

SUNDAY
November 5, 2006WESTLAND
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Clerk predicts 45 percent voter turnout Tuesday

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With voter interest high in Tuesday's election, City Clerk Eileen DeHart has predicted that 45 percent of Westland voters will cast ballots.

"That's a wonderful turnout," she said, "but hopefully it will hit 50 percent."

As of mid-week, DeHart's office had sent out 6,522 absentee ballots to potential voters, and nearly 4,000 had been returned.

"It's a higher than normal amount," DeHart said.

More typically, her workers would have sent out 4,200 absentee ballots and received back no more than 2,800 by now.

Westland voters will help decide several key state and federal races. They also will be involved in deciding five ballot issues, such as whether to

amend the state constitution to ban affirmative action programs and whether to guarantee \$565 million for public education, along with rate-of-inflation increases.

Educators support the latter plan, while critics say it would divert money for other services, such as police and fire departments.

Westland voters will help decide a bitter race between Democratic governor Jennifer Granholm and Republican challenger Dick DeVos. And, they will weigh in on the hotly contested 6th District Senate contest between incumbent Laura Toy, R-Livonia, and Democrat Glenn Anderson, who is wrapping up his sixth year as a state representative.

Local voters also will decide whether to elect their mayor, Sandra Cicirelli, as a district judge or

whether to choose attorney Jennifer Thor for the seat being vacated by retiring Judge Gail McKnight.

Some candidates, such as longtime Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard, will sail easily to victory Tuesday due to being unopposed.

The race between Anderson and Toy has been one of the hardest fought battles this election season, with voters being bombarded by television commercials and home-delivered campaign ads.

In recent days, many political observers viewed the Toy-Anderson race as a dead heat.

Late in the week, DeHart's office continued to respond to requests for absentee ballots.

When asked why she expects a high turnout in the election, DeHart said, "I think because there's such an interest in it, and there have been so many

TV ads and automated phone calls."

Regarding the deluge of TV spots, DeHart said, "I think people are either really, really tired of seeing them, or it has helped them make up their minds and they want to vote."

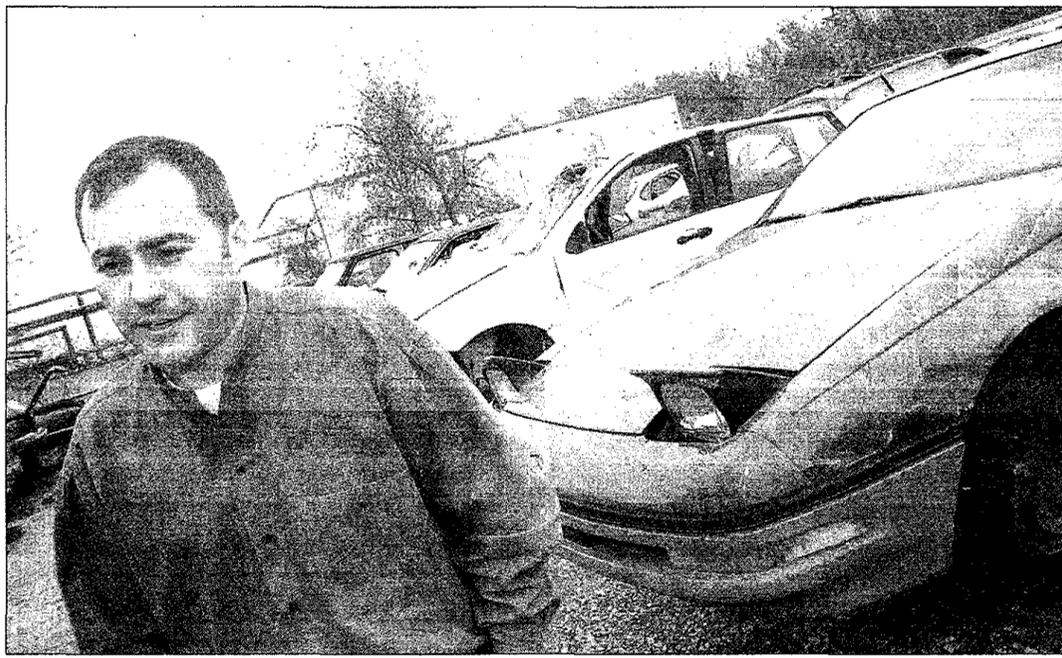
Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

For the first time ever, DeHart said election results will be posted on the city's official Web site as soon as they are tabulated. To log on, go to www.ci.westland.mi.us.

"It's exciting," DeHart said.

The city also will provide vote totals to the Observer, which will post them on its Web site at www.hometownlife.com. Just click on the Westland link.

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



William Wild stands in the auto salvage yard of his business, Scrap Busters Auto & Truck Parts.

Scrap Busters: New spin on used parts

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Crank up the karaoke music for *Ghostbusters*.

Now, if you're a do-it-yourself mechanic, change the lyrics:

So your car's broke down, and you need a part. Who you gonna call? Scrap Busters!

That could be the theme song for William Wild's business, where customers can find cheap, used parts for 500 cars and trucks.

Wild - yes, the Westland City Council president - has changed the way he's doing business at Scrap Busters Auto & Truck Parts in Wayne.

He still has an auto salvage yard where parts can be bought before the vehicles are crushed and sold to the steel industry for recycling purposes.

But now, rather than having a part brought to the front counter, customers can pay

\$1, sign an insurance waiver and search the 10-acre salvage yard for what they need.

"It's perfect for the do-it-yourself mechanic," Wild said.

He buys vehicles from insurance auctions or from people who've wrecked them and want to make a little money. Then, his workers safely mount the cars and trucks so that shoppers, using their own tools, can peruse this used-vehicle graveyard, this mechanic's paradise.

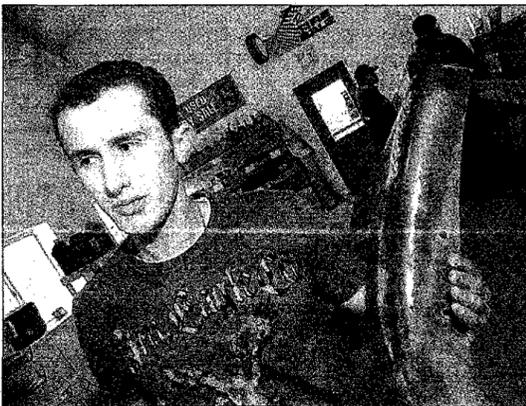
"They don't even need a jack," Wild said.

Customers can rent a wheelbarrow for \$1 to collect parts. If they want to pull an engine, they can lease a cherry-picker for \$5.

They can shop for parts ranging from a 25-cent lug nut to a \$225 eight-cylinder engine. They can even pay a little extra for an extended warranty.

PLEASE SEE SCRAP BUSTERS, A6

Scrap Busters is tucked away at 39165 Maple St., south of Michigan Avenue and east of Hannan in Wayne. The phone number is (734) 722-2250, or visit the company Web site at www.scrapbusters.com.



Nate Lilo of Garden City holds a part he bought at Scrap Busters, where he often shops and brings his friends.

Justice served?
Livonia woman upset by verdict
in festival stabbing caseBY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Livonia woman is upset that she did jail time for a Westland Summer Festival stabbing while another defendant, who had been accused of wielding the knife, walked free.

Joleen Krueger, 20, admitted she shouldn't have gotten into a fist fight and hair-pulling contest with Jennifer Nagle, 19, when Nagle bumped into her at the Fourth of July fireworks show.

"But it would have been a simple little fight between two females, if somebody else hadn't jumped in," Krueger told the *Observer* on Thursday.

Nicole Harrington, 17, of Westland had been accused of coming to Krueger's aid by stabbing Nagle in the head,

back and left hand, but she was found not guilty Monday by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury.

Authorities attributed the decision to confusing testimony about what happened amid a huge festival crowd near Westland City Hall. Defense attorney Lawrence Bunting also portrayed Harrington as a high school honor roll student while emphasizing that Nagle had used cocaine and marijuana prior to the incident.

Krueger gambled by not going to trial. She pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of attempted assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder), and she received a three-month jail term, \$3,000 in fines and 30 days in

PLEASE SEE STABBING, A5

Sign of times? Metal vases
stolen from local grave sitesBY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Tammy Krueger was appalled when she went to a Westland cemetery last Sunday afternoon to pay her respects to her father, her grandparents and her uncle.

Thieves had stolen metal vases from numerous graves at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, on Ford Road east of Wildwood.

"It's morbid," she said. "It's just wrong to steal from dead people."

Her aunt, Jenny Rowe, agrees.

"It's cruel to happen to us, to my family and to others who have people buried there," she said. "I was told (by cemetery representatives) they hit at least 100 graves."

Krueger has several relatives

buried at the cemetery, including her father, James Russell, grandparents Ida and Warren Rowe, and uncle Charles Rowe. The Rowes are Jenny Rowe's parents and brother.

"When I went to my grandma's grave, her vase was missing," Krueger said. "Then I looked at my uncle's grave, and his vase was also missing."

Vandals had cut through chains intended to protect the vases.

Krueger described herself as surprised that the cemetery didn't notify relatives of loved ones who are buried at the cemetery.

Jenny Rowe notified the Westland Police Department of the stolen vases, and police Lt. James Ridener confirmed Thursday that an investigation

PLEASE SEE GRAVES, A5

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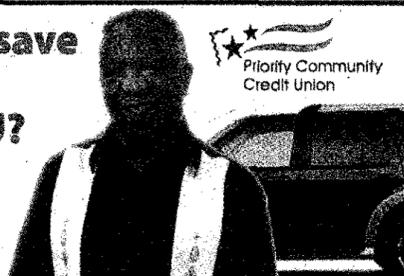


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Joel, longtime PCCU member

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in Filter

POW WOW

Annual Native
American
Festival
captures
Thanksgiving
spirit.



Livonia schools' enrollment figures not ready yet

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

The report was due Nov. 1, but Livonia Public Schools didn't have its research done, district officials said.

Instead, administrators plan to have 2006-07 enrollment figures ready in time for Monday's school board meeting.

The student count is important because it determines how much money the district will get in state aid. This year, it also gives taxpayers insight about how the district's Legacy

Initiative is shaping up in its first year.

On Wednesday, Supt. Randy Liepa said he didn't have complete results of the district's "fourth Wednesday" attendance record, which was taken five weeks earlier. He estimated the student loss at over 400.

Figures were due to the intermediate school district by Nov. 1. "We've asked for a couple of days extension," he said.

"It's definitely going to be over a 2 percent reduction," Liepa said. "We knew we would lose students this year, and we lost more than we thought."

The district collects \$8,490 per pupil for the state for each full-time student. A 2.5 percent loss would be about 425 students - or \$3.6 million - based on last year's estimate of 17,000 K-12 students.

Liepa said any shortfall in the district's budget would be covered by its fund equity, which stood at \$10.9 million as of June 30. LPS typically doesn't adjust its budget mid-year, he said.

Enrollment patterns have not caused any shifts in the number of classrooms or teachers needed at any grade level since school began, Liepa said.

During a board meeting Oct. 16, Trustee Tom Bailey said that it had already been "a number of weeks" since the count was taken. "At this time I'm disappointed," Bailey said.

"It's probably a little bit too long ... I just wish we had been on top of this a little bit better."

Liepa said this week that the report is not taking longer than usual this year. However, he said: "In any other year it's not as sensitive as it is this year."

"There's some finalization that occurs in (figuring enrollment for) special education and shared time programs," he said. "That's what takes a while."

Liepa said he didn't know when the figures were due. "I don't know what the deadline is," Liepa said. "It is usually around Nov. 1. That could mean Nov. 3 or it could mean Nov. 5."

Last year, the district decided to close seven schools, reconfigure grades of elementary schools and save money under a plan called the Legacy

Initiative. Officials had predicted a \$1.8 million savings this year. However, actual enrollment figures could affect that amount.

The loss can be attributed to the Legacy Initiative among other reasons, Liepa acknowledged. Some families have moved and others chose to attend private schools, he said.

LPS will try to track families who have left the district.

"We're going to try to do that, but people come and they go," Liepa said. Follow-up or "exit interviews" with families who withdraw from a district are not typical. "We do get requests (from other schools) for student records," he said.

LPS was among the majority of Wayne County districts that had not submitted enrollment projections as of Nov. 1, said

Beverly Finlayson, manager of student accounting and auditing for the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

"I allow them a little leeway," Finlayson said. Because Wayne County districts are big, she said, "if they're experiencing difficulty, we give them a break."

The intermediate school district has until Nov. 15 to submit its reports to the state.

"That's the bottom-line deadline," Finlayson said. If the state hasn't received the figures by then, it has the authority to withhold funding. "We always make the Nov. 15 deadline." Staff writer Dave Varga contributed to this story.

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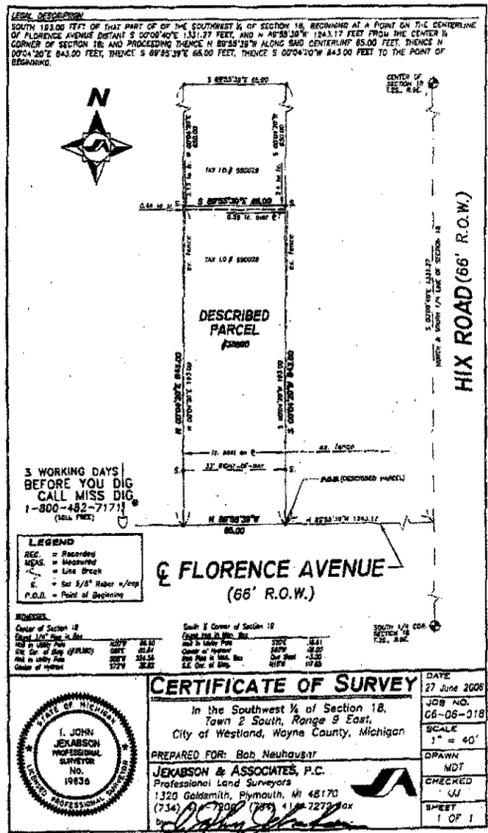
ORDINANCE NO. 248-A-55

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND RESTRICT THE USE OF LAND AND STRUCTURES BY DIVIDING THE CITY OF WESTLAND INTO DISTRICTS AND ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES THEREOF BY ADOPTION OF AN OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP, TO SPECIFY THE DISTRICTS WITHIN WHICH LANDS MAY BE USED FOR BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENCE AND OTHER SPECIFIED PURPOSES; TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS GOVERNING THE LOCATION, ERECTION, CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION AND USE OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND LAND WITHIN SUCH DISTRICTS; TO LIMIT THE HEIGHT AND BREADTH OF BUILDINGS, SIGNS AND OTHER STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE THE INTENSITY OF USE OF LOT AREAS AND TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF YARDS AND OTHER OPEN SPACES; TO ESTABLISH SITE DESIGN REGULATIONS AND TO PROVIDE SITE DESIGN REVIEW PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS; TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL LAND USE AND SPECIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT; TO LIMIT CONGESTION IN THE PUBLIC STREETS BY PROVIDING OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE RESTRUCTION AND GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF NON-CONFORMING USES OF LAND, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE SIGNS BY ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS UPON THE SIZE, HEIGHT, LOCATION AND NUMBER OF PERMISSIBLE SIGNS AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN SIGNS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND AMENDMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; AND TO REPEAL THE PRIOR ZONING ORDINANCE.

THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the zoning map of Ordinance No. 248 of the City of Westland be and the same is hereby amended to show R-5 district classification where L-2 district classification is now shown in the area situated in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, described as:

South 193.00 Feet Of That Part Of The Southwest 1/4 Of Section 18, Beginning At A Point On The Centerline Of Florence Avenue Distant S 00°09'40" E 1331.27 Feet And N 89°55'39" W 1243.17 Feet From The Center 1/4 Corner Of Section 18; And Proceeding Thence N 89°55'39" W Along Said Centerline 65.00 Feet, Thence N 00°42'20" E 843.00 Feet, Thence S 89°55'39" E 65.00 Feet, Thence S 00°04'20" W 843.00 Feet To The Point Of Beginning.



Section 2. The other classifications in effect in all other areas of the zoning map shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Repeal. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 5. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication thereof.

Adopted: October 16, 2006
Effective: October 26, 2006

Nancy J. Bonaparte
Deputy City Clerk
City of Westland

Publish: November 5, 2006

CE08488000

19 businesses provide eats for Taste Fest

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A record number of restaurants will help to fill the hunger void as Holiday Taste Fest returns to Westland.

In all, 19 participants will help make this year's event the biggest yet, said Westland Chamber of Commerce President Lori Brist.

The chamber will sponsor the four-hour event starting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, on Joy Road east

of Newburgh.

"People love it," Brist said. "It's 20 bucks for all you can eat for four hours. It's a good time, and there will be more restaurants than ever."

Admission is \$20 for the all-ages event. Tickets may be bought 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays at chamber offices on Ford Road, east of Newburgh.

The event will include a disc jockey, a performance from Ms. Helen's Westland Dance and a silent auction.

The chamber plans to sell 500 tickets, and 100 already have been sold, Brist said.

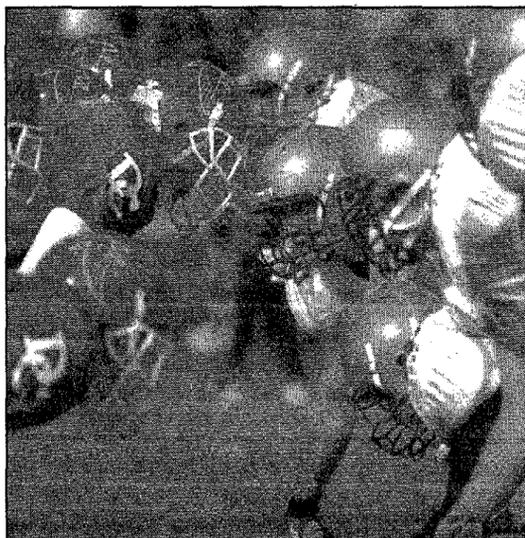
A flier for Taste Fest bills it as a "gourmet adventure featuring the area's finest restaurants and culinary artists."

Brist also said holiday shoppers can find gifts during event auctions.

Participants in this year's event include Casa Fiesta, Fire Mountain, the Hellenic Cultural Center, caterer Hickory BBQ & Grill, Johnny Carino's, Lakeshore

Grill at Macy's, LeCakery Bake Shop, LongHorn Steakhouse, Maria's Italian Bakery, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Miller beer distributor O&W Inc., Red Robin, Souper Sandwich Carver, Starbuck's Coffee Co., Toarmina's Pizza, Uno Chicago Grill, Westland Big Boy, and the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's culinary arts department.

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Chili reception?

Granholt greets supporters at Senate Coney Island

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

When the election is over, Livonia business owner Bob Kunkel will measure the governor's success over the next four years by the number of jobs in Michigan.

"The bottom line is how many jobs are we gaining or losing - and not \$10 an hour jobs. We need \$15 an hour jobs," said Kunkel, owner of Caddy Shack Golf Shop. "Everything else will take care of itself."

Kunkel was among a crowd of about 250 Democrats and Republicans at Senate Coney Island on Nov. 2, a stop on the fourth day of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's re-election bus tour throughout the state.

Granholm talked about funding for public education, health care and offering short-term training to help displaced workers find jobs.

"We need a 'No Worker Left Behind' law," Granholm said.

"In challenging times, you have to make sure you invest in higher education," she said.

She was joined by Lt. Gov. John Cherry, Sen. Carl Levin, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, state Sen. Hansen Clarke, state Rep. Andy Dillon, state House candidates Brian Duggan and Richard Blanc and state Senate candidate Glenn Anderson.

Ficano predicted a number of close races but said Livonia would make history by voting Democratic this Tuesday. "I grew up in Livonia, and I can tell you that the last time Livonia went Democratic, I was very young," he said.

Members of Republicans for Granholm were among supporters at the restaurant.

"It took a lot of soul searching (to come out in support of Granholm) because I was a Republican for 40 years," said Gil Ziegler, chairman of

Republicans for Granholm. "No. 1, I trust her. No. 2, we agree on the majority of the issues. And No. 3, she doesn't have any hidden agendas."

Former Republican state House candidate Beth Stewart called Granholm a moderate Democrat and said voters are sick of party politics.

"I think the moderate Republicans and moderate Democrats, rather than always being adversarial, can work together very well," Stewart said. "People who can work together are the ones who will help Michigan through this crisis."

Plymouth resident Alicia P. VanPelt brought Granholm a check to show her support. "People are blaming her for the economy. We can't blame the governor for the auto industry," said VanPelt, a retired Livonia librarian.

Livonia's economy is important to George Dimopoulos, owner of Senate Coney Island and the adjacent Plymouth Road plaza. He said business at his restaurant is down 20 percent since a number of small manufacturing sites nearby have closed.

The possibility that Quicken Loans, Livonia's second biggest employer, may move its headquarters to downtown Detroit troubles Kunkel as well. "It's hard to take from Livonia and give to Detroit. We need to bring work here from Mississippi."

Quicken Loans' lease at Victor Corporate Park is up in 2009, and Granholm has reportedly worked to offer tax incentives for the company to move downtown. Quicken has not made any announcement about a decision.

"I am not advocating for them to move to Detroit," Granholm said. "We want them to stay in Michigan. If they move to Detroit, they may get the benefits of a Renaissance Zone. But as a state, we're advocating for them not to move."

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Glenn Anderson, Democratic candidate for the 16th District state Senate seat, addresses an enthusiastic crowd for Gov. Jennifer Granholm.



Redford resident Maria Marino watches the Granholm campaign bus leave the Senate Coney Island rally.



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, joined the Granholm campaign tour at the Senate Coney Island in Livonia along with Lt. Gov. John Cherry, state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and County Executive Robert Ficano.

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Finally, your and your doctor face issues of therapy. The medicines available have side effects, and for calcium pyrophosphate and hydroxy apatite a question exists if any treatment helps. www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

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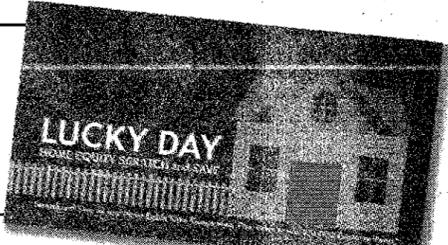
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“Toy has worked hard on issues close to her heart, including those affecting people with disabilities. She takes a commonsense approach... and is a strong supporter of public schools.”

— Detroit Free Press, 10/10/06

“Toy has been an advocate for better scrutiny of operations in the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and has been a strong supporter of laws protecting children.”

— Detroit News, 10/23/06

“As a small business owner, she understands the need for service and that is what she provides to the residents of the 6th Senate District. Whether it is on the floor of the Senate or in the communities she represents, Toy is working on behalf of her constituents.”

— Observer & Eccentric, 10/12/06

“She has a solid background of both business and community service... Toy is the better choice. She’s done the job she was sent to Lansing to do and has earned the right to continue that service.”

— Westland Eagle, 10/12/06

LAURA TOY

FOR STATE SENATE

Paid for by Laura M. Toy for State Senate, 32604 Rayburn Road, Livonia, MI 48154

Serving the 6th Senate District

29444 Joy Road

Livonia, Michigan 48150

Phone: (734) 522-6792

E-Mail: senatorlauratoy@yahoo.com

- As a small business owner, Laura Toy understands how government regulations can hurt job creation and business growth. That’s why she voted to end the harmful Single Business Tax so companies can grow, prosper, and create jobs for Michigan workers.
- As the daughter of a police officer, Laura Toy knows that children are our most vulnerable residents. She sponsored a new law that will help make sure sexual predators that prey on children face life in prison with no chance of parole.
- As the founder of the Livonia Environmental Awareness Center, Laura Toy is working hard to keep Canadian and out-of-state trash out of Michigan landfills. She worked on legislation placing restrictions on trash from outside Michigan entering our landfills.

Polling place change

With the closing of Nankin Mills Elementary School in Westland, voters who used to cast their ballots there will now vote at a different location, Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart said.

Those voters should go to the nearby Western Wayne Skills Center, at Ritz and Ann Arbor Trail, to cast their ballots on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The Nankin Mills school was among several buildings closed by the Livonia Public Schools at the end of last school year. The skills center also is operated by the Livonia district.

Annual bazaar

The Village of Westland will hold its annual bazaar and bake sale 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the senior community at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman, in Westland.

Scrapbooking event

Scrapbookers and picture people are invited to Another Hot Crop! and Holiday Open House 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25 at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Sponsored by the Westland Jaycees, the event allows scrapbookers the time and space to devote to their scrapbooks and pick up new ideas, tips and techniques. Non-scrapbookers and beginners can learn how to preserve their memories and photos.

The cost is \$35 for the all day crop. It includes lunch and dinner, goody bag, cropping space and much more. Album supplies and tools will be available for

purchase.

The event will benefit the Westland Fire Department which is raising money to purchase a thermal imager.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call Lisa Graham at (734) 718-5705 or contact her by e-mail at Lisa.Graham@sbcglobal.net.

Craft show

VFW Post 3323 and its Ladies Auxiliary is holding a holiday craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be a snack bar, and vendors are still needed. Call Rich at (812) 734-7978.

Poker tournament

The Westland Jaycees will hold a two-day Texas Hold 'Em Tournament Friday-Saturday, Nov. 10-11, at the Bailey Recreation Center on Ford west of Wayne Road. The tournament will begin at 6 p.m. on Nov. 10, and the top 21 players will return on Nov. 11 for a chance at the \$1,000 top prize.

Spots in the tournament are available at the door and through pre-registration. Pre-registration price is \$65 until Nov. 6. After that date, there will be a \$15 late registration fee. There also will be a Vegas Room available both nights. Vegas Room games include Roulette, Big Wheel, Blackjack, 7 Card and Let it Ride. Food and beverages also will be available.

For more information, call (734) 226-0400.

10th anniversary

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland will celebrate its 10th anniversary on

Sunday. The public is invited.

The library, named after the late state senator, will begin its celebration at 11:30 a.m. with the Westland John Glenn High School marching band playing the national anthem and the Livonia Franklin High School's junior ROTC carrying flags.

At noon, former library board President Jim Chuck, the master of ceremonies, will welcome visitors and make introductory remarks. There also will be a coffee-and-cookies reception.

Open house activities 1-4 p.m. will include a piano player, a balloon twister, book characters and much more, according to the library staff.

Pancake breakfast

Westland Civitan Club will hold an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at Applebee's Restaurant on Warren at Central City Parkway in Westland.

Breakfast includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee, tea or milk. Tickets are \$6 each with children age 3 and under free. Proceeds will be used for ongoing community projects that enhance the quality of life for those in the Westland community who are physically and mentally challenged.

Poker game

The St. Theodore's Men's Club will hold a Texas Hold 'Em poker game 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, in the church social hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be available and there also will be a 50/50 raffle. Players must be at least age 18 to play and age 21 to drink. Top prize will be \$500.

The cost is a \$40 buy in and only 110 tickets will be sold in advance. No tickets will be available at the door. For tickets, call Mary at the parish office at (734) 425-4421, voice mail No. 10 or Ken at (734) 634-4898.

Attention, shoppers

Westland Shopping Center and Macy's will sponsor a half-day "shopping extravaganza" starting at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the mall. The cost is \$25, and the event is open to the first 100 people who respond. The event is being presented by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Guests will report to Macy's for a continental breakfast provided by Panera Bread and a holiday make-up presentation by Clinique.

The day will continue with shopping for holiday gifts at participating merchants. Every participant will receive discounts and giveaways at certain stores. The day will end at 1 p.m. at Lakeshore Grill with lunch and door prize drawings.

To sign up or for more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Holiday helpers

Community Hospice is seeking volunteers to help with its Tree of Memories holiday fundraiser. Activities include setting up Christmas trees at local businesses, assembling mail pieces, and collecting donations at the Westland Shopping Center exhibit.

No experience necessary, just a desire to help others facing terminal illness. Training will be provided. For more information, call Vicki at (734) 522-4244.

GRAVES

FROM PAGE A1

is ongoing.

Authorities believe that the thefts are another sign of tough economic times and that vandals stole the vases to make money from scrap metal.

No suspects have been identified. Anyone who has information about the stolen vases is urged to call the police department at (734) 722-9600.

Jenny Rowe is now concerned about security at the cemetery. The management has said they will replace the vases the first time, but if it

happens again, it will be the responsibility of the surviving family members.

"I don't think it's fair to the people, it's the responsibility of the cemetery's owners to take care of the graves," she added.

Similar thefts were discovered at Mount Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia where a 53-year-old Detroit man was arrested for taking bronze vases from grave sites. Cemetery management there reported at least 550 of the vases, which sell for \$350 each, disappeared during the month of August.

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	Boneless • Tender SIRLOIN TIP ROAST	\$2.69 only lb.
	Lean • Tender • Boneless BUTTERFLY PORK CHOPS	\$2.69 only lb.
	Oven-Ready • Stuffed WHOLE CHICKENS	99¢ only lb.
	From the Barrel FRESH CORNED BEEF Supreme Cut • Our Finest	\$3.99 only lb.
	FROM THE DELI Fresh Sliced • Lipari • Oven Roasted TURKEY BREAST	\$3.99 lb.
	Fresh Sliced • Kowalski ROAST BEEF	\$3.99 lb.

Check our website for additional specials! Mikes-marketplace.com

STABBING

FROM PAGE A1

a work program.

Although Krueger is expected to remain free after now serving 90 days in jail, she feels wronged for being implicated in a stabbing that she and others said she didn't do.

"I'm being fined and charged with stuff I didn't even do," she said. "I'm disappointed that I have to do all this on my own when somebody else played a part in it, and she gets to walk off scot-free."

Krueger has apologized to Nagle for fighting with her, and Nagle and her family have accepted her apology.

"A girl who didn't commit the crime is being punished, and the girl who (had faced charges that she) committed the crime walks away," Nagle's mother, Debbie Nagle, said Thursday. "It's a tough one to swallow."

Debbie Nagle blasted the jury's verdict as "ridiculous" and said she doesn't believe that jurors gave adequate attention to police documents

related to the case.

When Harrington was found not guilty, Debbie Nagle said, "I could not breathe. I just thought, what kind of people were on that jury? I don't think they wanted to be there. They wanted to be at home or back at work."

Testimony has indicated that Harrington, not Krueger, was holding the knife. But Jennifer Nagle, tussling with Krueger, didn't actually see who stabbed her.

Debbie Nagle, who was upset with Krueger before Krueger apologized, said her daughter still has severe headaches from being stabbed, and she can't grip firmly with her left hand.

"I'm thankful that she's still here and living and breathing, but every day I look at the scars she has," Debbie Nagle said.

Bunting, the defense attorney, said he has advised Harrington not to discuss the case.

Meanwhile, Krueger contacted the *Observer* because she said she wants it known that she didn't stab Jennifer

Nagle. Krueger, a single mother who lives with her father, said she sees the stares of others when she takes her 5-year-old daughter to Grant Elementary School in Livonia.

Krueger said she will have difficulty paying \$3,000 in fines with her salary as a waitress. She conceded she shouldn't have fought with Nagle, but she said she believes she took the fall for a stabbing she didn't do.

"This really was God's way of teaching me to watch who my friends are and to watch who I'm with all the time," she said.

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Disc Herniation?

New FDA Approved Technology Treats Herniated Discs Without Drugs or Surgery

Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain and how this accidental discovery has let to the most promising back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "**How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!**" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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Schoolcraft College Foundation
2006 Fall Craft Show

Saturday, November 11, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, November 12, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Schoolcraft College
Physical Education Building
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Proceeds fund student scholarships

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INFORMATION CENTRAL

MOVIE NIGHT AT LIBRARY

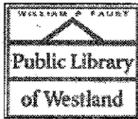
Where in Westland can you view award-winning independent and foreign films similar to those found at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor or the Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak? And for free?

The answer is right here at the Public Library of Westland as we begin our new once a month movie nights! We are introducing a new program of monthly movies and popcorn.

Screenings will be in the front meeting rooms off the lobby once a month on either Mondays or Tuesdays. Many of the year's best movies will be featured.

Each month the library receives an award-winning film on DVD before its release to the general public. Each film has been selected by a curatorial board of film experts which include board members from the Lincoln Center, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the American Film Institute, and are provided to the library from Filmmovement.com.

The movies are going to be shown



Library card system.

We have a growing collection of movie titles in the Film Movement series that can be found on the DVD fiction shelves. In the library catalog, the series is searchable under "film movement series." These films are from all over the world, such as Norway, Israel, Korea, United States, Norway, Germany, Slovenia, Singapore and Sri Lanka. The Film Movement curators pick outstanding movies that represent filmmaking from diverse viewpoints.

Our DVD classic movie collection in general is growing as well. Recent additions include a collection of Alfred Hitchcock films, including Suspicion, North by Northwest, Strangers on a Train, Psycho, Marnie, The Birds, Vertigo and Rear Window.

Our collection of the American Film

Institute's 100 best movies is growing by a few titles each month. These are some of the greatest movies ever made. Our intention is to provide the public with excellent films that people in Westland may not be able to find anywhere else in town.

Come in and check out our growing collection of topnotch, classic movies. The library has a much more diverse and artistic selection than any local video store! The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland can be reached at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at www.westland.lib.mi.us to find great entertainment.

Highlighted Activities "How Can a Person 'Keep Up' These Days?": 7 p.m. Nov. 6.

Brush up on your coping skills for the holiday. Join popular motivational speaker Sylvia Rubach for a lively and informative talk to help you on your way to a stress free holiday season. Stop by the library or call (734) 326-6123 to reserve your seat.

Internet 101: 2 p.m. Nov. 9. A beginner's guide to the Internet - how to get around a Web site, what is a Web site. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

Independent Movie Night: 7 p.m. Nov. 28.

Join us as we screen Campfire, a gripping tale of life in the West Bank, immediately after Egypt's withdrawal from the Sinai in 1981, in the first of our monthly showing of independently produced feature films. Bring a friend or come by yourself to enjoy an evening of entertainment. No registration is required.

Information Central is compiled by Cathy Pense, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Customers have hundreds of vehicles to choose from at Scrap Busters.

SCRAP BUSTERS

FROM PAGE A1

Garden City resident Nate Lilo, 20, recently found some parts for his 1998 Chrysler Sebring. He had been to Scrap Busters four times in one week.

"This is the best place to go because they have everything you need, and it's cheap," Lilo said. "I bring my friends here. You won't find a place like this anywhere else."

Scrap Busters is tucked away at 39165 Maple St., south of Michigan Avenue and east of Hannan in Wayne. The phone number is (734) 722-2250, or visit the company Web site at www.scrapbusters.com. The hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.

Customers can find used transmissions, tires, batteries, alternators - if it's on a vehicle, it's there.

Wild sells parts from Ford, General Motors, Chrysler and foreign vehicles. He admitted that the demand may be a little higher for Ford parts in Wayne, with many company loyalists who work at Ford Motor Co. facilities on Michigan Avenue.

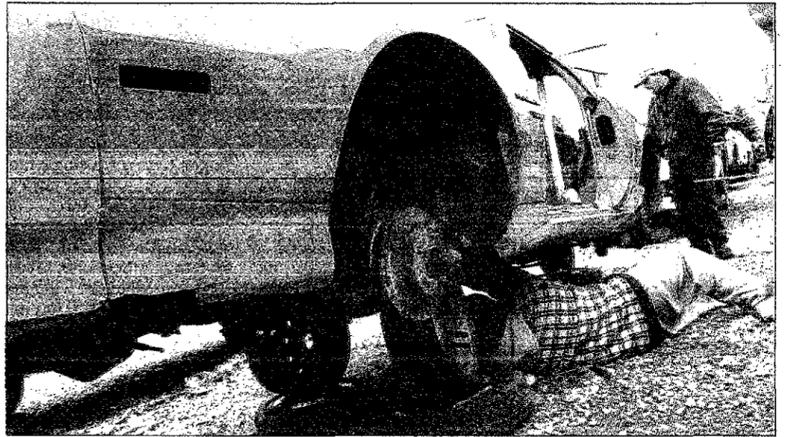
"This is Ford country, without a doubt," he said.

Wild has continued the business started in 1988 by his father, Bill Wild Sr. It allows the younger Wild to support his family - wife Sherri and children Luke 4, and Lily, 2. The couple has a third child due in February.

Scrap Busters has become more appealing to vehicle owners who are trying to weather economic problems by keeping their cars and trucks longer than they once did.

"It gives people a low-cost alternative to get car parts," Wild said.

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Chris Rushing works under a car to remove a speed sensor that he bought from Scrap Busters.

WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WESTLAND, MICHIGAN 48185 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Bid Package #21,

Consisting of: Marshall Middle School Corridor Renovation

will be received until 1:30 P.M. local time on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Wayne-Westland Community School Board of Education Office, located at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185. Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

- 108 Carpentry & General Trades
116 Hard Tile
120 Painting
142 Mechanical
148 Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit.

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of bidding documents, beginning Thursday, November 2, 2006, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400. Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reprographics Technology, (248) 353-2950. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 in the cafeteria at Marshall Middle School, (35100 Bayview, Westland, MI 48186) The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project site and to answer any questions that bidders may have. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Wayne-Westland Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Wayne-Westland Community Schools reserve the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: November 5, 2006

OE0848577

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OE08485283

OE08485289

Should welfare be a hand up *OR* a hand out?



The DeVos Plan *A Hand Up*

The Granholm Plan *A Hand Out*

✓ Supports a 4-year time limit on welfare

✗ Vetoed a 4-year time limit.
(The Grand Rapids Press, Dec. 29, 2005)

✓ Opposes unlimited welfare benefits for able-bodied adults.

✗ Supports unlimited welfare benefits for able-bodied adults. (WKAR Debate, 10/2/06)

✓ Supports drug testing welfare recipients.

✗ Opposes drug testing for welfare recipients.
(Lansing State Journal, 10/31/98)

✓ Will get people from welfare to work.

✗ Faces \$100 million dollar fine from federal government for failing to get people from welfare to work. (Gongwer Report, 3/16/06)

The Granholm Record:

FACT: 35,744 MORE people on welfare. (Michigan Department of Human Services)

FACT: Michigan is one of only 2 states in the entire United States that does not have a time limit for welfare. (Welfare Time Limits: State Policies, Implementation, and Effects on Families, Report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2002)

FACT: Michigan has 9,294 people that have remained on welfare for over five years. In comparison, Ohio has just 149. Indiana and Illinois have zero. (Federal Health and Human Service reports, House Fiscal Agency 2005)

FACT: Michigan is facing over \$100 million in fines because it has failed to meet federal requirements of getting 50% of able-bodied welfare recipients to work by October 1st, 2006. Michigan is at 23%. (Gongwer Report, 3/16/06; MIRS News, 9/25/06)

MICHIGAN NEEDS CHANGE.

Paid for by Dick DeVos for Governor. P.O. Box 22216, Lansing, MI 48909

OUR VIEWS

Granholt, Cox, Land merit re-election

Tuesday is Election Day. We have followed the candidates in their respective races, studied the issues and met with the candidates to discuss their plans. Over the last several weeks, we have recommended candidates for national, state, county and local offices. Following is a recap of our recommendations.

For governor, we believe **Jennifer Granholt** has the right plan to lead Michigan in the next four years. Michigan has been through a difficult time. While most of the country was recovering from the 2001 recession, areas dependent on heavy manufacturing continued to struggle. Michigan's heavy dependence on the automotive industry has made it the most resistant to recovery.

Despite this, Granholt, a centrist Democrat, has made strides in setting the right priorities for Michigan. She has done the necessary work in trimming the state government bureaucracy. She's worked with the Legislature to create the 21st Century Job Fund to invest \$2 billion in emerging sector businesses that will begin to diversify away from the auto industry with life sciences, homeland security and alternative energy businesses. Her \$4 billion Jobs Today program provided both jobs and needed infrastructure repairs.

She has made a strong case for public education working with the Legislature to increase the education foundation grant and to implement a strong high school curriculum.

She also has innovative ideas for a health care program similar to the one implemented in Massachusetts that would provide access to affordable health care for all Michigan residents.

She offers a solid plan for improvement for the next four years.

For secretary of state, we believe Republican **Terri Lynn Land** has earned another term as secretary of state and we enthusiastically endorse her re-election.

Anyone who has had to visit the Secretary of State's office in recent years knows that lines move more quickly and business is handled more professionally and politely. Even better, with online and kiosk services, there is considerably less need to stand in line at all.

Since taking office, she's streamlined and automated the state's most visible department.

Land successfully consolidated redundant offices; implemented the requirements of the Help America Vote Act, making it easier for everyone to vote and assuring the integrity of their vote; and introduced new technology to every aspect of the state's licensing procedures.

She's done an excellent job as secretary of state and merits re-election to a second four-year term.

For attorney general, we support Republican **Mike Cox** in his bid for a second four-year term.

When Cox ran for attorney general four years ago, he emphasized the role of the attorney general as the leader of county prosecutors and, essentially, top cop in Michigan.

This year, he's emphasizing his role in continuing the tradition of predecessors Frank Kelley and Jennifer Granholt as a watchdog for consumer protection.

Though Cox touts the role the attorney general's office has had in some high profile criminal cases, it is consumer protection, fighting utility costs, policing prescription drug pricing, protecting seniors and a campaign to go after child support money that top his list of accomplishments.

We disagree with Cox's active support for the anti-affirmative action ballot issue but on balance, his record of working hard for Michigan residents on consumer protection, child support, utility costs and support for county prosecutors on criminal investigations, makes him a solid choice on Nov. 7.

Send Stabenow, McCotter back to Washington

In the race for U.S. Senate, incumbent **Debbie Stabenow** merits re-election to a new six-year term.

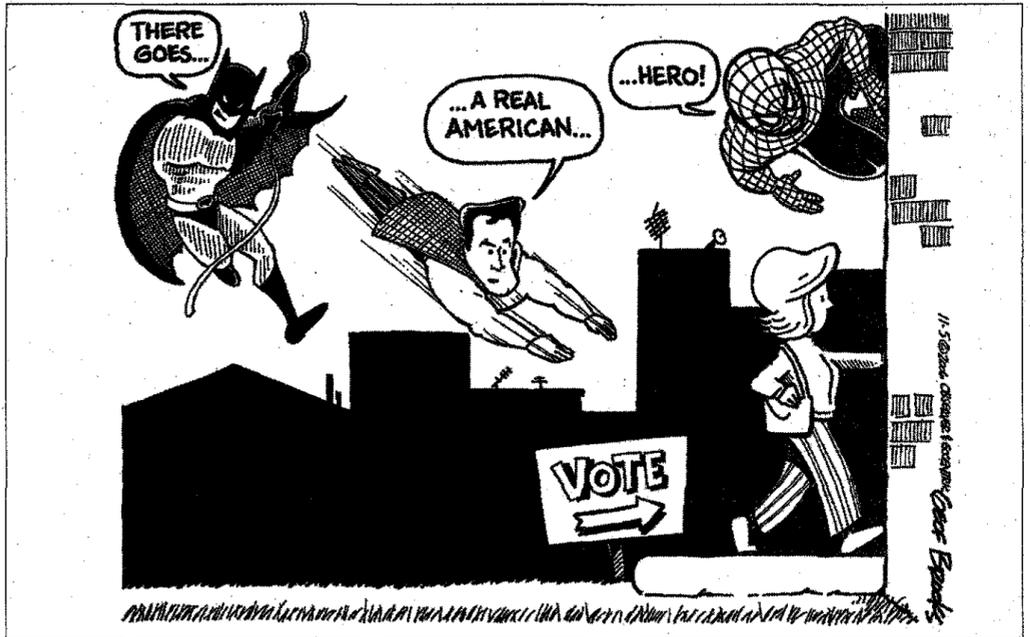
Stabenow, unlike her opponent, is not a one-issue candidate. She has broad experience and has proven she can work in a bipartisan fashion. She has fought hard for Michigan. It's a fight she'll need to continue after re-election on Tuesday. She has made health care - in particular affordable prescription drugs - a priority.

Stabenow is a passionate voice for Michigan in the U.S. Senate and deserves to be re-elected on Nov. 7.

In the U.S. House 11th District, we recommend incumbent Republican **Thaddeus McCotter**.

Although we've disagreed with some of McCotter's votes, he is not the one-dimensional conservative his opponent portrays. He is a conscientious conservative, steeped in the Ronald Reagan tradition. He has a long history in this community as a county commissioner, state senator and two-term member of Congress.

While he has been a reliable vote on party initiatives, he has also taken strong positions that run against the grain. He has been a steady critic of the administration's mishandling of the war in Iraq. He has also been a vocal opponent of free trade agreements that don't require reciprocity from our trading partners and have hurt the Michigan economy.



OUR VIEWS

Recapping Observer endorsements

These are the *Observer's* endorsements for the Nov. 7 election:

STATE SENATE

6th District

Two veteran lawmakers are knotted up in a contentious campaign to win the 6th Senate District seat - incumbent **Laura Toy** of Livonia and state Rep. **Glenn Anderson**.

Both candidates have strong government backgrounds and are qualified, but we believe **Laura Toy** would be the better choice. She understands the need for service and that is what she provides to the residents of the 6th Senate District.

7th District

We believe state **Sen. Bruce Patterson**, R-Canton, has earned another term serving the 7th District that includes Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township.

Patterson is a hard-working, conscientious legislator with an encyclopedic knowledge of the myriad issues facing the state Legislature.

He boasts proudly of his near-perfect voting record, his quick ascendancy to leadership positions when he served in the state House and his long hours wading through the complex issues facing the Senate's Technology and Energy Committee, which he chairs.

STATE HOUSE

16th District

We believe the best choice to represent the district, which includes Garden City, Inkster, Dearborn Heights and a portion of Allen Park, is Democrat **Bob Constan** of Dearborn Heights.

An attorney and Dearborn Heights city councilman, Constan has done his homework. He has a strong understanding of the problems facing the state and has ideas to solve them.

17th District

State Rep. **Andy Dillon** merits re-election in the 17th District, which covers a southeast corner of Livonia and all of Redford. Dillon played a key role in crafting an innovative funding scheme to help pay for paving Redford's gravel roads; he offers sensible views for replacing the state's single business tax revenue and providing health care; and he has provided good constituent service.

18th District

Voters must find a successor for 18th District state Rep. **Glenn Anderson**, and we believe the nod should go to **Richard**

LeBlanc. His many years of service on the school board and City Council give him the skills, knowledge and ability to represent Westland in Lansing.

LeBlanc has always been responsive to the needs of his constituents as a member of the City Council and the Wayne-Westland school board.

19th District

In the 19th District state House race that covers Livonia, we endorse incumbent state Rep. **John Pastor** over former Livonia Councilman **Brian Duggan**, based on Pastor's better understanding of statewide and local issues, plus his vision for improving the role of the Michigan Economic Development Corp. in bringing more jobs to our state.

20th District

We believe Democrat **Marc Corriveau**, a Northville attorney who lost to term-limited state Rep. **John Stewart** two years ago in his first run for public office, is ready to take on the challenges facing the 20th State House district, which includes Plymouth, Northville, Wayne and part of Canton. The Democrat is a staunch supporter of public schools. He supports the idea of equitable school funding, but would rewrite the K-16 initiative to force Lansing to fund public schools, making it less restrictive on legislators.

21st District

During his term, **Phil LaJoy** has authored 18 public acts, and introduced many other bills, many of which are aimed at cutting waste in state government. He has also taken on leadership positions, such as becoming chair of the transportation committee. In that position, he has helped Canton officials work with state and county road officials to come up with plans to ease the township's traffic problems.

Phil LaJoy has repeatedly shown that he is in touch with the needs of the district, and he deserves your vote on Nov. 7.

WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION

9th District

In the Wayne County Commission's 9th District incumbent Democrat **Phil Cavanagh** is facing a half-hearted challenge from Republican candidate **Mark H. Slater**.

We believe **Philip Cavanagh** merits re-election to the 9th District, which covers Redford, Garden City and Dearborn Heights. Cavanagh has a good handle on the political workings that are needed to

get issues resolved and he's not afraid to voice criticisms on county issues.

11th District

The race pits two formidable candidates in Republican **Loren Bennett** and Democrat **Kevin McNamara**, the son of former Wayne County Executive **Ed McNamara**, who died earlier this year. The two Canton residents will try to win in the district that includes the townships of Canton, Sumpster, and Van Buren, and the cities of Wayne and Belleville.

In this race, we believe the best candidate to represent the residents of the Wayne County Commission's 11th District is **Loren Bennett**. His experience as a state senator and Canton Township clerk and his promise to mend fences with the city of Detroit would prove to be a beneficial asset on the Wayne County Commission.

DISTRICT COURT

35TH DISTRICT COURT

Judge **Ron Lowe**, seeking re-election to the 35th District Court, is the right choice over attorney **James Plakas** of Northville to retain the seat he's held the last dozen years.

Lowe has handled more than 40,000 civil and criminal cases in his 12 years on the 35th District Court. Before that, he spent 12 years in private practice, including time as the attorney for the city of Plymouth.

18th District Court

With the retirement of Judge **Gail McKnight**, Westland voters will have a choice of **Jennifer Thor** or **Sandra Cicirelli** to serve as judge in 18th District Court.

Both candidates possess the legal expertise to be a judge, but we believe **Sandra Cicirelli** holds the edge for her involvement in the community and her plan to adopt rehabilitative approach toward nonviolent, first-time drug defendants.

Garden City Ballot Issue

Garden City residents face a difficult decision on Tuesday. The city is seeking a charter amendment that would allow the tax rate to increase by 2 mills to finance the construction and operation of a new community center/library.

A 52-year-old former school was never meant to be a community center, let alone the library. It has outlived its usefulness.

We believe Garden City deserve a new community center/library; that's why we urge residents to vote **YES** on the charter amendment.

Vote 'no' on 5 state ballot proposals

After selecting candidates in Tuesday's election, voters face a decision on five statewide ballot issues ranging from school funding to dove hunting. We recommend voters say **NO** to all the statewide proposals.

■ Proposal 06-1 is a constitutional amendment to require money held in conservation and recreation funds can only be used for intended purposes. Although well-intentioned, Proposal 1 duplicates some current statutes. It earmarks funds and ties the hands of the governor and state Legislature. The amendment would add sections to the constitution that would shift several restricted DNR funds by combining them into one large fund, the Michigan Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund, and places the fund within the state Constitution.

Under statute, these funds could certainly be subject to legislative diversion to balance the state budget. Diverting these funds would be a disservice to the programs they are intended to support and would constitute an extra tax on those who pay these fees with the understanding that they will support DNR activities. We agree

that these funds should not be raided.

But we also believe that an addition to the state constitution is not the best way to proceed. Altering the amendment in the future would require a statewide vote.

■ Proposal 06-2 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban affirmative action programs in public employment, education or contracting. The proposal is a misguided and mean-spirited attempt to roll back the progress Michigan has made in addressing inequality.

■ Proposal 06-3 is a referendum on Public Act 160 of 2004 which allows a hunting season for mourning doves. Doves are not overpopulated, not pests and do not damage crops. A no vote will continue the state's 100-year-old ban on hunting mourning doves - a traditional backyard bird. There's no overriding economic or social reason to enact a permanent dove hunting season.

■ Proposal 06-4 is a constitutional amendment to prohibit government from taking private property by eminent domain for certain private purposes. We understand the concern about overreaching government and the misuse of eminent

domain. But we also know that there are times when eminent domain is necessary for economic development. The proposed amendment would create barriers to eminent domain that could have serious consequences for future urban development.

■ Proposal 06-5 is dubbed the K-16 initiative. This measure would guarantee annual funding increases to match inflation for local public elementary, middle and high schools, as well as intermediate school districts, community colleges and universities.

It is hard to argue about giving our children the best education possible. Unfortunately, the only effect this ballot proposal would have is tying the hands of the governor and Legislature in the annual budget process, and shifting ever-increasing retiree pension costs from local districts to the state. Although we support additional funding for public education, Proposal 5 is bad public policy.

For more information pro and con on state ballot proposals, visit www.hometownlife.com and click on Election 2007 or visit the League of Women Voters Web site at www.lwv.org.

Observer

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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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Republican Observer

"Finally, we don't believe that McCotter's integrity has been compromised by taking funding from now disgraced Republican House members. It's a common practice in both parties to receive funding from party PACs. We have no reason to believe that McCotter is anything but an honest member of Congress who votes his conscience and the best interests of his constituents."

"However, despite our reservations about the direction of the Republican Party, we support Republican Thaddeus McCotter for a third term in Congress on Tuesday, Nov. 7."

McCotter has integrity? He took a lot of money from Abramoff.

You support Cicirelli for judge. Last year, she ran for mayor and won. NOW judge and I bet that in 2008 she'll throw her hat in for President. More money more money more money.

Supporting Laura Toy who missed 40 votes and McCotter who has not integrity. Let's talk minimum wage. Could you live on \$5.15 an hour? Then why the hell do you support those who want to keep minimum wage at \$5.15?

This should not be the *Westland Observer*. It should be the Republican Observer.

Judy Cornfoot
Westland

Vote for proven leader

I am supporting Laura Toy for State Senate because she is a proven leader.

Laura Toy has had 21 bills signed into law in the Senate. Her opponent Glenn Anderson has had only two in the same time.

Laura Toy has been working behind the scenes for years with the City of Westland and the Livonia Public Schools to secure funding from the state for the cleanup and rehabilitation of the Cooper School site. Glenn Anderson has now jeopardized additional funding for this project by prematurely announcing it at a city council meeting before it was official.

Glenn, we know you don't have anything better to talk about because you have done nothing in Lansing, but this was plain irresponsible.

Vote for a proven leader who gets results on Nov. 7. Vote for Laura Toy for State Senate.

Charles Wilson
Westland

Thor is best for judge

After reviewing Jennifer Thor's qualifications, we feel that she is very qualified to step right into the position of the new district judge.

She has handled every kind of case that comes to District Court. She has tried many cases before juries. Since Jennifer Thor continues to have on-going courtroom experience, she is ready to step in and do the job on day one.

Because we have a qualified, experienced, viable candidate who will serve our court system in a fair, impartial, dedicated and ethical manner, we ask you to vote for Jennifer Thor as our next district judge.

This will be a win-win situation. By electing Jennifer Thor as our district judge, it will give Mayor Sandra Cicirelli the opportunity to finish her three more years as mayor of Westland. She worked hard to obtain this position and we feel that she deserves to finish her term in office. Per the paper, the other district judge will be retiring soon. This will then give Mayor Cicirelli an opportunity to finish her term as mayor and then still become a district judge. Think about it.

Please vote for Jennifer Thor for district judge on Nov. 7.

James and Mary Murphy
Westland

Prop 5 is irresponsible

Don't be fooled by Proposal 5 - which never mentions student achievement or tuition restraint. It does guarantee two-thirds of the money for funding out-of-control teacher pension and health care costs.

There is NO way to pay for 5 except tax

increases, or \$708 million in immediate cuts to prison staff, police and health care.

Claims that education have not been made a priority are false. Michigan devotes more than one-third of the total state budget to education (not even counting local property taxes for schools.)

Join more than 70 organizations, Granholm, DeVos, the League of Women Voters and say "NO" to this irresponsible proposal.

Tricia Kinley
Stop K-16 Coalition

Right to change parties

This Nov. 7 we have some choices to make as we walk into the voting booth and cast our vote for Congress.

If you are satisfied with how the war in Iraq has been conducted, vote Republican. Since the Republican Congress has done nothing about Iraq except approving spending billions of our tax dollars there, one can be assured that re-electing a Republican Congress will continue that policy.

If you are satisfied with an economy where the stock market is at all time high, but average family incomes have fallen since 2001; where energy prices spiral upwards, then vote Republican to assure more of the same.

If you are satisfied with a Congressional leadership that is inept or covered-up a sex scandal involving a Republican Congressman and pages, in the interest of "keeping the seat Republican," then vote Republican.

If you are satisfied with a Congress that has given the president the right to eliminate habeas corpus, eliminating the rights of persons arrested, even Americans, to challenge their imprisonment in court, then you should vote Republican.

If however, you are fed up with the antics and ineptitude in the Republican Congress, fed up with the fiscal irresponsibility of the Republican Congress, then you have the right to change the political climate in Washington D.C., you have the ability to elect Democrats to Congress this year. As Thomas Jefferson so eloquently phrased it in the Declaration of Independence more than 230 years ago:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

John Zajechowski
Garden City

Vote for Laura Toy

I am a teacher in the Garden City Public School district and I am writing to urge readers to get out and vote for Laura Toy for state Senate this Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Senator Toy was instrumental in securing an additional \$800,000 for Garden City Public Schools. In fact, she is one of the leading advocates for public education in the Senate and that record has earned her the support of the Michigan Education Association.

Laura Toy gets results in Lansing and she also takes the time to give back here in the community. For several years now, Senator Toy has invited my entire class up for a VIP tour of our state Capitol building and she talks to my students about their state government.

When Senator Toy heard that Henry Ruff Elementary was looking for affordable bicycle helmets to distribute to its students, she worked with a local company to get them donated free of charge.

Laura Toy is a fighter for our children and our public schools and she truly cares about the people she serves. Please join me in supporting Senator Toy.

Jackie Ryskamp

Prop 5 will help provide well-educated work force

If education is the fuel needed to power the economic engine in Michigan then it is critical that voters say YES to Proposal 5. The key to economic recovery, attracting jobs to Michigan and spurring economic growth is a well-educated workforce. A strong education system enables Michigan to adapt to the new knowledge-based jobs of the 21st century.

And that is exactly what Proposal 5 is about! Stable funding for schools, community colleges and higher education is Michigan's best investment with the highest rate of return.

Michigan's economy began its decline in 2000. Manufacturing jobs disappeared, auto sales decreased and state sales tax revenue dropped, the very revenue, promised by Proposal A, that schools depended on to survive.

School districts were forced to make drastic financial reductions, eliminating critical programming and support services for children, even as they instituted a number of cost containment strategies. Public schools did not receive additional revenue from the state from 2002-2004 and were twice forced to return money to the state mid year.

Proposal 5 solves this problem by providing reasonable assurances of inflationary increases for public schools, colleges and universities to correct serious deficiencies and instability in school funding. New revenues would be used for maintaining programs, keeping teachers in front of children and continuing to build on the quality of Michigan's public education system.

Proposal 5 is not perfect, but it is a fair and necessary funding proposal. Proposal 5 helps many school districts in the state that have declining enrollment by averaging funding over a three-year period. Proposal 5 provides that future funding increases for the school retirement system will be paid by the state.

And finally, Proposal 5 increases equity in school funding by closing the funding gap over time. Proposal 5 only asks for what it needs to serve the children and the public well.

Educating children is labor intensive requiring a significant portion of revenue to support all school employees.

Parents and communities expect school districts to attract and retain good teachers. This is imperative to prepare all children for the realities of the global economy.

Not well-known is that the increasing retirement costs which impact classroom dollars, are passed to school districts from the state.

Proposal 5 helps many school districts in the state that have declining enrollment by averaging funding over a three-year period. Proposal 5 provides that future funding increases for the school retirement system will be paid by the state.

Proposal 5 shifts those costs back to the state where they belong. None of the Proposal 5 inflationary increases go to retirement costs. Since the state controls the retirement system - only the state can make the needed changes to the system. Educators have long advocated for these changes - to no avail.

Yes, times are tough in Michigan, but our children can't wait for better times to come along. Yes, education competes for resources with other public entities in the state.

Our legislators don't have to penalize any essential services to pay for reasonable funding. Citizens Research Council estimates that after the first year, the proposal's required inflationary increases can be financed by existing resources.

Individual school districts do not have the ability to seek funds for the children they serve. Municipalities are allowed under state law to raise millages and many have taken the initiative to do so. The real discussion should center around tax policy in this state and the many tax cuts that have contributed to the volatility of school funding.

Education, along with all essential services, deserves an adequate and stable funding source.

The State of Michigan can't have it both ways. On one hand the State expects the educational community to be the solution for its economic woes. On the other, the State has stood by while school districts are forced to eliminate essential programming and services for children.

Education has the power to change lives and strengthen communities. In Michigan, we are allowing that power to disappear. If the future of Michigan rests on an educated workforce and, if we expect more of our schools each year, we should be willing to provide adequate and stable funding for Michigan's educational system and for Michigan's children.

It is time to put reality into the rhetoric. Vote YES on Proposal 5.

Joan Sergent is the executive director of the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education.

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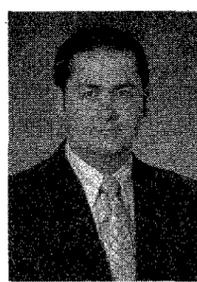
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