in Livonia, Redford or Garden City," Anderson told the *Observer*. "But, I will continue to ratchet up in terms of getting around in those communities."

Toy also has made her rounds. In Westland, for example, she sponsored a public hearing to hear complaints from 6th District citizens about water rate hikes. dclm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Jaycees go 'country' to help fire department

A country party dubbed Westland Gone Country is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

The event is being sponsored by Westland Jaycees to raise money to buy special thermal imaging cameras that local firefighters can use when battling fires.

The event will include country singer Billy Jewel, a deejay, a mechanical bull contest and a silent auction.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each and will be available at the door. To reserve a spot, call (734) 226-0400.

A thermal imager is a camera that allows firefighters to virtually see through a smoke-filled room, allowing them to quickly locate victims and determine if a building is structurally sound.

The equipment has the ability to save lives, protect firefighters and decrease property damage.

Kellogg Park set to go to dogs for annual jog

The Michigan Humane Society gets its annual dose of Plymouth generosity when the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth presents its annual Plymouth Dog Jog at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 20, originating from Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

Participants can help by getting pledges from family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Registration fee is \$30 the day of the event.

Contests are conducted in three age groups for both males and females, along with prizes for Best Costume, Longest Tail and Best Look-Alike. Grand prizes will go to joggers with the three highest pledge amounts. All joggers/walkers get a T-shirt.

Registration starts at noon, with the walk starting at 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Michigan Humane Society and the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 455-4782.

The jog is sponsored by Pet Supplies Plus, Specialty Pet Supplies, Inc., Alsager Animal Clinic in Canton and Roose Animal Hospital in Plymouth.

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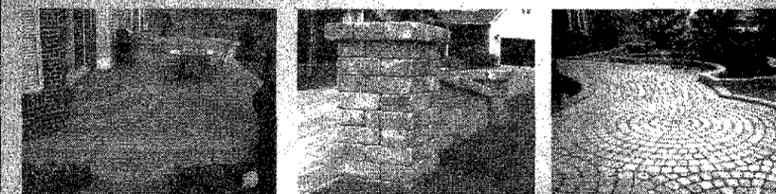
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AROUND WESTLAND

Rummage sale

St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School will host a rummage sale 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, May 25-26, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 27, at the church, 5885 Venoy Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-0260.

Outdoor flea market

Harris Kehrler VFW Post 3323 is holding an outdoor flea market 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at the post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Spaces cost \$25 each, with tables available for an additional \$10. To reserve a spot, send your name, address, phone number and number of spaces and tables needed as well as a check for the amount payable to VFW Post 3323, to VFW 3323, 10055 S. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48186, attn. Flea Market.

Contact Richard Eberhart at (734) 812-7978 for more information.

Spaghetti dinner

The friends of Ruth Schultz will hold a fund-raising spaghetti dinner 5-11 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Romanowski VFW Post 6896, 28945 Joy Road, Westland. Tickets cost \$10 each and include spaghetti, salad, rolls, desserts and beverages. There also will be entertainment and raffles.

Schultz was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and family and friends are staging the benefit to help defray medical expenses.

Monetary donations or gifts for the raffles can be dropped off at Lane Plumbing, 6738 Middlebelt, Garden City. Make checks payable to Ruth Schultz.

Bowling benefit

A special benefit for the wife and 5-month-old daughter of Brian Kapelanski, 33, of Westland, who recently passed away after battling cancer, will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 19, at Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

Friends and family are organizing the event, which

will include Glo Bowl and No Tap bowling, food, auctions and raffles at the bowling center located on Plymouth Road between Farmington Road and Stark. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling Becky Hund at (734) 765-1564 or Kevin Kashat at (734) 525-6876. Donations also will be accepted from those who wish to help out, but do not prefer to bowl. The fund-raiser will benefit Brian's wife, Chris, and daughter, Sidney. Brian was a 1991 graduate of Catholic Central High School.

Bowl-a-Thon

The Westland Jaycees will be hosting a Bowl-a-Thon Sunday, May 21, to raise funds to purchase a Thermal Imager for the City of Westland Fire Department.

The fund-raiser will be held at Town and Country Lanes on Wayne Road at Avondale. Registration begins at 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 and includes three games, shoes, pizza and a pop, mystery games and door prizes. Or get in free with \$40 in donations.

For more information or to confirm a spot, call the Westland Jaycees hotline at (734) 26-0400 and leave a message or Bryan Lakotas at (734) 326-7380.

Dive right in

The Churchill High School Women's Swimming and Diving Team will host a Fish-Bowl fund-raiser at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at Westland Bowl, 5940 Wayne Road, north of Ford Road.

The event begins at 2 p.m. with three games of cosmic bowling, shoes, pizza and soda and more offered at \$20 per bowler. The event includes a 50/50 raffle, gift basket raffles and a variety of contests - including best team T-shirt, mystery game and high games.

Register with captain's name, phone numbers, address and names of team members with a check payable to Kathryn Timson and mailed to CHS Fish-Bowl, 37659 Ladywood, Livonia, MI, 48154. For more details, call Debbie McDonald at (734) 432-5028.

Blood drive

Hayes Elementary School in

Westland will sponsor its last blood drive of the school year 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. Anyone who wants to donate blood may show up or call ahead to schedule an appointment at (734) 744-2725.

Hayes is located south of Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Middlebelt. To get there, turn south on Hillcrest off of Ann Arbor Trail and then right on Louise.

Summer camp

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registration for 2006 Summer Day Camp at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne. Registration will be accepted in person 4-6 p.m. May 23 and 25 and June 6, 8, 12 and 13. For an appointment, call (734) 721-7400, Ext. 1306.

Day Camp begins June 14 and runs through Aug. 25. It will be 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday for children ages 5-13.

Daily, weekly and full season rates are available.

Daily activities include swimming, ice skating (August only), arts and crafts, sports and board games, wallyball, outdoor play and more. There also will be field trips every week and special events.

Weekend Carnival

The Wayne Ford Civic League is hosting the Skerbeck Bros. Carnival on its grounds at 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland, starting May 25. The carnival will be operation the entire Memorial Day weekend including Monday, May 29. There will be a beer tent with a variety of entertainment, including a battle of the bands event Friday night with first-, second and third-place cash prizes.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Dyer Senior Center at 36745 Marquette, Westland, invites you to the best Spaghetti Dinner in Westland.

The dinner will be served 4-7 p.m. Friday, May 26. Enjoy spaghetti, salad, desert, entertainment and dancing for just \$6.

For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

There is still a full season of golf ahead and this is the ideal time to sign up for a membership at **The Polo Fields Golf and Country Club**.

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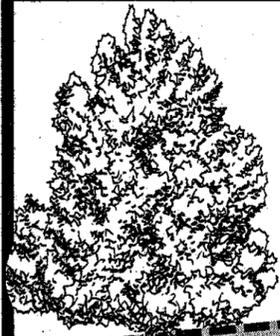
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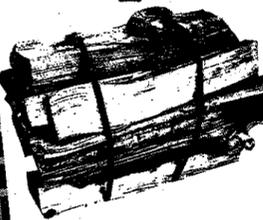
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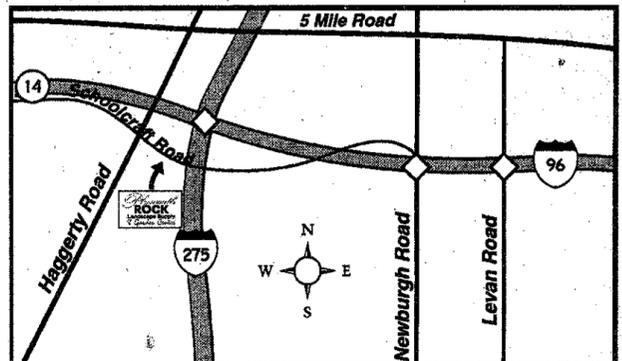
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40TH

FROM PAGE A1

as Nankin Township's last treasurer or that McKinney would become Westland mayor in 1970-75.

McIlhargey now lives in Plymouth Township; McKinney, in Grosse Pointe. But they joined a crowd of 100-150 people Tuesday for a Westland birthday breakfast inside the Bailey Recreation Center.

"It's always good to come back," McIlhargey said. "It's still home to me."

The celebration started outdoors with John Glenn High School's Glenn Singers performing *The Star-Spangled Banner* as representatives of American Legion Post 32 raised the U.S. flag.

Former Westland Fire Chief Ted Scott led a prayer for Westland and recalled how the city was formed to thwart Livonia's attempt to annex the area around Westland Shopping Center.

In a solemn moment, elected leaders took turns reading 147 names of city and district court employees who have died. Simultaneously, bagpiper Harold Higgins played mournfully as blue and yellow balloons, representing the city's colors, were released one by one into a gray sky by City Clerk Eileen DeHart and former council members Sharon Scott and Kenneth Mehl. Then, Higgins played *Amazing Grace*.

"It's an exciting day," said 70-year-old Ray Gagnon, whose late father, Virgil Gagnon, was a Nankin Township trustee, charter commissioner, city council member and city clerk.

Ray Gagnon and wife Jackie attended Tuesday's celebration with their two daughters, Rayma Hogan and Pam Sherman, and Hogan's granddaughter, Brooke Jennings - making the event a three-generation celebration for them.

Ray Gagnon recalled the service station, Gagnon & Sons Gulf, that his family used to run at Wayne and Warren roads. He and his wife talked of how Westland has grown.

"I think it's changed for the better," Jackie Gagnon said.

After the crowd moved indoors for breakfast, McKinney and McIlhargey were honored along with Justine Barns as original charter commission members. Barns also served as a state representative and council member.

McKinney remembered the early years as he sat with McIlhargey.

"No one knew how to run a city," he said. "We were a township one day and a city the next day."

Westland would grow to become the state's 10th largest city.

Some politicians received support on their campaigns from Betty Savage, who celebrated her 91st birthday on Tuesday as the city marked its 40th year. Savage, who has lived in the same house since 1946, was given a bouquet of roses during Tuesday's ceremony.

"I knew all the mayors," she said, adding that she campaigned for many local politicians even though she never sought office herself.

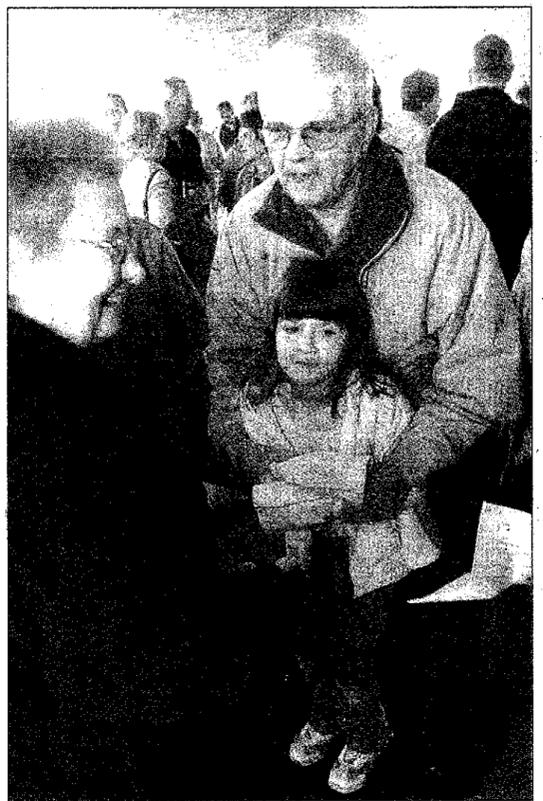
Savage's eyes twinkled when she was asked what she thought of Tuesday's anniversary.

"People might not know it," she said, "but I celebrate it every year."

dciem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Harold Higgins plays the bagpipes as those gathered for the prayer service remembered city employees who have died.



Ray Gagnon, the son of Virgil Gagnon, who served in many elected positions, introduces his great-granddaughter Brooke Jennings to Justine Barns, the first woman elected to the city council, during the 40th birthday celebration Tuesday.



Don Dennis (right) and son Mike Dennis, and Rayma Hogan (left) help themselves to pancakes during the breakfast.



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Registration open for YWCA camp

Calling all kids for the YWCA Western Wayne County 2006 summer day camp.

Kids are invited to spend the summer having fun, making new friends, going on field

trips and playing games planned by YWCA camp counselors.

Each week of camp will have a different theme. Kids will spend a week showing their

support for the United States, discovering the great outdoors, learning about different countries, exploring outer space and more.

Camp activities include swimming, basketball, games, scavenger hunts, science experiments, movies, arts and crafts, pizza parties, field trips, a talent show and so much more.

The YWCA has a special offer for youth ages 11-15. They can sign up to participate in the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program, which is designed to offer them an opportunity to learn the basics of camp counseling.

The CIT program gives participants a head start on developing important job skills, such as communication, leadership and decision-making, as well as understanding the importance of responsibility.

Teenagers will receive American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Certifications. Space is limited for this program, so sign your teen up early.

Camp begins June 26 and ends Aug. 18. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Before and after care is available. Parents can sign children up for the entire eight-week camp or on a weekly or daily basis. Sibling discounts also are available.

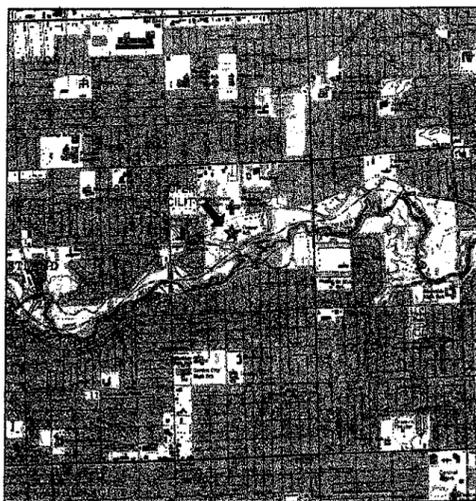
Call the YWCA Western Wayne County Camp Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 17.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, In accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Act 381 of 1996, Section 125.2663 (9), (10), (11a), (11b) and (11c), a plan has been filed with this Body to support Cooper NJ, LLC's (Cooper NJ) proposal to construct a new development on the site of the Former Cooper School in Westland; and

WHEREAS, The eligible property is located at 28611 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, MI. The site location and surrounding area are shown on the Site Location Map below; and

WHEREAS, All maps, plats, and a description of the Brownfield plan are available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk located at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48186 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing be held on Monday, June 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. EST, in the Westland City Hall Council Chambers, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan to hear any objections or comments thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that true copies of this notice be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Act 381 of 1996.

EILEEN DeHART
Westland City Clerk

Publish: May 11 & 18, 2006

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GM, Meijer team up to promote flex fuels

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

With gasoline prices reaching into the stratosphere of \$3 a gallon, the state, a major retailer and one of the Big Three automakers are pooling resources to promote the use of alternative fuels around Michigan.

A partnership between the state, General Motors and Meijer is putting their collective clout behind the construction of 20 new E-85 ethanol blend gas stations at existing Meijer stores around the state.

The state has around 1,800 E-85 flex-fuel and hybrid vehicles in its fleet.

"We welcome the introduction of ethanol to Michigan," Director of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget Lisa Webb Sharpe said. "We believe that as more stations come online, the price of fuel will be reduced through competition."

GM spokesman Dave Barthmuss said there's a demand for the new fuel beyond the cry at the pumps.

"There are 1.5 million E-85 GM vehicles on the road now, 200,000 in the country," he said. "We're going to put another 400,000 on the road in 2006."

E-85 vehicles can run on either normal unleaded

gas or the ethanol mixture, which is only 15 percent normal gasoline. Right now, there are nine GM product lines that offer the option in pickup, SUV and sedan configurations.

"Combined with the other industry options there are five million (E-85) cars on the road in the U.S.," Barthmuss said. "We have to make sure they have access to that fuel."

As for the ethanol itself, he said the state's agriculture business can only stand to benefit. While the most common understanding of ethanol is that it is a corn-based product, it can be made from a wide variety of crops.

The South American nation of Brazil, which has been working on energy independence for more than a decade, has switched over to E-100 gasoline (100 percent ethanol) that's generated from its cash crop, sugar.

GM's part of the partnership with the state and Meijer is promotion. Starting with Super Bowl XL and the Olympics and on through the rest of this summer, the automaker has run promotional spots on television and radio and in print touting the benefits of ethanol-mixture gasoline vehicles.

Meijer store gas stations will install E-85 pumps at locations deemed to be closest to the largest concentrations of flex-fuel vehicles; the determination of where those will be has yet to be made.

County welcomes family business, military appreciation and new shipping options

A FAMILY AFFAIR

When Three Generations opened its doors in Livonia last month, the consignment furniture and accents shop signified the fulfillment of a longtime ambition for Gail Murdock of Livonia and her mother Carolyn Givens, of Plymouth.

"My mom and I always wanted to open a resale shop," said Murdock. "Every time we'd go on vacation, we loved going to resale shops."

After years of talking about it, they made that dream a reality - with help from Murdock's daughters Kimberly and Kristy rounding out the third generation of owners.

Murdock describes the store's varied selection as upscale and unusual. Much of the store is stocked with furniture, to suit all tastes and styles. "We're trying to please everyone," she said.

She and Givens embarked on their business venture in November. After obtaining the proper permits from the city, Murdock said "we decided to go for it."

Choosing Livonia was an easy decision, she said. "I wanted it to be close to home."

The store sells items on consignment. Items are often priced at half of the value for which they were sold as new items. Though the price also reflects the condition of the item, and the seller's expectations.

With so much furniture com-



ing in, Murdock said, she's always thinking of new ways to redo rooms in her own home. She often looks at new items coming in and thinks "I want that."

"We get a lot of nice stuff," said Murdock. "And we meet a lot of nice people. It's a fun job."

Three Generations is located at 33849 Five Mile in Livonia's Civic Center Plaza. The store is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call the store at (734) 524-3384.

FOR THE TROOPS

Rally's restaurant in Redford is serving up more than burgers this spring. Part of Checkers Drive-In Restaurants Inc., Rally's serves as a drop-off site for care packages meant for service men and women who will remain overseas during the Fourth of July holiday.

During May - Military Appreciation Month - and beyond, Rally's has joined with Operation Gratitude and America Supports You for the Patriotic Drive. The donation drive was created to show appreciation to U.S. Troops

deployed overseas.

Collections will continue through June 14. Drop off care packages to Rally's of Redford, located at 11610 Inkster Road.

SHIPPING SHAPE

Nankin Hardware & Hobby of Westland has added a new in-store UPS shipping service which will allow customers to "ship where they shop."

By partnering with Package Express Centers, a Tennessee-based company, the local store will offer package processing and shipping services for the first time.

Customers can choose from UPS ground and air to international services, all at a reduced rate. New automated software will make the process easy and quick - under 3 minutes for shipments. The store also offers free package tracking and a 50 cent discount on the first package customers choose to ship from the store.

Nankin Hardware & Hobby is located at 35101 Ford Road in Westland. Store hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call (734) 722-5700 for more information.

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@hometownlife.com or call (734) 953-2054.

'Click it or ticket' in safety belt program

Local police agencies, sheriff offices and Michigan State Police will soon increase enforcement efforts focused on driving safety belt use to 95 percent in Michigan, in conjunction with the start of the summer travel season.

A statewide Buckle Up or Pay Up, Click It or Ticket safety enforcement mobilization begins May 22 and runs through Memorial Day holiday weekend, ending June 4.

Safety belt enforcement is expanding because the state's goal is to reach 95 percent safety belt use, a 2 percent increase from last year's record high of 93 percent.

The combination of strict

safety belt enforcement and targeted advertising has consistently proven effective in increasing safety belt use, both nationally and at the state level. After adding five counties to the mobilization last year, safety belt use in Michigan

increased from 90.5 percent in 2004 to 92.9 percent in 2005. This rise in belt use is linked to a decline in fatalities. The number of traffic deaths in Michigan fell from 1,159 in 2004 to 1,129 in 2005, a 2.6 percent drop.

Safety belt enforcement zones are conducted on roadways where crash problems are prevalent or belt use is low. Special, portable "safety belt

enforcement zone" signs will alert motorists they are entering an enforcement area. One officer will serve as a spotter who will radio unbelted motorist information to nearby marked patrol cars or motorcycle that will pull over offending motorists.

Michigan law requires all drivers and front seat passengers to be buckled up and children under age 4 be in an approved child safety seat. It also requires passengers 15 and younger to be buckled up in all seating positions.

A daily listing of safety belt enforcement zone times and locations can be found at www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

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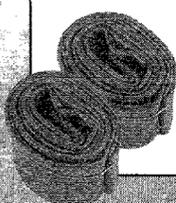
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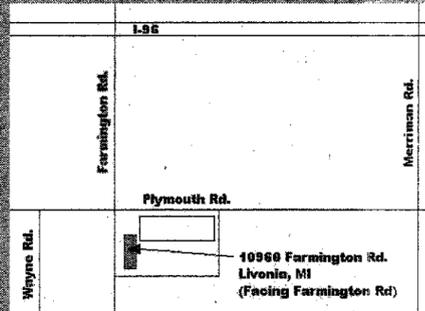
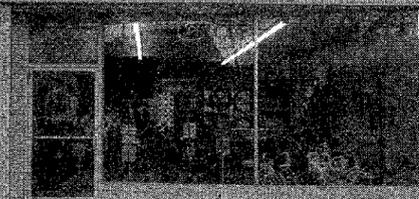
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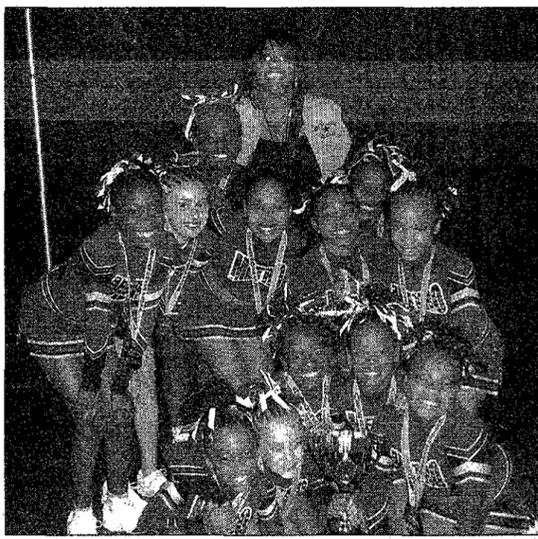
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The Youth All-Star team, coached by Kimberly Drew, brought home the title of national champion from the recent AmeriCheer National Championship.

Metro Cheer teams win at state, national meets

Students at the Metro Cheer Training Center have plenty to smile about.

In a year's time, the gathered 18 first place finishes, four state championships, one grand championship, one high point championship and four national champions.

The team competed at the AmeriCheer National Championship in Orlando, Fla., and American Cheer Power National Championship in Columbus, Ohio, bringing home top honors. More than 500 athletes were in attendance.

Coached by Kimberly Drew, the Youth All-Star team brought home the title of national championship. The girls are in the sixth grade and younger.

The Junior All-Star team, coached by owner and program director Permmella Harris, also received top honors at competition as well as the high point championship. The team consists of girls in the ninth grade and lower. In addition to receiving Varsity letter jackets, they brought home medals, a banner and a five-foot trophy.

Metro Cheer Training Center, a private organization serving the cheer and dance athletes in the state of Michigan, is holding tryouts for the 2007 season Sunday, May 21, at its facility at 38750 Webb Dr., Westland. Call the office at (734) 722-9664 for further information. The training is open to both boys and girls.



The Metro Cheer Training Center's Junior All-Star team, show off its trophies after winning the high point championship at the AmeriCheer National Championship in Orlando, Fla.

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Tiger fans again singing Artie's tune

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

With the Detroit Tigers off to their best start in ages, a Southfield musician anticipates another comeback.

Artie Fields is confident the team's winning ways will lead to a resurgence in *Go Get 'em Tigers*, the song he wrote for the 1968 World Champions and the team's battle cry for decades.

"I've already received a call from one radio station," Fields said last week as the Tigers flirted with first place in the Central Division of the American League. "And I expect others."

While fans are cautiously optimistic, Fields says interest in baseball seems to be the highest it's been in years.

His own interest in the Tigers goes back to his days at Fordson High School in Dearborn and Wayne State University where he studied music. When World War II broke out, Fields went into the Navy and was assigned to the USS Lexington, the fabled aircraft carrier.

"Everything I've ever done has involved music," he said. Even in the Navy, he was rated as a musician. But his most important job was that of a radar operator.

Fields is writing a book about his experiences on the Lexington which was involved in some of the most historic battles in the Pacific.



Artie Fields wrote "Go Get 'em Tigers" for the 1968 World Champion Detroit Tigers. He is confident the team's recent winning ways will lead to a resurgence in the song.

After the war, Fields organized his own band and played some of the New York jazz clubs. When he returned to Detroit, he again formed a band and played the night spots. His favorite Detroit area gig was at the Bowery Night Club.

"It was a dump," he said, "but it attracted the best musicians."

It was in the 1950s that Fields got interested in, and proficient at, writing advertising jingles. He eventually founded his own production company, that he estimates has produced more than 9,000 demos or commercials.

Thus it was a natural, Fields said, refer-

ring to his being approached to write a song for the Tigers. "I had this music background," he said, "and I was an avid baseball fan."

He wrote the song toward the end of the 1967, when the Tigers were lost the pennant in the waning days of the season. The next year as the Tigers improved, his song caught on.

"It was on every radio station," he said, especially when the Tigers came back to win the World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Although the lyrics are almost four decades old, Fields said they apply today - as the Tigers play good baseball, and fans respond.

"We're all behind our baseball team," the song begins, while urging the Tigers to "bring the pennant home where it belongs."

Pennant? Well, that might be too optimistic, Fields agrees. But with the Tigers winning baseball is fun again - and all things are possible.

Fields, a Southfield resident for almost 50 years, has deep roots in the community. He was on the Southfield Board of Education during the late 1960s, and his wife, Janie, now deceased, was the city's Woman of the Year in 1982.

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OUR VIEWS

Happy birthday to you, Westland

Break out the candles, grab a decorated cake. It's time to wish Westland a happy birthday.

In case you missed it, the city of Westland celebrated its 40th birthday Tuesday. On May 16, 1966, what was left of Nankin Township became a city to halt the city of Livonia from snagging its most valuable asset, the Westland Shopping Center.

A lot has changed since then. Vacant fields are now filled with houses, what were two-lane roads are five lanes filled with traffic. And the shopping center the city is named after is thriving.

Tuesday, people gathered to say thanks for 40 good years and prayers for 40 more, but that's not the end of the celebrating.

Residents can kick up their heels at a 1960s dance Saturday at the city's Friendship Center or take in the car show Sunday at the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne Road south of Marquette.

Whatever you do, we encourage you to get out and celebrate.

NTC partnership pays off for riders

There's something to be said about partnerships, especially those that have spanned decades.

This week officials from four western Wayne County communities got together to celebrate their participation in a small local bus transportation system.

The celebration, though, was more of a testament to the staying power of the Nankin Transit Commission, which came into being in 1976 to provide transportation for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

The idea was to provide rides to people whose access to transportation was limited. For those who had to rely on others for rides, Nankin Transit provided a sense of independence. They would dial a number and make a reservation. They'd get picked up at their front door, dropped off at their destination and then returned home.

The ride to this week's celebration hasn't been a smooth one for NTC. Over the years, it has grappled with declining ridership, rate increases and loss of funding.

But 10 years ago, with the passage of a millage to support the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), things changed for the better. Today, NTC provides community transit in Westland, Garden City, Wayne and Inkster for all residents and is an active member of SMART's Community Partnership Program.

NTC is a fine example of what can be accomplished when people work together. In fact, SMART General Manager Dan Dirks credits NTC as being the "model for the early development of the Community Partnership Program."

We congratulate the Nankin Transit Commission on reaching such a milestone. In 30 years' time, it has provided 2.8 million rides and along the way proven itself to be a valuable service to the residents of the four participating communities.

We also would like to say thank you to the four cities. It is because of their commitment to provide the small bus service and to stick with the program through thick and thin that NTC is still rolling along.

Race offers pathway to breast cancer cure

Seize the opportunity now to step up the pace in finding a cure for breast cancer during the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Saturday, June 10.

Supporters of the cause in the metro area — Oakland County residents send more to the walk/run than any other county — have traveled a long road since its inception. But the journey isn't over. Consider that in 2003, according to the National Cancer Institute, 213,000 women discovered they had breast cancer.

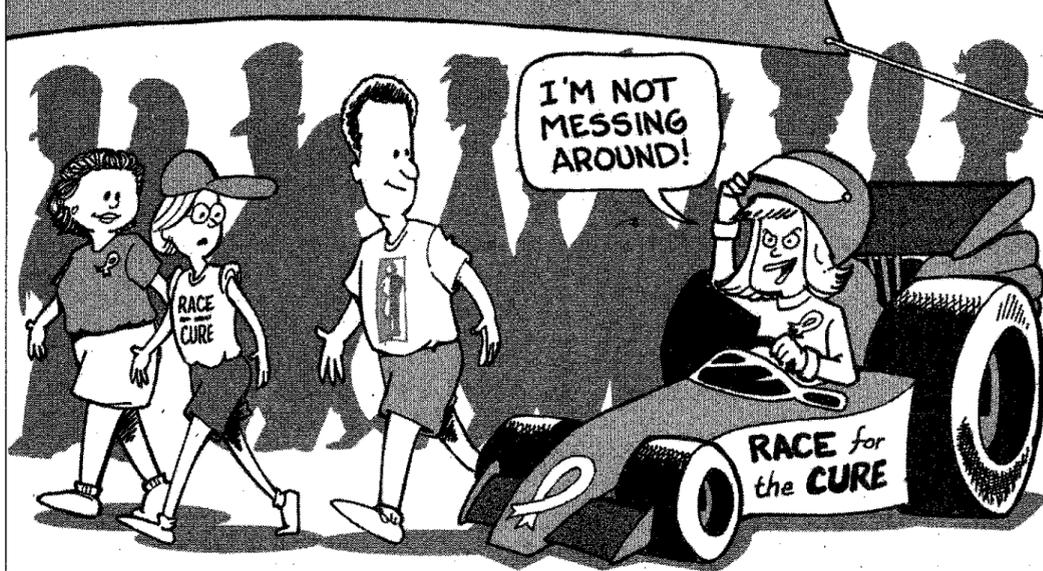
It's an equal opportunity disease, with 1,300 men receiving the same news that year.

Yes, the figures are daunting, but the Komen Foundation is right: One person can make a difference.

Registration and sponsorships, both individual and group, are now being accepted by going to Web site www.karmanos.org, or by phone at (800) Karmanos.

The day will include a survivors and memorial celebration at 8 a.m.; the competitive run kicks off at 9 a.m. Runners and walkers will find 20 bands and other musical performers scattered along the route.

RACE FOR THE CURE FOR BREAST CANCER



Geoff Brooks 5-18-06 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

LETTERS

Happy birthday

Forty years old, but not over the hill, the city of Westland is vibrant still.

A wonderful place for seniors, and for families too, its friendly neighborhoods and great schools are always welcoming you.

Excellent public services and recreational opportunities abound, in a strong Chamber and diverse business and industry your considerable economic strength is found.

From Nankin Mills to Restaurant Row, Michigan's 10th largest city has nothing to prove and lots to show.

From the Friendship Center to your namesake mall, happy 40th, Westland, you're a city that's truly got it all!

To Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, the Westland City Council and all of the citizens of Westland, here's to 40 more years of pride, progress and promise.

Laura M. Toy
state senator, 6th District

Sending mixed messages

The final lines of Tony Trupiano's May 11 letter — which discuss the self-destruction of the Hamas government resulting from Hamas breaking "the social compact with the Palestinian people," — are wholly inaccurate and hardly take into account the facts on the ground.

The Hamas government was elected to power largely due to the Palestinian people's opposition to the previous lackluster Fatah leadership, as well as Hamas' social welfare programs. Should there be a future collapse of the Hamas government, it would more likely be a result of having funds cut off to the Palestinians by the U.S. and Europe. This is the apparent punishment for democratically voting for their choice. We really ought to think about the mixed messages we're sending out. And individuals like Trupiano, ought to consider the fact that Palestinians are no different than any other people because they will rally together in what is unfolding to be a humanitarian disaster.

Frank Odeh
Garden City

Control gas prices

In Michigan both the price of natural gas and electricity are controlled. It's about time that Congress stepped up to the plate and started controlling the price of gasoline. This obscene pricing of this commodity is totally out of control.

The oil companies are not using these profits to drill new wells but to give executives obscene salaries and retirement packages like the CEO of Exxon/Mobil \$400 million, which he did not earn and should give back to the people paying these ridiculous prices.

The trucking, aircraft and ship carriers are all charging premiums (I know because I worked in the logistics business) to deliver our goods, causing all these prices to rise which is almost everything we buy.

You know that purchases of more than the basics are not being made which is ruining our economy so the only companies doing well are the oil companies. I am sure that George W. Bush and Dick Cheney own major shares of many oil companies and will reap major benefits at the end of their terms, if they make it that

far as they are both liars and misfits.

I am sure the story of Cheney's shooting of a hunting partner will eventually come out. What he did was inexcusable as I have many years of hunting birds in a group. So either Cheney was drunk or he is also another idiot.

The war in Iraq will never be won because the insurgents will never give up because they do not care who they kill and are not afraid to die because they are going to Nirvana. Get the oil prices under control or get out of office with Bush and Cheney, and Rumsfeld as well.

The people in the know kept telling their superiors about the 9/11 tragedy and they refused to listen to our agents in the field. So a lot of people were killed.

This kind of thing will happen again as the terrorists have time on their side and the next tragedy will be much larger. We have not improved our ability to stop these attacks on our own soil as our borders here in Michigan with Canada and also our Mexican border are wide open to people getting into this country.

Let's get with it! Have some guts and stand up and be counted or get out of office. Shame on you all.

Thomas Wilkins
Farmington

End animal testing

Activists across the nation staged a host of events recently designed to raise awareness on a controversial issue: animal experimentation.

World Week for Animals in Laboratories (WWAIL) is an annual event that started over 20 years ago to expose the suffering that animals endure in unnecessary laboratory experiments.

Each year in the United States, an estimated 25 million animals are subjected to maternal deprivation, drug addiction, poisoning, burning and blinding in archaic "experiments" paid for with our tax dollars.

More and more doctors are speaking out about the scientific invalidity of animal experiments since different species respond differently to drugs and disease, and since the laboratory setting cannot replicate human circumstances.

There are many non-animal-based technologies that are far more effective and humane. Thankfully, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce recently launched an official inquiry into the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate how the bloated agency manages the billions of dollars in federal funds that it receives annually to sponsor research.

It is time we pushed the animal research industry beyond Stone Age science and into a more sophisticated, and humane, future. Chimpanzees are very active and social animals. Confining them to laboratories with little physical or social stimulation can make them go insane. Testing on animals is expensive and frequently leads to inaccurate and unreliable results. The use of cadavers, human clinical and epidemiological studies, and computer simulators is more reliable, less expensive, and far more humane.

Gordon Baxter, co-founder of Pharmagene Laboratories, which uses only computers and human tissues to create and test drugs once said, "If you have information on human genes, what's the point of going back to animals?"

The U.S. Animal Welfare Act, which regulates experiments, is a mere housekeeping act. It is very weak and poorly enforced. There are no laws in the United States that prohibit any experiment, no matter how painful or ridiculous.

Because they share 99 percent of their genetic composition with humans, chimpanzees are popular AIDS research subjects. However, their immune system never actually succumbs to the virus. This should further reinforce that animal experiments lead to flawed results.

George Sarkisian
Farmington Hills

Reform Farm Act

I am concerned about the way giant agribusiness interests are being favored by some Michigan legislators over the interests of smaller family farms, the environment and the general public.

Many Michigan voters are unfamiliar with the Michigan Right to Farm Act (RTFA), which is presently under review by the Legislature.

Urban residents may think the act doesn't affect them, but it does. The provisions of the Right to Farm Act have consequences directly related to the environment and public health throughout the state and beyond.

Under the RTFA, farmers have been granted immunity from regulation by local units of government and litigation by their neighbors as long as the farmers comply with some loose state regulations known as "generally accepted agricultural and management practices."

Today, huge concentrated animal-feeding operations known as CAFOs or factory farms are hiding behind the RTFA so that the operators can foul the air, water and land with tons upon tons of animal feces and urine without being held accountable by local governments and their neighbors.

The operators of these massive animal concentrations are able to ignore state pollution laws because enforcement is feeble, due in part to state budget constraints.

I urge readers to follow the lead of the Sierra Club and support remedial legislation. Please call or write your state senator and representative. Insist on reform of the Right to Farm Act for the sake of good stewardship of the environment and protection of public health.

James Lang,
Royal Oak

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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Letters to the editor
Westland Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"The fact that they're spending their own money shows how strongly they feel that the decision they made is in the best interest of the students, the district and the community."

- Attorney David Gillam, who was hired by five Livonia school board members who may face a recall election

WESTLAND
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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.

All-Stars show future just may be in pretty good hands

Long ago, in a land far, far away (OK, it was only northern Oakland County), when I was a sports writer, I used to hear all the time how we spent too many column inches elevating athletes to deity status and precious little ink writing about students' academic achievements.

I never believed that to be true, and I still don't. The sports section gets its own section front, and therefore a seemingly more prominent place in the paper, so I understood the perception.

That comparison came back to me when our general manager mentioned it at the breakfast ceremony we had last week honoring our 2006 Academic All-Stars at the Livonia Marriott, while more than two dozen of the 40 or so students read through the special section detailing their accomplishments.

It's hard to sit in a group like that and not feel better about the future. These kids are going to be our future - our doctors, our engineers, our journalists, our captains of industry and our humanity.

It's easy to look at this generation, the "me" generation, and wonder if they get it, wonder about their commitment to the future, their interest in carrying on. I think most older generations think that about younger generations. I can hear my grandmother's voice in my head: "These kids today ..."

Then you sit with Anna Malecke, a senior at Mercy High School who chairs that school's Human Relations Council. That's important because the school got embroiled in controversy when the administration decided to cancel a concert by R&B artist Ne-Yo over some questionable lyrics in some of his songs.

Mercy students had won the concert as part of a seat belt promotional campaign and most, including Malecke, were looking forward to the concert. When the questionable lyrics issue came up, Malecke threw herself into the middle of the controversy, recommending along with the Council that the administration cancel the event.

A young woman who stands firm in her beliefs, Malecke knew she was subject to - and actually got - some flak from her fellow students, but she felt strongly her convictions.

"I was excited, too, about a concert at our school, a chance to dance," said Malecke, who also serves as assistant editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper, *Newsprint*. "But we're a Catholic school and (the lyrics) just didn't match our values."

Xiwen Wang of Canton, a senior in Plymouth High School's first graduating class,

decided it wasn't enough to try to get into just one of the country's most prestigious universities. She's thinking about half a dozen of them, including Michigan, Harvard and Yale.

She's planning on studying economics and business, not to make herself rich, but to "improve people's lives," she said. She wants to study the inner workings of the world economy, knowledge of which probably eliminates her as a potential political candidate but probably ups the chances of the world becoming a better place.

Wang, a National Merit finalist, an AP Scholar with Distinction and a Presidential Scholar candidate, recognizes society, for better or worse, pays a lot of attention to athletes as heroes. She thinks the hero worship should be maybe a little closer to home.

"I think in pop culture there's a proliferation of attention for athletics and physical feats," said Wang, who is National Honor Society secretary and volunteers teaching computer skills to senior citizens. "On the local level, we should strive to recognize goodness. We should foster an atmosphere where kids can look up to (good students) as role models."

There were plenty of those in the room. The lowest grade among them was an A-minus. They're headed to some pretty good schools, many going to U-M. Others are going farther away: Jessica Erlingis of Westland, a senior at Ladywood, wants to study meteorology at the University of Oklahoma; Erica Brown of Livonia, a senior at Stevenson, is headed to medical school either in Pittsburgh or Arizona; Yiyang Lu of Canton considered, among other schools, Northwestern University's Honors Program in Medical Education or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I can remember my grandmother telling me 30 or 40 years ago the world was "going to hell in a handbasket."

Since I was probably 10 at the time, I never could quite figure out how the entire world would fit in a handbasket, even if I knew what a handbasket was. Thirty-something years later, I know what a handbasket is and I wonder - with our country locked in a war of choice in Iraq and gas at \$3 a gallon - what Grandma, who died in 1985, would think now.

If she could have been with me at the Academic All-Stars ceremony, and could have spent some time with these bright young people, the same thought may have occurred to her that came to me.

Maybe the future isn't in such bad hands after all.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer* and struggled for honor roll status in school. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

Wayne-Westland's award is an honor to be treasured

We all have those things we hold dear to our hearts. In my private life, it's a crystal necklace my grandmother gave me, my great-grandmother's earrings that my mom gave me and a value that my folks instilled in me as a child - do your best.



Sue Mason

I also have a few things I hold near and dear in my professional life - several awards that have been bestowed on me by the people I've come to know while working here at the *Observer Newspapers*.

Now I have a new one. Last week, the Wayne-Westland Community Schools presented me with an award in recognition of my fair and accurate reporting of education.

Before I could catch my breath I had a microphone in my hand and an audience waiting to hear my acceptance speech. I'm not sure if what I said made sense or if it was even relevant to the award. All I know is that it's big and beautiful.

Wow! I have won many state, national and company awards during my career for my writing and work as an editor, but never an award like this.

It meant a lot to be selected by my peers as the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Journalist of the Year* in 1992. And I was humbled when the Garden City school administration nominated me for a Golden Apple Award from the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education in 2002 and even more so when the Garden City PTA nomination won me for the Michigan PTSA News Media Award in 2004.

Now, I'm speechless ... but that doesn't mean I don't have something to say.

The district administration and school board honored me for my fair and accurate coverage of the goings-on in the Wayne-Westland schools. Now, I'm looking for an award to give them. You see, it may have been my writing that earned me this honor, but I couldn't have done it without their help, their willingness to work with me to provide those clear and accurate stories.

They have guided me through budget stories, helped me understand that refunding bonds isn't like getting cash for Campbell soup labels and let me go where reporters don't normally go, back to my alma mater for a day.

They let me be in on the ground floor of a movement to get fair funding for education, and even let me back into the building when I left my purse in the board room.

Along the way, I have had the opportunity to get to know some of the best people I have ever met. They are creative, caring and committed, and for that, the kids in Wayne-Westland are truly blessed. And I am truly blessed to have the opportunity

The district administration and school board honored me for my fair and accurate coverage of the goings-on in the Wayne-Westland schools. Now, I'm looking for an award to give them. You see, it may have been my writing that earned me this honor, but I couldn't have done it without their help, their willingness to work with me to provide those clear and accurate stories.

to work with them.

In this business, you rarely hear about how well you've done a story, so every note of thanks, every phone message and e-mail are tucked away for safe keeping. I call it my fan mail file.

I only wish my dad were here to see this. He and my mom instilled in me the philosophy of do your best. He instilled a few other things in my siblings and I like if you're going to blow a horn, blow your own because nobody else will and not to get good at a bad job.

So when I graduated from Wayne State University, my goal was to be the best journalist I could be. I didn't aspire to be an editor that just sort of happened. I started in community journalism and have stuck with it simply because of the relationships I've developed. You get to know people and they get to know you.

I still strive to do my best, but there are those days when it seems like nothing goes right ... when the picture of a bearded gentleman runs in place of a clean-shaven balding man ... when I write a beautiful story, but have the last name of the person I'm profiling wrong.

And then there are those days when I write a story thinking it is in no way, shape or form what the managing editor wanted only to find out it's exactly what he wanted. I have learned over the years to accept criticism without blushing - I'm quietly embarrassed for myself - and to be gracious when being praised. I've also learned that no question is too stupid to ask more than once.

I know this award recognizes what I have done, but I think it is more about you, than me. It is you who make me look good. Your openness and willingness to work with me, to answer my questions. You have made it all worthwhile.

And for that, I am very thankful.

Sue Mason is editor of the Westland and Garden City Observers. If you have a comment, you can write her at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com.

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China trip part homecoming for local trio

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Joe Tseng's April trip to China was an eye-opener. "The last time I was there was 1982," said Tseng, a Westland dentist who lives in Farmington Hills. He noticed the modern buildings in the cities he visited while traveling with his sisters, Irene Tseng of Livonia and Nancy Chapman of Plymouth Township.

Joe Tseng was born in China and moved to Taiwan as a baby. He moved to Michigan at age 10, while his sisters were born in the U.S.

The three wanted to visit their aunt in China, who's in her 80s. "She lives in the city of Tianjin which is a port city of Beijing," he said. They went to Beijing and then to Tianjin, roughly a two-hour car ride. "Then we flew to Shanghai."

The three found China a lot different, although the two sisters had visited more recently. "It changed a great deal from the last time I was there," he said. "Everything's market-driven."

The country is communist in name only, he said. Tseng saw American fast-food restaurants and even Century 21 real estate. "I was surprised to see that," he said.

He didn't have language problems among the Mandarin speakers, with relatives as translators. In hotels and airports in China, local people spoke English.

Tseng did some shopping, finding knockoffs of Rolex and other designer items. "You had to ask for them," he said, noting the government is cracking down on that.

Cars, some manufactured in China, were the biggest change since the early 1980s. There

were packed expressways. "It's like driving in L.A. during rush hour," he said. They rode in small taxis manufactured in China by a company represented at this year's auto show in Detroit.

He found Shanghai extremely modern. There were upscale shops and an impressive skyline. Tseng didn't visit the Chinese countryside, noting there's still much poverty there.

They took a high-speed train to the airport, traveling 200 mph for the seven-minute trip. The three enjoyed visiting their aunt.

"It was nice," Joe Tseng said. "She's still doing well. It was nice seeing her." Her husband is 90 and still getting around.

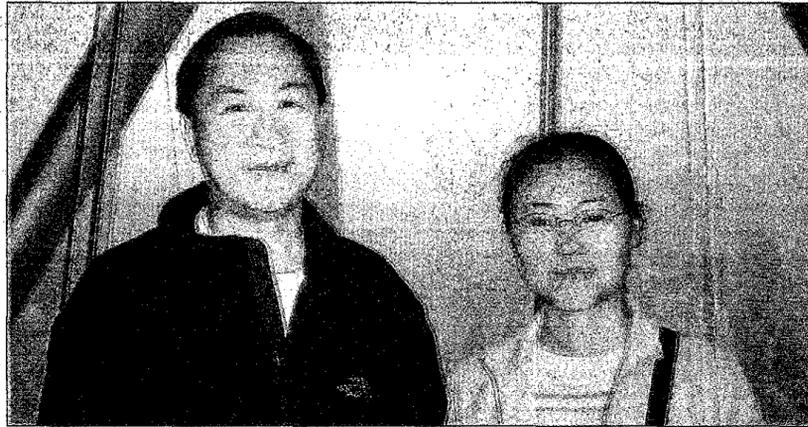
The aunt has two married daughters who live on their own within walking distance of their mother. "I consider them condos," he said of their accommodations, which were comfortable, but not large by U.S. standards. The travelers stayed in modern hotels, which were impressive.

He liked the breakfasts, both Eastern and Western, at the hotels.

"Everyone had a cell phone, everyone," he said. Tseng carried a cell phone and never had a dropped signal. He was even able to text message wife Terri and daughter Lauren, 16, back home from the top of the Great Wall in Beijing.

The three traveled from Good Friday to the Sunday after Easter, and would like to return to China when they have more time. Joe Tseng agreed Americans often have limited understanding of China and its people.

"They need to go over for themselves, see what kind of country it's turning into," he said.



Joe Tseng of Farmington Hills and cousin Zeng Lingli in Shanghai. Lingli is working in Shanghai. Her hometown is Chongqing (Chungking) in Sichuan Province where Tseng's father was from.

Nancy Chapman agrees. The homemaker and her husband went to the country in 2001 to pick up their adopted daughter, now 8.

"It was enjoyable just to see the cities," Chapman, whose sister Irene is a dentist, said of the 2006 trip. "The city is very, very crowded."

Their late mother had written some memoirs, and Chapman didn't find much that was current on China at the library other than a recent children's history series.

"China has changed a lot even in the last five years." She remembers seeing wood scaffolding on buildings five years ago.

Chapman noted the lack of religious freedom and would like to know more about that. Her grandfather and uncle were clergy.

"It's changing obviously from the capitalistic point of view," she said, echoing her brother's views. The Chinese are building a lot of apartments for the middle class.

"They want to create a suburbia," she said.



Irene Tseng of Livonia, a local dentist, and her aunt's husband Shen Zhi-hong. This was taken in Tianjin during a visit by Irene Tseng and two siblings.



Nancy Chapman of Plymouth Township (right) visits with her aunt and aunt's husband in Tianjin. Chapman and her husband were in China in 2001 and she returned last month with her brother and sister.

Crafters sought for Fall Craft Show at Schoolcraft College

The 2006 Schoolcraft College Fall Craft Show is seeking a variety of crafters for the Nov. 11 and 12 event. All hand-made crafts are eligible, including painting, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, textiles, needlework, photography, glass, leather, graphics and woodcarving.

Crafters interested in applying should contact Marjorie Lynch at (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5008, or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation for an application. With a wide variety of crafts represented among 150 crafters, this is one of the premier venues in the area and attracts crowds of more than 2,000.

The show is juried, and crafters are asked to submit photographs of their work with their application if they have not been accepted for a previous show. Crafters are encouraged to apply by June 2 to qualify for prime space.

The fee for a 12-foot by 12-foot space is \$100; a 10-foot by 10-foot space costs \$70; an 8-foot by 9-foot space is \$55; and there is a \$55 fee for an 8-foot by 4-foot hallway space. There is an additional \$15 fee for electricity.

Schoolcraft Foundation holds golf tournament

Golfers will meet at Walnut Creek Country Club Monday, June 5, for the Schoolcraft College Foundation Golf Classic. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. In addition to 18 holes of challenging golf, golfers will help raise funds for student scholarships and for instructional initiatives.

Individual golfers can register for \$250. The price includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, access to the driving range and putting green, use of the locker room facilities and services, lunch, complimentary on-course beverages, a banquet dinner, awards, prizes and a silent auction in the clubroom. Golfers also can enjoy a two-minute chair massage, provided by message therapy students at Schoolcraft.

Individuals or organizations can become a sponsor, with packages ranging from \$350 for hole sponsors to \$1,200 for a president's club sponsorship.

Several of this year's auction items exhibit Schoolcraft

themes. The "cop for a day" package features a day at the Policy Academy, with a spin or two on the precision driving course, practice shooting in the fire arms training simulator, learning defensive tactics in a redman ultra padded suit and a visit to the Michigan State Police crime lab.

The winner of the motorcycle package receives a series of motorcycle basic rider classes, and the culinary package winner will welcome Bruce Konowalow, director of the culinary arts department, into their home for a three-hour cooking lesson.

Other auction items include a framed and autographed Steve Yzerman Red Wing Jersey and a Plymouth Whaler game pack. Lastly, a Chelsea package includes tickets to the Purple Rose Theatre, a gift certificate to the Common Grill and a one-night stay at the Chelsea Center Tourist Home.

For more information or to register, call (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5008.

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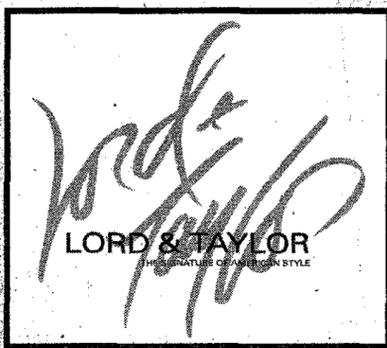
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ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters
The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

Vietnam Vets
The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

Friends of library
The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

In Harmony
The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Civil Air Patrol
Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capliberators/.

Habitat help
The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

Veteran's Haven
Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

Pet-A-Pet
The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Marie Johnson, (734) 326-1200), and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

Zonta Club
The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month on the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920

Franklin PTSA
The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

Tutorial program
A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

M.O.M.S.
M.O.M.S. Club of Canton/ Westland is a nonprofit support group for stay-at-home mothers. There are weekly

events, Mom's Night Out, age-oriented play groups and more. For information, call Wendy, (734) 398-6957.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Eating Disorders
Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 324-3089.

Advocacy group
The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

TOPS
TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Wednesday at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6:30-7:15 p.m., with the meeting 7:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299.

Menopause & More
A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

Support group
A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

AIM
Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

Angela Hospice
As part of its service to the community, Angela Hospice offers a variety of grief support groups free-of-charge to community residents. The groups are

held at the Angela Hospice Care Center at 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, and are led by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers who aim to provide useful coping strategies and tools to facilitate the healing process.

■ General Grief Support Group - Open to all losses. Meets at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

■ Loss of a Spouse Support Group - Meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in February.

■ Women's Grief Support Group - Held each Spring and Fall. Call (734)953-6012 for dates and times.

■ Heartstrings: Parents Who Have Lost a Child - Meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first Thursday of each month. Call to register at (734) 464-2683.

■ Grief Support Quilter's Group - A new Grief Support Quilter's Group is looking for community members interested in making a quilt in memory of a loved one. No quilting or sewing experience is necessary. Dates and times to be determined. Call (734) 953-6012 for more information.

Groups by Appointment - Loss of an Adult Child, Men In Grief. Call (734) 953-6012 for more information. Programs for Children- Reservations required for all children's programs. Register by calling (734) 464-2683.

■ Children's Grief Support Group - For ages 6-8 and 9-12. Meets winter, spring and fall 5-6 p.m. Thursdays for eight consecutive (April 6-June 1, Sept. 14-Nov. 2).

■ Children's Spring Workshop - 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 4.

Angela Hospice also provides one-on-one grief support. For more information about Angela Hospice's grief support services, or to register for a group, call Joan Lee at (734) 953-6012.

Childbirth classes
Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. Register by calling (734) 458-4330.

Childbirth Association
Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes are every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

Fibromyalgia
The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a

variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek
The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise
The Friends of Eloise group meets 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

VFW Bingo
Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

St. Mel Church
Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

Shamrock Bingo
Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

K of C Bingo
Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

Senior dinners
The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is \$8 donation for members of the league and \$10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3-3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010

Crochet & Knit
A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

Visually impaired
The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

Choir
The Senior Choir, under the leadership of Robert Cassidy, is open to those who like to sing. It meets 9:30 a.m. Thursday. For information, call the Friendship Center, (734) 722-7632.

Hearing checks
Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

Exercise
Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

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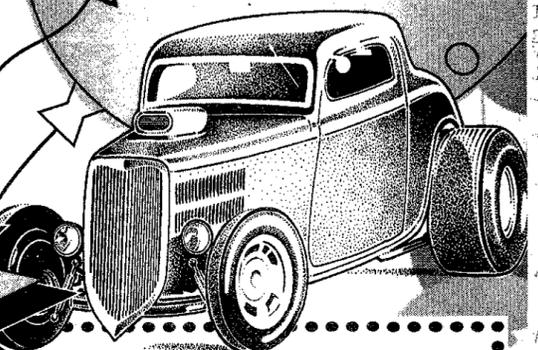


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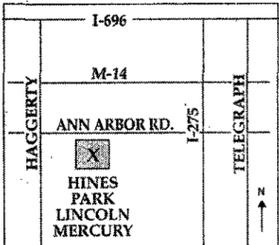
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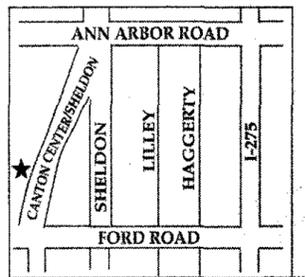
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Middle Eastern dance goes mainstream

BY SHERRIE PRYOR
CORRESPONDENT

Some women feel uncomfortable, at first, telling family members or friends about their new hobby, fearing *I Dream of Jeannie* remarks or old perceptions that belly dancing is like a strip-tease.

But the name "belly dancing" actually refers to the origination of the movements from the abdomen (belly) and hips. "I was hesitant to take belly dancing classes because I thought all the women would be in their 20s and very thin. I was wrong," said Kelly Porter. "There were women there of all shapes and sizes and ages."

At one time confused with strip-tease or exotic dancing, belly dancing is becoming a mainstream activity. Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Adult Leisure Program recently added it to its curriculum. Enrollment in instructor Janice Riley's first beginner's class exceeded the maximum capacity, so a second class, Belly Dance II, was added to meet the demand.

Wayne-Westland joins a growing list of local places offering belly dance classes, including Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center in Garden City, Wayne County Community College and several local teachers who offer private lessons.

Many women are drawn to belly dancing, also called Middle Eastern dance or Danse Orientale. Its gentle, graceful exercise is a little more than yoga or pilates because of the lively music and sparkly, jingly costumes.

Porter, 32, started dancing two years ago.

"I was nervous going to my first class," she said. "I was afraid that everyone there would be a size 2. I'm a size 14. And I was afraid I'd be the only heavyset girl there. When I got to the class, I was relieved to see that there were ladies of all sizes."

In belly dancing, generous curves are an asset and actually enhance the beauty of the dance. The movements may be flowing or staccato, but they all originate in the core. The dance is different from Western dance in that the movement begins in the hips rather than the feet. It is more about movements than steps.

Jill Cook, 31, has been studying belly dancing for more than five years and performs both solo and with her troupe. "The dance steps were different than anything I had ever done and my body was not used to moving in the ways she was showing us," Cook said, "I almost quit that first night, I thought 'I can never do this.' But I stuck around and within a few weeks I knew the basics and I was more confident in myself."

Many belly dancing students report finding their first teacher by searching the Internet. Carrie Wheeler of Plymouth said she "Googled" belly dancing and found one teacher and then found others by word of mouth.

Each teacher has her own unique strengths and brings her own special touch to the teaching of the dance. People looking for a teacher should look for a style they're comfortable with and consider trying more than one teacher.

The enthusiasm of the

LEARN TO BELLYDANCE

Interested in learning belly dancing? Classes are offered through:

■ Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Adult Education & Leisure Program. Call (734) 419-2426 or go to www.wwcsd.net on the Internet.

■ Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education Program. Call (734) 462-4448 or online at www.schoolcraft.edu.

■ Wayne County Community College's Continuing Education Program. Call (313) 496-2600 or online at www.wcccd.edu. For a more extensive list of belly dancing teachers visit the Web site, www.shira.net/directory.htm.

You can also try belly dancing in the privacy of home with DVDs like the *Discover Belly Dance* series - three videos featuring Veena and Neena, or the *Goddess Workout* with Dophina (as seen on *Sex in the City*).

To read about another woman's adventures as a beginning belly dancer check out the book *Snake Hips* by Anne Thomas Soffee.

For costumes and supplies, try such Internet sites as www.sugarpetals.com, www.aliahscloset.com and, of course, www.ebay.com.

dancers and the universal appeal may help belly dance become the new yoga.

"I've met so many wonderful and talented people over the years. The youngest gal I've danced with is 15 years old and the oldest would have to be 65. I just love dancing, and over

the past year I have started dancing at weddings, birthday parties and fund-raisers as a soloist," Cook said.

As for the best thing about belly dancing ...

"I love the way it makes me feel about myself - attractive and confident," Porter said.



A professional entertainer, Najwa al-Qamar also is an instructor in Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education Program.

DEATHS

F
Mildred C. Foegen, 92, of Canton, died May 13.

H
Mary (Roeder) Hayes, 74, of Plymouth, died May 1.

P
Eugene W. Preston, 76, of Bloomfield Hills, died May 3.

S
Paul J. Scaglione, 84, died May 15.

Theresa P. Sheedy, 84, of Plymouth, died May 15. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A20.

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Alcohol a key factor in boating accidents, fatalities in state

According to the most recent statistics released by the U.S. Coast Guard drinking and driving is a safety concern that is not limited to Michigan roads. In fact, says the Coast Guard, alcohol was involved in more than half (51 percent) of all boating fatalities in Michigan during 2004, well above the national average of 33 percent.

By comparison, alcohol was a factor in 37 percent of Michigan highway fatalities during the same year, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

Part of the problem, say law enforcement officials, is that boating is often strictly viewed as a recreational activity and some of its more serious obligations can be overlooked. This is especially true during summer holiday periods such as Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day, when organized water activities bring large numbers of boaters into close proximity.

"Boating is supposed to be fun," says Sgt. Dan Toth of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department Marine Division. "People spend a lot of time and effort to get a boat on the water only to have tragedy strike because they failed to follow some basic safety rules."

According to Toth, more than 80 percent of the drownings and fatal boating accidents that occur each year are due to reckless operation, alcohol use and/or not wearing a Personal Flotation Device. He recommends that all new boat owners - including those using jet skis for the first time - take a boater's safety class. If you were born after Dec. 1, 1978, it's mandatory.

Michigan law prohibits anyone from boating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It is also illegal for the owner of a vessel to allow anyone else to operate that vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A first

SAFE BOATING TIPS

- Take a safe-boating class. Anyone who operates your boat should complete a class. Classes are now offered through many schools, local sheriff's department marine divisions and diverse groups such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Red Cross. For a partial list of locations, call your local DNR office or go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.
- Give your boat a safety check at the start of each season and each time you leave the dock. Depending on its size, all boats must have some type of readily accessible PFD aboard for each person. For more information, obtain a copy of the DNR's Michigan Handbook of Boating Laws and Responsibilities online at: <http://boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/>.
- Be watchful of old pilings, sandbars and other hazards on the Great Lakes, as this is expected to be another low-water year. Plot your routes using a GPS (Global Positioning System) if possible to keep known obstructions pinpointed. Pay attention to restricted boating areas still in effect for lakes Erie and Michigan. Check with the Coast Guard for specific areas: www.uscg.mil/.
- Equip your vessel with a marine radio or cell phone for emergencies and to keep track of the weather. Always head to port immediately if threatening weather approaches. Always have a compass onboard.

sel. Each person, regardless of age, riding on or towed behind a personal watercraft must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II or III personal flotation device.

More than half (63 percent) of the 676 persons who died in U.S. boating accidents last summer were not wearing a life jacket.

"Wearing your PFD when having fun on the water should be as much of a habit as buckling your safety belt every time you drive your car," says Gary Bubar, AAA Michigan Community Safety Services traffic safety consultant. "They are your best defense against drowning - the largest single cause of boating deaths - should you become involved in a boating accident."

According to Coast Guard data, collisions with other boats or fixed objects, and falling and out of the vessel accounted for 66 percent of the 143 incidents recorded during 2004. Careless and reckless operation, as well as operator inattention or inexperience, were cited as major pre-crash factors.

Fishermen and other small boat operators should be especially vigilant in wearing PFDs - open motorboats, kayaks, canoes, rowboats and jet skis were involved in 82 percent of the marine fatalities registered nationwide in 2004. More than half (57 percent) of the fatal accidents involved capsizing or falling overboard, which often happens when someone stands up or moves quickly in a small boat.

PFDs not only keep you afloat after a mishap, but can't help protect you against deadly hypothermia or lowering of the body's core temperature, and also provide some protection against internal injury in boating collisions and falls. They are required for all children under age 6 while on an open deck area, and for all operators of PWCs, as well as water skiers.

Equipment makes voting easier for disabled

New voting equipment, designed to make casting a ballot easier for voters with disabilities was introduced last week in Lansing by Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

The equipment is expected to be put into use for the August primary election.

The equipment allows voters who have a physical disability or are blind, visually impaired or otherwise unable to mark a ballot in the usual way to do so on a special voting system. Called an AutoMARK, it resembles a fax machine with a large flip-up screen and attachments including headphones.

At least one of the voting systems will be available for use in each of the state's polling locations for the Aug. 8 primary election as the result of a contract that is expected to be approved today by the State Administrative Board. The devices complement Michigan's optical scan voting system.

"We are at the beginning of a new era in voting for people with disabilities," said Land. "This technology is intended to remove obstacles to voting for members of Michigan's disability community and to ensure they are given the same opportunity for access and participation as other voters on Election Day."

Once approved by the State Administrative Board, the state will execute a \$34 million contract with Election Systems & Software to receive approximately 4,300 of the AutoMARK voting systems and associated ballot programming. Costs are covered

under the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002. HAVA mandates that states must have a compliant accessible voting system in place for individuals with disabilities for federal elections in 2006.

The state invited bids on the accessible equipment contract in November and received responses from four companies. The AutoMARK system was selected after an extensive evaluation process involving more than 80 representatives from the disability community and local election officials. AutoMARK was the favorite of both groups and was cited for its accessibility and ease of use.

Depending on their needs, voters may cast their votes without assistance using the screen, Braille keypad or foot pedal. They may also use magnification and contrast features on the screen, headphones with an audio function, a wand or personal sip/puff tube to assist in marking the ballot. When the ballot is completed, it is scanned and is stored with all other ballots. Voters maintain the privacy of their ballot throughout the process.

The plan to provide technology that has been designed specifically for members of the disability community in the voting booth is the first such endeavor in state history. According to the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, 1.9 million of the state's approximately 10 million residents have disabilities.

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/sos.

Hines closed to traffic for summer Saturdays

Six miles of Hines Park (Hines Drive) will be closed every Saturday for people of all ages to walk, run, skate or cycle safely. The No. 1 concern of skaters, cyclists, runners and walkers is motor vehicle traffic.

Saturdays in the Park began May 6 and continues 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Saturday through Sept. 30. Hines Drive

will be closed from Ann Arbor Trail to Outer Drive.

Parking is available at Hines Park-Warrendale Picnic Area (west of Outer Drive) and Hines Park-Nankin Mills Picnic Area (Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail).

For more information on this or any Wayne County Parks program, call (734) 261-1990.



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If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolicraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

MAY

Annual May fair
Rides, games, Vegas, bingo, beer tent, live entertainment, softball tournament, May 18-21, at Our Lady of Loretto, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

Feather bowling
6:15 p.m. Friday, May 19, bus leaves Ward Presbyterian Church parking lot in Northville for the Cadieux Cafe. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Cost is \$20 and includes transportation, a deli tray and pop. Call (248) 374-5920.

Breakfast meeting
For Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 20, Leon's Family Dining, 30149 Ford, across from K-mart, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. This is a monthly meeting. The next is scheduled for Saturday, June 17.

Citizens for Peace
Hold a time of prayer open to the community 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Open to church and community friends. **Spring retreat**, Get on board on your fast track to inner peace. Love donation. Open to church and community friends. To RSVP, call (734) 459-7231. To RSVP, call (734) 459-7231.

Family game night
6-8 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman, Garden City. Cost is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Come and join fun and fellowship. Games and cards are provided but you are welcome to bring your own games and teach someone how to play a new game. If you have any questions, call Linda Bodnovits at (734) 425-5653.

Bicycling group

10 a.m. Kensington Metro Park Saturday, May 20. Single Point bike rides are geared to the tourist level rider but riders of all ability levels welcome. All riders must wear a helmet. Lunch break at your expense half way through ride. The group meets every Saturday morning at various locations. For a schedule or information, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920. The next ride is 10 a.m. May 27, Newburgh Point, Hines Drive, west of Newburgh Road.

Luncheon/fashion show
New spring reflections 1-3 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at First Baptist Church of Plymouth, 45000 N. Territorial, between Sheldon and Beck. Devotional presented by Ann Dorries, fashions by Fashion Bug. Tickets \$8, includes lunch with dessert. Call (734) 455-2300 or send e-mail to office45@fbcplymouth.org.

Concert
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church of Livonia conclude its 2005-2006 Concert Series 3 p.m. Sunday, May 21, with a special concert featuring director of music and concert organizer, Mark Lohmeyer, at the church's 34 rank Casavant pipe organ and the Christ Our Savior Festival Choir singing some of their favorite anthems from this past year. Lohmeyer will play Totentanz or Deathdance by composer William Albright. This piece is played by the feet alone on the pedalboard of the organ. You will be able to watch the performance of this very intense piece on the projection screens. The concert is free and open to the public with a freewill offering being taken. Christ Our Savior is at 14175 Farmington, north of I-96, Livonia. Call (734) 522-6830.

Kindergarten/Pre-school Round-up
6:30-8 p.m. Monday, May 22, at Our Lady of Loretto, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford, Call (313) 532-4764.

Lighthouse cafe
7-10 p.m. Friday, May 26, cards, board games, pingpong, specialty coffees, snacks and music, in Knox Hall at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. \$5. Free childcare provided. Call (248) 374-5920.

Spring retreat
Speaker presentations by Bobby Michaels (www.bobbymichaels.com or

www.musicianaries.org), special music times and small group discussions with free time to gold, take a side trip to Saugatuck, or enjoy recreational opportunities and bonfires, May 26-28, at Marantha Bible and Conference Center on the shores of Lake Michigan near Grand Rapids. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$185 and includes bus transportation, meals/snacks and accommodation at Marantha. Call Ward Presbyterian Church for details and to register, (248) 374-5920.

Memorial Day picnic
Noon to 5 p.m. Monday, May 29, at Rotary Park on Six Mile, between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia. Cost is \$5 and includes hamburgers and hot dogs (grilled between noon and 2 p.m.), and beverages. Please bring a dish to pass to complement the meal and join us for sun, food, games, fellowship and fun. For information, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920.

Memorial Day picnic
Monday, May 29, a joint effort by Bethany Suburban West and Single Place Ministry. Cost is \$5 and a dish to pass. For details, call (313) 996-8644 or (248) 349-0911.

Leadership and self-deception
Lecture series with Rev. Dennis Skiles continues to May 31, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Livonia. Call (734) 421-1760.

Wine, cheese and theology
Evenings of conversation asking the question, Is there a place for the church in the 21st century? 7 p.m. Wednesdays to May 31, at Church of Our Savior, Presbyterian U.S.A. 6655 Middlebelt, West Bloomfield, Rev. Jim Faile leads the discussions. The public is invited. The church holds worship and Sunday School 10 a.m. Sundays. For more information, call (248) 626-7606.

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UPCOMING

Praise and worship concert
Featuring a reunion of the praise and worship band Crossfire 7 p.m. Friday, June 2, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Ice cream social follows in Knox Hall. Free childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

Flea market

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Call (313) 255-6330.

Monthly dance
Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization to provide peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, June 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Dinner and concert
Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass 7 p.m., Thursday, June 8 (dinner at 6 p.m., \$6 per person), at First Baptist Church of Plymouth, 45000 N. Territorial, west of Sheldon. Call (734) 455-2300 for tickets and information.

Vacation Bible school
Fiesta! Join us 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, June 12-16 for 5 fun filled days of high energy, Christ-centered activities, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Fee is \$25, and includes T-shirt. For more information, call David Conrad at (734) 425-5950.

Preschool program
Begins 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Thursday, June 12-15, and runs weekly through July 17-20, for ages 3-5, at Mt. Hope Preschool, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Cost is \$80 per week, \$70 for second child, and includes snack. Special rates if parents assist in classroom. Topics include dinosaurs, kids in the kitchen, underwater adventures, on safari, and fun with science. Call (734) 261-9540.

Summer fun
Two sessions from 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m. begin June 12 and continue weekly through week of Aug. 21, at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 42690 Cherry Hill, Canton. Each week children will engage in activities including the sciences, math, health, music, arts, and exercise. For ages 4-10 (children who are 3 but have been enrolled in preschool are welcome. Cost is \$60 per week and includes T-shirt, snacks and field trip fees. Call (734) 981-0286.

Sock hop
Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization to provide peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, June 16, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Cost is \$15, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Crafters wanted
For the St. Thomas a Becket Church Christmas Craft Show to be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton. The church is now accepting applications for handmade crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

ONGOING

Learner's Bible study
7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service
Loving God by loving people, meets 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 119 Newburgh, Westland. Donuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093.

Bible study
Two classes meet 10 a.m. to noon the first and third Wednesdays, and 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursdays, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, on Plymouth at Hubbard, Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying Women of Courage in the Bible. The Thursday session is reading the Letters of St. Paul from prison. Based on Little Rock Scripture Series. Call (734) 261-1455.

School registration
Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School is accepting applications for grades PK-8 for the 2006-2007 school year, at 9600 Leverage, Redford. After school care 3-6 p.m. Call (734) 937-2233 for information.

Bible study
Classes 9:30 a.m. Sunday, and 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. On Sunday Family Worship begins at 10:45 a.m.

Purpose Driven Life
Members, friends and neighbors of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Northville will be studying the best selling book The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren during Lent. Small groups will meet at homes in Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi and South Lyon on Wednesday evenings during Lent. All faiths are welcome. Call (248) 349-3140 for more information.

Senior activities
Gathering for seniors 50 years and older 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. Any questions, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. First we enjoy a wonderful lunch together then we fellowship with some games and stories.

Bible study groups
The Wednesday group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesday of each month, the Thursday group 7-9 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month in the rectory at St. Michael's the Archangel Catholic Church, Plymouth and Hubbard,

Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying Women of Courage in the Bible, the Thursday group The Letters of St. Paul from Prison. Classes are small and informal and based on the Little Rock Scripture Series. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Church activities
St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Wednesday luncheon every other Wednesday at noon; Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$4 followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m., at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Scripture from scratch
No previous Bible study required, began 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington, Livonia. The units include the New Testament (April 11, 18, 25 and May 2, and Gospels (May 16, 23, 30 and June 6). Each session includes video presentation, small and large group discussions. Be one of the first 10 to receive the participant's manual for \$5. After that, the cost is \$10. To register, call (734) 425-5950.

Kabbalah classes
Presented by the Sara Tugman Bais Chabad Torah Center, the classes began 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 5595 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The classes are open for both beginners and more advanced students. Call (248) 855-6170, ext. 1 or send e-mail to BCTC770@aol.com.

Eucharistic adoration
The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.

Worship services
All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour all for ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.

Unity of Livonia
Services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays, at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services
The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim
Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach
A non-denominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, a great place for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service 6:15 p.m. - Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks
A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit the Web site at www.adatshalom.org.

English classes
Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Scripture from scratch
If you've always wanted to learn about the Bible from square one, here's square one 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays in the Activity Center at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950 to register.

Sunday school
Congregation Beit Kodesh (31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia) is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services
St. John Lutheran Church (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills) invites the community to a new worship service 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional

worship services are 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday School hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

Single Point Ministries
For ages 30 and older, join more than 350 single adults 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversations are present. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45-degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia.

Bible talks
4 p.m. Sundays, at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

Worship services
All are welcome to attend worship services 10 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

The Gap
A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, story telling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterward. Call (734) 421-7620.

Qigong
The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Learn the art of natural movement and breath to cultivate vital life energy. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile, Monday - movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday - Qigong meditation 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday - Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

Worship services
8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour 9:30-10:40 a.m., at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Social hour follows each service. Call (734) 722-1735.

Aerobic class
Trinity Church of the Brethren, 27350 W. Chicago at Inkster, is offering a Women's Low Impact Aerobic Class to the community every Monday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the church basement. To participate in this cost-free, 30-minute class, wear comfortable exercise attire (floor mats optional). For more information, call the church office, (313) 937-1199.

Community Bible study
Studying the Book of Proverbs, breakfast 7 a.m. or Bible study 8-9 a.m. at the American Table, Eight Mile, Farmington. Come when you can, leave when you must. For more information, call (248) 924-2779.

Contemporary service
New informal service in a casual environment 6 p.m. Sunday, at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford. Fellowship hour after services including 10 a.m. traditional. Call (734) 421-7620.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday worship 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Bible studies Sundays at 8:50 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., at the church 11575 Belleville Road, four miles south of Michigan Avenue, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361.

New contemporary service
9 a.m. on the last Sunday of the month, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. A group of church members present a short drama on a theme relevant to the season, a church event, or current newsworthy situation. For more information, call (734) 422-0494.

Prayer group
Join us 7 p.m. Thursdays for music, singing, prayer and friendship, at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Come to the back of the church, enter entrance No. 2. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.

Women of the Word
Tuesday Ladies Bible Study, Women of the Word, studies the Book of Luke, entitled Grace Under Pressure 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5. For more information, call (248) 348-7600.

New modern-style worship
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, just north of I-96, presents a modern-style worship service. The multimedia service is informal, using modern and praise music, led by vocalists and various instruments. Dramas, led by the members, are often a part of this service. The service is held at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday, between the traditional services at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday School, youth and adult Bible classes at 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. each Sunday. For information, call Linda Hollman, Outreach director, at (734) 522-6830.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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MARYNELL ANDERSON WILLIAMS

Passed away suddenly on May 16, 2006. Born in Peoria, Illinois, May 15, 1932. Preceded in death by parents, Isabelle and Edwin J. Anderson (formerly of the Detroit Lions), and sister Suzanne A. Stanglein. Raised in Bloomfield Hills, she attended Kingswood School Cranbrook and Finch College in New York City, was a former member of Tau Beta Association, Junior League of Birmingham, MI, Women's National Farm and Garden - Bloomfield Hills Branch, Oakland Hills Country Club, and Christ Church Cranbrook. While in school, Marynell enjoyed acting and participating in plays, especially musicals. Majoring in opera, she played the part of Prince Orlofsky in "Die Fledermaus" in New York City. Author of "From Merny's Kitchen". Her passion was cooking, cookbooks, and family. Survived by her husband, Richard G. Williams; daughters Isabelle W. (Steven) Clark, Martha W. (Ryan) Ross, and son Edgar A. (Tracey) Williams II; and five grandchildren. Memorial service at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Friday, May 19, 2006, at 11am. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Children's Hospital of Michigan or Christ Church Cranbrook Altar Guild. Arrangements, Wm. R. Hamilton Co., 1-248-644-6000

MARY (ROEDER) HAYES

Age 74. With great sadness, we announce the death of a dear wife, beloved mother, wonderful and nurturing grandmother and great-grandma. Mary Hayes passed away May 1, 2006, peacefully, at her home in Plymouth (after losing her courageous battle with Lymphoma) surrounded by her loving family. Mary was born April 1, 1932, and married James W. Hayes on May 9, 1953. She was a lifelong homemaker and a resident of Plymouth for the past 37 years. Mary is survived by her husband, Jim; daughters Cheryl (Shannon) Kelley of California, Sharon (John) Hespil of Grand Rapids, Gail (Louis) Denski of Brighton, son Jim T. (Shannon) Hayes of Howell; grandchildren Steven, Sarah, Nick, Ryan, Josh, Izzie, Gabby, and Annie; great grandchildren Chaise and Tobias; sister Shirley (Bob) Dueweke; brother David (Ester) Roeder. Preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Eva Roeder, sister Dorleene, and brother, Gerald. Funeral arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Services were held at The First United Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, The Reverend Skimins officiating. Burial will take place in the courtyard of the church at a later date. Gifts in Mary's memory may be made to a charity of your choice.

THERESA P. SHEEDY

Age 84, of Plymouth, died May 15, 1921, in Hewittsville, Illinois. She is survived by her children, Theodore E. (Margaret) Sheedy, Janet (Gerald) Johnston, and Julie (Christopher) Higgins; 2 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Theodore A. Visitation at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan, Thursday 2-9pm. Interment in Oak Hill Cemetery, Taylorville, Illinois. Memorials may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind or the March of Dimes.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

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The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

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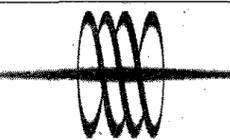
MILDRED C. FOEGE

Age 92, lifelong resident of Canton, died May 13, 2006. She was born June 18, 1913, in Canton, in the same house in which she died. She was a homemaker, and lived and worked on the farm. She was a former member of the Farm Bureau. She also worked at the Daisy Air Rifle Factory and worked in the office at Willow Run during World War II. She was a member of St. John Neumann Church in Canton. She loved being with her family, traveling, and gardening. She would rather be outside than inside, and was even mowing her grass as late as last fall. She is survived by her daughters, Catherine Foege, Mary (Richard) Perlongo, and Rita (Frank) Thompson; and her grandchildren, Verona Perlongo, Paul Perlongo, Russell Thompson, Martin Thompson, and Patrick Thompson. She is preceded in death by her husband, Albert. Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 16, at St. John Neumann Church. Memorials may be made as Mass Offerings or to Angela Hospice. Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.



PAUL J. SCAGLIONE

Age 84, May 15, 2006. Beloved husband of Alberta "Bea." Loving father of Lucinda F. Smith (Stephen R.) of Lake Orion, MI, Brenda L. Ward (Larry A.) of Pemberville, OH and Paul J. (Dreema) of S. Amherst, OH. Dear grandfather of 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He worked with Giffels Associates in Detroit where he headed up their Power & Utility Design Department for 30 years before retiring in 1990. Visitation Thursday 2-4 & 6-9 PM at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. Twelve Mile Rd. in Farmington Hills. Funeral Friday, Instate 10:30 AM, service 11 AM at West Bloomfield United Methodist Church, 4100 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield 48323. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church or Odyssey Health Care of Detroit, 26111 Evergreen, Suite 301, Southfield, MI 48076.
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Tom Hanks stars in the Sony Pictures' suspense thriller 'The Da Vinci Code.'

Fictional 'Da Vinci Code' collides with official church teachings

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

David Conrad fears that even though *The Da Vinci Code* is billed as fiction, there will be those who take it for fact when the movie arrives in theaters on Friday, May 19. He had the same feeling after reading Dan Brown's novel by the same title when it came out in 2003, so he put together a series of four presentations in September 2004 to set the record straight. On Wednesday, May 17, Conrad was scheduled to revisit the subject at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia where he directs the faith education programs.

Discrepancies in Brown's book leave little doubt the work is fiction. Brown himself says he wrote the story that begins with a murder in the Louvre Museum in Paris to explore "certain aspects of Christian history." While the characters are fictional, the artwork, architecture, documents, and rituals all exist. There was a second century sect known as the Gnostics who claimed to possess secrets that went beyond the faith proclaimed by the Christian church. Gnosticism comes from Gnosis, a Greek word meaning knowledge.

"The book created curiosity, questions about history and theology," said Conrad of Livonia.

"By looking at history it can help us appreciate who Jesus is and come to the realization that early church history is not

a murky mess. We can know something about Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Christianity in its early years by looking at records available to us.

"There is archeological evidence. Gospel texts can help provide evidence. Four gospel texts were composed between 35 to 60 years after Jesus' time on earth."

Conrad timed the May 17 presentation to enlighten movie goers before they entered the theater to see the Sony Pictures movie starring Tom Hanks. Conrad plans to see the movie himself.

"At some level people do take the novel seriously," said Conrad. "Characters in the book are being presented as legitimate scholars so people who don't know better or about the historical and theological evidence, they might be taken in. People are very curious about matters of faith. They're searching for truth. The topics presented in the novel resonate with people because they're searching, looking for answers."

Karen Buddenborg is going to see the movie just because "there's so much talk about it." She planned to attend Conrad's presentation at St. Aidan Catholic Church where she is a member.

"The *Da Vinci Code* appeals to people's sense of reason," said Buddenborg. "It has a feel almost like a true story so it can be misconstrued."

Conrad says Christians must realize the relationship that exists between faith and reason

if they are to believe.

"So often today we're faced with only two options, either decide from a perspective of faith or purely from perspective of reason," said Conrad. "People need to realize the two are not in conflict with each other. They're just approaching an explanation of the truth using different disciplines. The two work hand in hand."

"Ultimately as Christians we realize historical data is not enough for faith. Claims of Christianity are intelligible, but it comes down to a personal choice. No one can force one into faith."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Bicyclists invited to leisurely trip along Rouge

The Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn will host "Pedaling with the Current," a family-friendly bicycle tour along the Rouge River 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 3.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, contact Rick Simek, EIC program supervisor, at (313) 583-6371.

Participants should bring their bicycles for a leisurely tour along the new Rouge River Gateway Greenways Trail, which runs

through the campuses of Henry Ford Community College and UM-Dearborn, and includes parts of Wayne County and City of Dearborn parks.

Participants may choose to stop at a number of activity stations that will be set up along the path at various locations to explore river-related issues like water-quality testing, aquatic-creature sampling, organic gardens and the Rouge River Bird Observatory.

For more information about the tour, contact Simek at (313) 583-6371.

Nominees sought for history teacher of the year

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is seeking nominations for the annual Michigan History Teacher of the Year Award. The Institute, in partnership with Preserve America, inaugurated the award in 2004.

The History Teacher of the Year Award is designed to promote and celebrate the teaching of American history in classrooms across the United States. It honors one exceptional K-12 teacher of American history from each state and U.S. territory. The selection of the state winner is based upon several criteria, including: experience in teaching American history; evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom; and close attention to documents, artifacts, historic sites and the other primary materials of history.

The state winner will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and will be in the running for the National History Teacher of the Year award to be selected this fall. His or her school library will receive a core archive of history books and materials.

The deadline is May 31. For more information, contact Gordon Andrews, Michigan coordinator, at (269) 674-4709 or g-andrews@portageps.org.

The 2005 Michigan History Teacher of the Year was Tom Sleets of Southfield-Lathrup High School.

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History promotes the study and love of American history.

Schoolcraft sponsors poetry reading today

Poet Laurence Lieberman will read from his works on 7 p.m. today in the Forum Auditorium at Schoolcraft College, with a reception following outside the auditorium.

Lieberman is an English professor at the University of Illinois and poetry editor for the University of Illinois Press. He has published 14 collections of poetry, and three volumes of

literary criticism. His most recent book is *Carib's Leap*: selected and new poems of the Caribbean from Peepal Tree Press of Leeds, England. His works have been widely anthologized.

The reading is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by The MacGuffin, the national literary magazine housed at Schoolcraft.

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