

Summertime fun

Day camps pitch activities to fill vacation months

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C

Seniors exercise to gain stability - Health, C8

Why Meredith Baxter thinks *Simple Works*

PINK PAGE C10



SUNDAY
May 15, 2005

WESTLAND Observer

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From start to finish

Open house shows off students' 'home work'

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

On most days, students in Mark Valachine's classes wear tool belts and work clothes. But come Thursday evening, they'll be dressed up to welcome visitors to their "home."

Their "home" is a 1,540 square-foot three-bedroom, two-bathroom brick ranch with attached garage on Avondale east of Wildwood that they have spent this school year building.

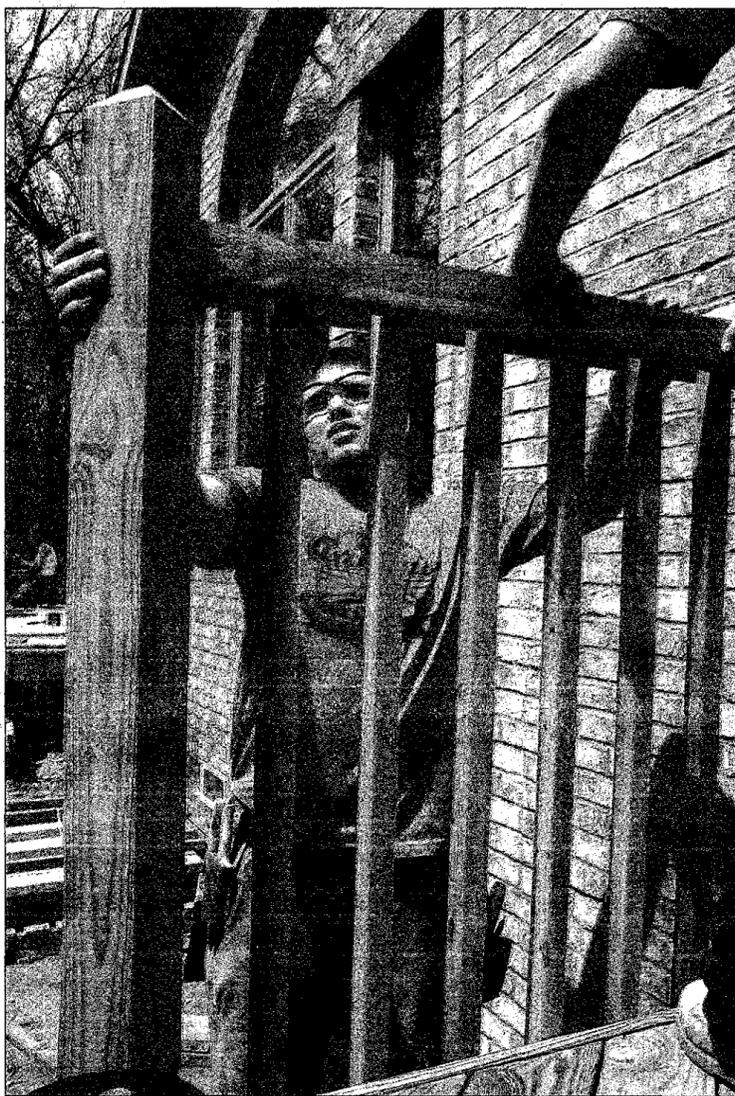
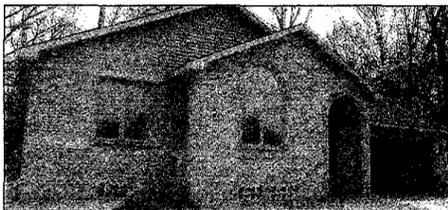
"It feels good to see it at its final stage than when it was an empty lot," said Daniel Welyhorskyj, a senior from Crestwood High School. "I learned a lot and I like doing it all. I can do anything from start to finish."

That's music to Valachine's ears. He figures that "if they really paid attention and are ready to go," they can do just that.

"They've been exposed to everything in building a house," said Valachine who teaches the construction technology II class at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. "They've done everything from raking leaves to bending aluminum. They've set all the windows and doors. That's when the bubble on a level has to be more than just between the lines."

Work on the house began last fall after the lot was

PLEASE SEE HOUSE, A6



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In his second year of construction technology, William D. Ford Career Technical Center student Daniel Welyhorskyj of Dearborn Heights works on the deck railing on the student-built home on Avondale, which is pictured at top.

City offers drug card to businesses

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli has announced that a prescription discount program offered to Westland residents will be expanded to include employees who live elsewhere but work here.

More than 900 residents already have joined the program, saving as much as 30 percent on name-brand prescriptions and 45 percent on generic drugs.

Now, the program will be offered to employees of Westland businesses.

"I have been asked by several Westland businesses if their employees could be made eligible for our program," Cicirelli said.

The city started the program last October with Benefit Control Methods of Plymouth. Residents buy prescription discount cards and use them at participating pharmacies.

Workers employed by Westland businesses will pay \$28, if they're single - or \$48 if they have a dependent - to sign on. Those costs will be \$3 cheaper for people over age 55.

Participants will receive a card with a magnetic strip - similar to a bank card - that can be used at more than 40,000 pharmacies nationwide. Their savings will be immediate at drugstore counters.

Either full- or part-time workers will be eligible, Cicirelli said.

"Regardless of city of residence, income, other health insurance coverage or disease, employees of all Westland businesses qualify for the program," according to a statement from the mayor's office.

Typically, those who join the program are those who have no prescription drug coverage or those who have exorbitant co-pays, Cicirelli said Thursday, during a telephone interview.

PLEASE SEE CARD, A2

Back to '40s aids wounded warriors

Plans are continuing to unfold as Westland city officials and a local veterans organization, Veterans Haven, try to stir interest in a benefit to help wounded U.S. soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The event, called "Back to the '40s," will be a charity dance scheduled for 4-11 p.m. Sunday, June 5, at Burton Manor in Livonia. It will feature the Glenn Miller Orchestra and other performers, said organizer Robert Stottlemeyer, a Westland City Council member.

Tickets are \$30 each and may be bought by calling (734) 721-4594 or by going to Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, Livonia; the Hellenic Cultural Center, on Joy east of Newburgh in Westland; or the Veterans Haven Outreach Center, 4924 S. Wayne Road, Wayne.

In a new development, Stottlemeyer announced Friday that Detroit Red Wings coach David Lewis will be attending the "Wounded Warriors" fund-raiser. Also, he said, WJR-AM talk show host Frank Beckmann will be master of ceremonies for the program. Veterans Haven President Vince Berna has said that there are 246 wounded Michigan veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Berna urged those who can't attend the '40s dance to still consider making a contribution. Veterans Haven can be reached at (734) 728-0527.



Attorney says client is falsely accused of Internet crime

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Facing trial as an Internet sex predator, a Westland man is falsely accused of trying to meet an underage girl for sex, his attorney said Thursday.

Michael Lee Phillips, 28, could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison, if convicted of child sexually abusive activity and using a computer to commit a crime.

"He is presumed innocent, and he is innocent," defense attorney Mitchell Nelson said.

Nelson works out of Michigan but is an attorney with the criminal defense division of the Santa Monica, Calif.-based law firm of the late Johnnie Cochran.

"I hope I can live up to the name," Nelson said, during a telephone interview.

Phillips, a Linden High School science teacher, faces trial June 16 in Oakland County Circuit Court. He is accused of trying to meet an underage girl in Southfield on March 31.

Authorities have said Phillips was arrested after investigators from the Michigan Attorney General's Child & Public Protection Unit posed as a minor and

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Air Show: The Blue Angels highlight the day that will honor Vietnam veterans



'Green thumbs' help spruce up planters at Bailey Center

When the weather was forecast to turn ugly, organizers of the Earth Day planting of flower boxes at the Bailey Recreation Center decided to postpone.

So, instead of blustery winter weather, the event last week attracted warm weather and a large group of green thumbs.

"It really looked cute," said Margaret Martin, a program supervisor with the recreation department. "It went really, really well."

The Westland Junior Civitans, Girl Scouts, Brownies, the Westland Stars, a large contingent of Lincoln Elementary's Parent-to-Parent program and the Hooper family participated in the planting.

They provided the dirt and plants or seeds to fill most of the 36 planters around the Bailey Center and near the ball fields and many committed to coming through the summer to weed and tend to



Bobby Hudgins waits patiently to plant his flower.

the planters.

"We recommended the flowers because where the planters are at, they get a lot of sun," said Martin. "We got a lot of marigolds, petunias, begonias and geraniums, and some people even brought grass spikes."

In return for their efforts, participants received certificates of participation, presented by special guests Ernie Johnson, a former member of the Parks and Recreation Board, and Recreation Director Bob Kosowski.

Participants also received book marks with 12 ways to celebrate Earth Day, special Earth Day stickers and lollipops. There also was cookie and punch when the work was done.

This was the first year the department held the Earth Day observance, and even though it had to be postponed, the response was great, according to Martin.

"The groups said they had a good time," she said.

Visitors to the center and ball fields, can stop and smell the flowers and find out who did what. Each planter contains a sign with the planter or planters' name on it.

By Sue Mason



Kendall McCallum positions a begonia in a planter box during the belated Earth Day event.

Park site for waste drop-off draws a larger participation

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

City Park in Garden City is apparently a convenient location for a lot of people.

The Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority recently held a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off in the park and reported an increase participation of 150 vehicles.

In prior years, the drop-off program was held at the CWCSA property on Inkster Road in Dearborn Heights. However, the incinerator has been closed and those facilities are in the process of being dis-

manted.

The 2004 hazardous waste drop-off program drew 699 vehicles - a number that increased to 851 this year. The program is limited to residents of the five CWCSA member communities including Garden City, which had 195 vehicles participate, Westland, Inkster, Wayne and Dearborn Heights.

"Our apologies to those who were inconvenienced by the traffic being slowed down," said Garden City Councilman Ronald Showalter, a CWCSA board member. "We had substantially more response than before. This was a much better

location than the old incinerator site."

If Garden City hosts the hazardous waste drop-off again, Showalter said he's been promised there would be lines so traffic wouldn't get so backed up.

A letter of appreciation was sent to the Garden City Police Department by CWCSA Director Steven Aynes thanking officers for their assistance at the drop-off program. The CWCSA had agreed to reimburse the city for police costs relating to the event.

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Suburbs: Delay decision on county parks millage renewal

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The clock is ticking on a countywide \$11.5 million recreation tax renewal, and suburban leaders have asked to slow down its pace.

Though Western Wayne County leaders couldn't quite come to consensus on the upcoming recreation tax renewal, they did agree they would ask for a little more time to discuss ballot language. The 18-community Conference of Western Wayne will ask Wayne County commissioners to consider holding the .25-mill election in November instead of this August.

"Although the millage will not lapse until 2006, it is rumored that the county will place the issue before voters in August of 2005," said Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack at a Conference of Western Wayne meeting Friday.

The county clerk must have the renewal's language by June 3 if it is to be placed on an August ballot. The commission will vote Thursday on the ballot language and date.

"Detroit is the only large community with a contested August election," Yack said, arguing that a November election would be more fair to suburban Wayne County residents.

Livonia will likely have a primary election, but it's scheduled in September, said Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretson, who asked if the county intends to reimburse communities who are holding county-ordered elections in

which the only item on the ballot is the millage.

The millage was originally passed narrowly in 1996, in order to make improvements to four county parks, Wayne County's Hines Park, Elizabeth Park in Trenton, and two Detroit city parks - Chandler Park and Fort Wayne Park. The renewal in 2000 passed in nearly every Wayne County community. About half the money raised by the tax is used to improve and maintain county parks, and the other half is used for local parks projects.

Yack asked the CWW to consider lobbying for a proposal which would support the millage's renewal, but would call upon the county commission to allow each of the Wayne County communities to keep in their own recreation programs half of the money generated by the tax.

To pass the renewal, just half of voters must favor the millage. But to write a new millage, two-thirds would have to approve it. If the renewal passes, but the county commission agrees to allow half of the money to be used in the communities where it was generated, every year the county commission could choose to either use it at the county level, or send it back.

"Canton has paid more than \$5 million (since the tax was first imposed in 1996), and we received \$400,000 to help build a community theater," Yack said. "That's a pretty pathetic return on our investment."

Canton currently contributes

some \$800,000 per year.

Part of the problem is there is no formal process to apply for local use of the county money, Yack noted.

CWW communities paid \$6.2 million in recreation tax last year alone, and have received about \$4.3 million, including \$1 million to make improvements to Belleville Lake. Belleville, the smallest of the CWW communities, paid just \$23,000 last year. Detroit paid \$2.2 million last year and has received some \$8.6 million, including a \$1.5 million annual subsidy to Chandler Park. Wayne County Commissioner Philip Cavanagh, who represents the 9th District, including Redford Township, Garden City and Dearborn Heights, is asking the commission to modify its renewal and place it on a November ballot. He's asking that half the tax money be sent back to municipalities.

But Alan Helmkamp, assistant county executive, said in order for the renewal to be valid, it must be free of modifications. He added the timing of the renewal is not politically motivated. Sixteen communities in the county will not have November elections, and 25 will not have August primaries, he said. He added that while a case could certainly be made to reimburse communities which will have August elections for the sole purpose of the millage, at this point, the county is "looking into it."

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CARD

FROM PAGE A1

Some retirees who have limits on their coverage, such as a \$500 cap, also can benefit from the program, she said.

"You pick up the paper every day to read that more people in southeast Michigan are losing their insurance benefits, which include prescription drug cov-

erage," Cicirelli said. "This issue needs to be addressed at the national level. Until that is accomplished, we are pleased that we can make a difference and help at the local level."

Participants will receive a prescription discount card, a pharmacy directory and options for a mail-order pharmacy service.

Westland businesses interested in the program are encouraged to call the mayor's

office at (734) 467-3200.

"We'll send them an enrollment form," Cicirelli said.

Then, employees may fill out the forms and return them to Benefit Control Methods with their payment.

Cicirelli appeared optimistic that businesses, like residents, will respond to the program.

"It has been very successful," she said.

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Together again after all those years

Local rockers Power Source reprise successful '80s career

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Twenty years after the local rock-'n-roll band Power Source sang its last gig, members realized they still have a lot of electricity.

Brian Boucher, now 41, was hosting a Memorial Day party in his back yard and some of the guests included a few of the original members. They started joking about how they should get the band together again and before long they were playing songs in Boucher's basement.

And they liked what they heard. Their first gig after they were replugged was a birthday party for a friend. Then they started playing at Chatters on Wayne Road in Westland.

"I honestly didn't think it would turn into us playing gigs again," Brian said, adding they're also open to perform anywhere from local bars to city festivals and special events.

His brother, Dean Boucher, 38, was the only member who had continued singing in bands after Power Source dissolved in 1986.

Dean most recently quit The Ride to spend more time on Power Source. The others had put away their music on a public level to pursue careers and raise families.

Two decades ago, Power Source had a regular following at local bars like, Studio Lounge, Uncle Sam's, Token Lounge, Center Stage, The Music Box and Side Street.

"I wanted to move on and get a career," Brian said. "It was fun, but it wasn't a career. I wanted to start a career, get married and have a family."

Brian and Dean seemed destined to a future in music as the brothers sift through family photos that show the two on Christmas morning playing with their new instruments. Brian was 8 and got a guitar and Dean, 5, got his first drum set. Dean learned everything about the instrument from his father, Jim, who was a drummer for a Big Band group during a military stint.

"Our parents supported us from day one," Dean said. "They were behind us all the way."

STARTING OUT



Brian and Dean Boucher look over years of photographs of their band Power Source.



Today Power Source includes Dean Boucher, Gary Chiaravalle, Jim Garee, Kevin Evans, Brian Boucher and Janet (Todoroff) Ramsden.



Early in the 1980s Power Source included Tom Grant (foreground) who is no longer with band, Brian Boucher (back row, from left), Gary Chiaravalle, Jim Garee, Janet Todoroff and Dean Boucher.

As the brothers grew up, their venues enlarged, too.

In 1977 they played at Radcliff Junior High School and then went on to perform for charity benefits that their parents organized.

In 1978, while they attended Garden City High School West, they formed Power Source with Brian, Dean and Jim Garee, a school buddy.

"Jim is amazing," Brian said. "He's been blowing everyone away," Dean added. "He's the most improved of us all."

Janet (Todoroff) Ramsden joined the group in 1979 and the Boucher brothers are awestruck at the way her voice has improved over the years.

"She's got the voice of an angel," Dean said.

Gary Chiaravalle is the band's lead guitarist and a vocalist.

One of the original Power Source members, Chiaravalle works at Rousch

Racing as chief Web designer.

After the band broke up, however, Brian pursued his quest to hone a career and started his own lighting production company. He currently works as a lighting designer at the Fox Theatre.

Sitting at the kitchen table in Brian's Westland house, the brothers joke that in the '70s and '80s they performed Aerosmith, Van Halen, Led Zeppelin and other rock-'n-roll music that today is considered classic rock. Today, they do anything from Janet Jackson songs to Black Sabbath.

"It was a great time," said Dean who in 1989 joined the popular band, Rare Earth, which took him on European tours, traveling the U.S. and Canada and an album in 1993.

Power Source also includes two other Boucher brothers, Mark and Brent, who did lights and sound for the band.

"We were always together in all the gigs," Brian said, explaining that their parents traveled the bar scene to hear them perform and to support their sons.

Their mother, Theresa, lives in the family homestead two blocks from where Brian lives today. Their father has since died.

"After the band broke up, I got into the union (Local 38 International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees), and I got my brothers involved in that," Brian said.

"We all work together after all these years and get along great," Dean added.

The only "new" member of Power Source is Kevin Evans, a Westland resident who went to elementary school with the Bouchers. They saw Evans at Chatters in January and eventually asked him to join the group.

"I totally believe that's what makes the band so good and tight," Brian said.

"It's a friendship before anything."

Work and family comes first and when it's convenient they fit in performing dates, Dean said.

"The band has turned out so much better than anything we expected," he added.

And the patrons at Chatters seem to agree.

"We get big turnouts of all our old schoolmates back in the day," Dean said. "They flock to see the band. Some of them are people we haven't seen in 20 years. We take a lot of pride with us."

"It isn't about money. Even now, we just do it because we enjoy it. People can't believe the band is not only back together, but that they are blown away at how good the band sounds."

Power Source will perform Friday-Saturday, June 10-11, at Chatters, 7640 N. Wayne Road, Westland, and at a free June 26 concert, sponsored by Chatters, at Garden City Park, Cherry Hill at Merriman in Garden City.

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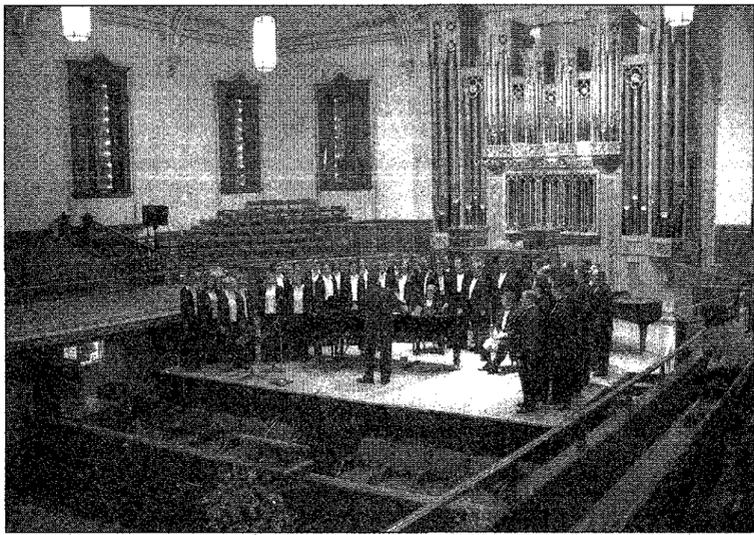
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In concert

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

ATTORNEY

FROM PAGE A1

agreed to meet him.

Although Nelson said Phillips may have engaged in an online "fantasy" discussion, he rejected accusations that Phillips believed he was meeting an underage girl.

Phillips had gone to an adult chat room, Nelson said. Moreover, the person he was talking with had an adult profile, he said.

"He believed he was meeting an adult," Nelson said.

Phillips has been placed on a leave from his job as he awaits trial, Nelson said. The defendant is free after posting a \$25,000 cash bond. Nelson described Phillips as "an exceptional teacher."

In court Wednesday, Nelson asked that his own experts be allowed to examine computers that investigators seized from Phillips.

Nelson said his request was granted by Oakland Circuit Judge Stephen Andrews, who ruled that Nelson should have access to the computers 14 days before Phillips' trial.

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FOR THE RECORD



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

DEATHS

A
Charles E. "Buzz" Allen, 79, of Rochester Hills, died April 22.
Gordon G. Andrews, 75, of Pinckney, formerly of Plymouth, died May 11.
John David "Jack" Angott, 64, of Orchard Lake, died May 10.

B
Joanne B. Benoit, 67, of Tawas City, died April 23.
Gary M. Bereta, of Livonia, died May 5.

D
Duane Y. Brown, 66, of Colleyville, Texas, died April 18.
Ellsworth "Curly" Brown, 81, of Traverse City, died April 26.
Elizabeth "Betty Lee" Bunce, 87, of Rochester Hills, died April 28.
Harold E. "Bud" Burmeister, 77, of Auburn Hills, died April 24.

C
Sharon M. Conrad, of Westland, died May 6.

D
John W. Davis, 54, of Rochester Hills, died April 17.

F
Lena E. Franklin, 99, died April 20.

H

Douglas G. Hooton, 68, of Shelby Township, died April 30.
Richard F. Huizenga, 90, of Rochester, died April 24.

K
William C. Knudson, 87, of Rochester Hills, died April 22.

L
Helen B. Letscher, 92, died May 13.

M
Edward M. Machowski, 77, of Clarkston, died April 24.

Norma P. Manpher, 91, of Ft. Myers, Fla., died April 18.
Richard Martin Jr., of Livonia, died May 11.
Lavina Lee McCoy, 83, died May 11.
Josephine L. McGowan, 88, of Bloomfield Hills, died April 29.

N
Richard (Dick) Raymond Neu, 70, of Traverse City, died May 12.

O
Rose Alma Orr, 91, of Belleville, died May 9.

P
Elizabeth Powers, 90, of Clinton Township, died April 25.

R
N. Donald Ringsred, 85, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died May 8.
Harry Ross, 89, of Rochester Hills, died April 23.

S
William H. Schoewe III, 57, of Sterling Heights, died April 18.
Robert F. Lee Sun, 81, of Redford Township, died May 9.

W
Patricia W. Woodbury, 73, of Rochester Hills, died April 29.
Charles Lester Wubbena, 72, of Howell, died May 12.

THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM

Classes/field trips

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department sponsors a variety of activities and field trips for people with special needs through its Therapeutic Recreation Program now through June.

The program includes classes in golf, cooking, exercise and arts and crafts for those 13 years and older. There also is bowling and fun nights, swimming fishing and a dance planned.

There is at least one field trip each month, including seeing the Harlem Globetrotters, the Detroit Tigers, a Michigan State-University of Michigan hockey game and a mystery trip.

Swimming

The Therapeutic Program also offers swimming at the Dyer Orthopedic Pool on Marquette west of Carlson 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays now through May 31. The cost is \$2 per night or \$10 for five swims for Westland residents and \$3

per night or \$15 for five swims for non-residents.

The Dyer pool is heated to 90 degrees and is wheelchair accessible. Those requiring one-on-one assistance or supervision in the pool or locker room must bring an aide or family member.

Private swim lessons and water exercise classes also are available. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE

assist families in Westland.

Westland youth ages 7 through 16 are referred to Youth Assistance by the police, courts, schools, parents and other agencies.

Once referred, an intake appointment is scheduled to explain the program's services to the youth and parents (guardians), and to offer them the opportunity to discuss their concerns and to ask questions. All information discussed is confidential. All services are free to Westland residents.

If the assessment determines that a youth is appropriate for Youth Assistance, the following services may be required for the youth: Life Choices classes, drug screens, Supervised Community Work Service, jail/prison tour, Team Adventure Challenge, mentoring, karate, counseling. Parents are required to participate. For more information, contact Executive Director Ronael Bowman or Deputy Director Paul Motz at (734) 467-7904.

KNOW THE SCORE
check out the numbers in today's Sports section

The Westland Youth Assistance Program is at 36701 Ford Road in an addition to the Westland Police Department. The separate glass entrance facing City Hall and comfortable waiting area allows for private, professional, environment to

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org
You can access this information at the Garden City Library or City Hall during regular Business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.
ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk
Publish: May 1, 15, 22, 29, June 12, 19, July 3, 17, 24, 31, August 7, and 21, 2005

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ORDINANCE NO. 05-004

AN ORDINANCE RENEWING A CABLE FRANCHISE WITH MACLEAN HUNTER CABLE TV INC., WHOSE NAME HAS CHANGED TO COMCAST OF TAYLOR, LLC.

WHEREAS, in July, 1982 the City of Garden City ("City") awarded a cable franchise to Maclean Hunter Cable TV, Inc., a Michigan corporation whose name has now changed to Comcast of Taylor, LLC ("Comcast"), which franchise now includes the Cable Communications System Franchise Agreement by and between the City and Maclean Hunter Cable TV, Inc. effective July 26, 1982; the Agreement between the City, Comcast MH Holdings, Inc. and Maclean Hunter Cable TV, Inc. entered into on December 22, 1994; the Agreement and Release between the City, Rogers Communications, Inc., and Maclean Hunter, Ltd. entered into on December 22, 1994; the letter from Thomas Nathan on behalf of Comcast Cable Communications, Inc. to the City dated December 13, 1994; The City's 1994 Resolution consenting to a change of ownership and control; and the City's Ordinances 97-005, 98-015, 02-010, 03-006, 03-013, 04-001 and 05-001 extending the term of the preceding (collectively, the "Franchise"); and

WHEREAS, the Franchise was originally due to expire on July 26, 1987 and its term has since been extended to July 31, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Comcast wishes to continue to provide cable service in the City and has requested a renewal franchise agreement in order to do same, and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to grant or renew one or more non-exclusive franchises for the provision of cable service within the City by means of a cable system, and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that renewing the Franchise on the terms set forth in the City of Garden City, Michigan, Nonexclusive 2005 Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Comcast of Taylor, LLC attached hereto is in the public interest and in the interest of the City and its residents and will assist in meeting the cable related needs and interests of the community, and

WHEREAS, the City has allowed the public adequate notice and an opportunity for comment on this renewal franchise.

THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Renewal of Franchise.

Pursuant to Section 5.02 of the City Charter and Chapter 123 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Garden City, the City Council of Garden City hereby authorizes the renewal of a non-exclusive cable television franchise with Comcast of Taylor, LLC, pursuant to the terms set forth in the City of Garden City, Michigan, Nonexclusive 2005 Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Comcast of Taylor, LLC ("Renewal Franchise") attached hereto.

Section 2. Effect.

The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign the Renewal Franchise, and the Manager, Mayor, Clerk, Attorney and Special Counsel and other City officials are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to place the Renewal Franchise into effect and implement it.

Section 3. Date to Sign.

This ordinance shall be null, void and of no effect if by July 31, 2005 Comcast has not signed the Renewal Franchise as provided for therein.

Section 4. Conflicts.

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between this ordinance and the provisions of any other ordinance, the provisions of this ordinance shall prevail.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This ordinance is declared to be effective upon publication as required by law.

JAYLEE LYNCH Mayor
ALLYSON BETTIS City Clerk

Adopted: May 9, 2005
Public Hearing: May 9, 2005
Published: May 15, 2005
Resolution: #05-05-375

Publish: May 15, 2005

Good neighbor

Veterans Haven, a local organization that provides assistance to veterans, has received a \$751 donation from a new restaurant, LongHorn Steakhouse, that recently opened by Westland Shopping Center.

Veterans Haven President Vince Berna issued a statement commending LongHorn general manager Gary Harchelroad for his role in getting the donation.

"We appreciate everyone that supports our veterans," Berna said.

Meet the mayor

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

Coffee with Glenn

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has announced that his next local coffee hour with constituents will be 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, May 16, at the Westland Big Boy restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter.

Citizens are welcome to discuss issues or ask questions. Anderson's coffee hours are scheduled the third Monday of

each month.

Jaycees campaign

Westland Jaycees will sponsor another event to raise money to help the city fire department buy thermal imaging cameras, which can help locate people during fires.

Billed as "One Hot Crop," it will be a scrap-booking event 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at the Bailey Recreation Center, behind City Hall on Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne.

Minimum donation for the event, which includes cropping space, lunch, snacks and a "goody" bag, is \$25 per person. There will be door prizes and raffles.

Those new to scrap-booking can bring 4-by-6-inch photos and \$10 to attend a beginner class at 11 a.m. or 3 p.m.

For more information, call Lisa Graham at (734) 226-0400. Reservations are requested by May 17.

Help Save Lives

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

Flea market

VFW Harris-Kehrer Post 3323 will sponsor an outdoor

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

Surplus food

The city will distribute surplus federal food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey south of Palmer and east of Venoy.

That distribution will be for residents north of Michigan Avenue.

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

Senior citizens in Taylor Towers should contact their building manager to learn when to pick up their food.

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

Need a pet?

The Michigan Humane Society will bring its mobile adoption unit to Art Van Furniture, 8300 N. Wayne Road, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 15.

For more information, call

(866)-MHUMANE.

For a complete listing of mobile adoption events, go online at www.michiganhumane.org.

Memorial service

The Vermeulen Funeral Homes in Plymouth and Westland will hold two memorial balloon release services for people to pay tribute to their loved ones.

The services will be:
 ■ 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the Vermeulen Funeral Home at 980 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, in Westland. For more information call (734) 326-1300.

■ 7 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at the Vermeulen Funeral Home at 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck, in Plymouth.

For more information call (734) 459-2250.

Each balloon release will include a presentation by licensed grief counselor Wes Baldwin.

Anyone planning to attend is asked to call ahead because the funeral home, in preparation for serving refreshments, would like a head-count.

Curtain call

The City of Wayne Arts and Entertainment Department Actors Community Theatre will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella at 8

p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 20-21, at the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$13 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for children.

For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

Free seminar

Kate Ferrett, hospital liaison for Arbor Hospice and Home Care, will speak about such issues as advanced directives in a presentation 5-6 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at Westland Convalescent Center.

Ferrett will discuss such topics as what are advance directives, when is it time to think about advance directives, who needs advance directives, what is the difference between advance directives and a living will and how to get started.

The seminar is free of charge and open to the public. Contact Judy Bianchi at (734) 728-6100 to sign up for this event.

Golf outing

The Westland Rotary Club will hold a Centennial Golf Celebration Thursday, May 26, at the Golden Fox at Fox Hills in Salem Township.

The outing will have a scramble format and 11 a.m. shotgun start.

It includes 18 holes of golf, lunch and beverages at the turn, door prizes and a filet

mignon dinner and banquet.

The costs is \$160 per golfer or \$600 for a foursome. Sponsorships also are available. For more information, call Dr. Kim Shunkwiler at (734) 728-5533, Tom North at (734) 421-1300, Todd Blevins at (734) 425-7766 or Capt. Matt O'Neil at (734) 722-3660.

To register, send a check, payable to Westland Rotary to the Rotary Golf Outing, Shunkwiler Chiropractic Health Center, 5978 N. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48185. Proceeds will benefit the Salvation Army and Westland Rotary charities.

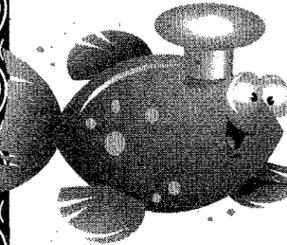
Meet the author

Native Detroit Richard Bak, award winning author and historian, will discuss the history of the Civil War with an emphasis on Michigan's role during the tumultuous time when he speaks at the Wayne Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26.

Bak has written numerous books about such subjects as the city of Detroit, Ty Cobb, Henry and Edsel Ford, Abraham Lincoln, Joe Louis, Lou Gehrig, the Detroit Red Wings and Tiger Stadium.

There is no charge for the program, however, seating is limited, so registration is required. Call the library at (734) 721-7832.

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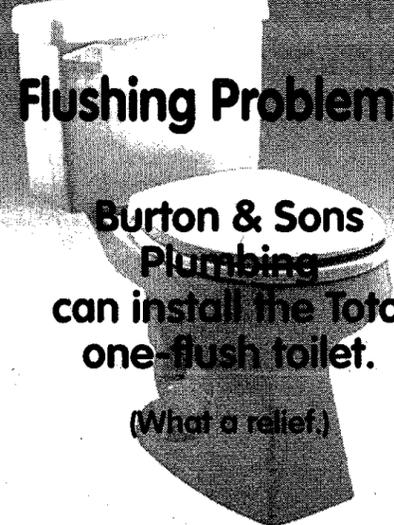
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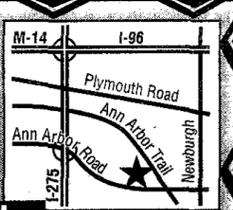


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Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section





Teacher Mark Valachine shows off the inside of the 1,540 square-foot three-bedroom, two-bathroom brick ranch.

HOUSE

FROM PAGE A1

cleared by Hilltop Tree Service. The students worked hand-in-hand with subcontractors on pouring the foundation, installing the heating and cooling systems, electrical and plumbing.

They hung drywall in the house although contractors were hired to do the mudding and finesse work.

They also insulated and drywalled the garage where they got to do mud and prime the walls.

Many of the contractors who helped with the house are graduates of the center's programs and have "come to give back to the program," said Valachine. Some have found new employees while working with the students.

Valachine has 25 students in his two classes and when it came to framing the house, he brought them in groups of 16, breaking them up into four-man crews with a foreman, a cut man and two installers who worked on their own walls.

That was fine with Mike Holton, a senior at John

Glenn High School who plans to start work with his uncle at North Pines Construction a week after graduation. He's been helping him frame houses ever since he was 12 years old which might explain his penchant for that work.

"I don't have the patience for finishing work," he said. "I like to do things quick and finish fast."

They also worked as a team to pick up and set the roof trusses. No crane was used.

"They have to talk and communicate or they'll knock someone off the wall," Valachine said.

Some of the home's features include two decks - one off the kitchen-dining area and a smaller one off the master bedroom - custom-made closet organizers and custom-made rosettes as part of the trim around doors and windows and marble sills.

The rosettes were designed by students in the center's computer-aided manufacturing class. Valachine's students cut the wooden squares and the CAM students milled them.

Valachine admits that he can't teach his students everything, so his goal is to get them to "think."

"I try to make it as mean-



A doorway between the kitchen and great room leads to one of two decks on the back of the house.

ingful as possible," he said. "I try to train them to think of this as a job site and tell them, 'You call me like I'm the job boss.' They call me when they're going to miss class or be late. I don't look at it as an absence that's for their home school to do."

This is Valachine's first year with the Wayne-Westland school. Like Welyhorskyj and Holton, he started in construction well before high school graduation. He built his own home with the help of his father and had started his own small remodeling company by the time he was age 21.

He went to Central Michigan University to study

teaching and came away with majors in industrial technology and physical science and vocational certification in construction. His current job at the Career Technical Center is his first job out of college.

"I knew what I wanted and I couldn't stand being in a classroom everyday," he said. "I love being on-site, I love building, I love being outside. This is my dream job and I got it right out of college."

The public is invited to see the student built home at 34057 Avondale between 3-6 p.m. Thursday, May 19. The students will be on hand to answer questions, and hot dogs, chips and lemonade will be served.

MARSHALL HONOR ROLL

Named to the third honor roll for the 2004-2005 school year at Marshall Middle School are:

Jeffrey Adkins, Keith Agee, Bisi Ajetonmobi, Ryan Albright, Rachael Aiholinn, Derrick Ammons, Shayna Anderson, Amber Anthony, Shyenne Anthony, Stefan Anthony, Julianne Ayers, Ashley Bailey, Sean Bailey, Lauren Baker, Samantha Baker, Eduard Bane, Taylor Barnes, Sarah Barnett, Amanda Baxter, Kyle Beguhn, Amber Bender, Chelsea Bess.

Jessica Bicy, Angeia Blay, Ryan Boes, Timothy Boes, Bonjiovonnz Bonner, Thomas Bonner, Joshua Boucher, Nicole Boyle, Alyssa Bradke, Laura Bratcher, Halie Brennan, Bethany Brokenshire, Gianna Brooks, Jacob Brooks, Ashley Brown, Frederick Brown, Kailah Brown, Andre Brozek, Allison Bulson, Brittany Busbin, Kayla Butler, Christopher Button.

Jessica Campbell, Alyssa Canzoneri, Amanda Canzoneri, Ernestine Carlos, Kathlynn Carmendy, Lisa Carreon, Amanda Carroll, Chelsea Caruso, Amanda Caudill, Erik Celeski, Bradley Celmer, Matthew Chapman, Logan Chaston, Richard Chatham, Amber Chave, Mbongeni Chirunga, Jessica Churchill, Chelsea Clark, Illaysa Clark, Jasmine Clark, Desiree Clenny.

Misty Clooten, Shayna Coleman, Holly Collings, Taylor Collins, Aaron Connolly, Amanda Connolly, Matilda Corbaxhi, Melissa Cover, Sarah Cox, Cody Crane, David Crawford, Sarah Cunningham, James Daniel, Zachary Darling, Beth Darnell, Megan Daugherty, Quentin Davis, Quinlan Davis, Andree Dawkins, Chelsea Dean, Marlen Dede, Warren Defils.

Andrew Deluca, Melissa Deyo, Natalie Deyo, Courtney Dobos, Kelly Dodson, Briana Domen, Kathryn Down, Lindsey Draham, Jennifer Drum, Rajat Dua, Allie Dudash, Corine Eastman, Candace Eberhardt, Zachary Edwards, Ian Eldred, Eric Eldridge, Ariel Ellis, Amanda Ellsworth, Michah Elrod, Shelby Eschker, Kayla Facto, Sarah Fanny, Joshua Ferguson.

Joshua Fields, Raeven Finch, Angelina Floied, Lindsay Flood, Stoney Flowers, Dane-Michae Foster, Kadie Foster, Emily Fox, Michael Foy, Kara Frost, Travis Gabany, Ashlyne Gagern, Genevieve Galindo, Monique Galindo, Lauren Gallant, Santiago Garcia, Jeremy George, Brandon Girard, Gloria Girgis, Liridon Gjocaj, Michelle Goff, Callie Goodin.

Tonie Gordon, Tyler Gower, Paige Grant, Samantha Gray, Justin Groves, Kenneth Groves, Tina Groves, Jenna Guarascio, Paul Gutu, Jeffrey Guziak, Stephanie Gysel, Kyle Hamlin, Brittany Harden, Jourdan Harris, Kathryn Harris, Kristal Harvey, Amy Hein, Trevor Hemeren, Faith Hengesbaugh, Jacquelyn Hewitt, Jontae Hill, Ashley Holt, Melissa Hoppe.

Taylor Householder, Kellee Hubbard, Nicole Hubble, Alexis Huddleston, Marketa Hudson, Matthew Huffman, Chelsea Hunt, Shabnum Hussain, Nicole Ives, Areila Jaupi, Ashley Jensen, Amanda Johnson, Courtney Johnson, Crystal Johnson, Donti Johnson, Jéna Johnson, Julian Johnson, Keenan Johnson, Kaytlyn Jones, Steven Jones, Alyssa Kanouse, Kane Kanouse, Erin Kardel, Jagvir Kaur, Coty Kazmierczuk, Rachel Kazmierczuk, Trisha Kelly, Joshua

Kindy, Gabrielle Kirchinger, Alexandra Kleinschmidt, Kellie Klepsch, Arnold Kocibelli, Nicole Konwinski, Kassandra Kowtko, Richard Kozma, Jonathan Kreger, Kaltra Kruja, Adam Kuk, Melissa Kukulka, Caroline Landry, Rachel Landry, Ashley Larimore.

Leah Laub, Sabrina Lawrence, Rebecca Lawrukovich, Rebecca Lawrukovich, Shelby Lawson, Brandon Leinonen, Steven Leitner, Ashley Leschinski, Joseph Leschinski, Ryan Lesinski, Melanie Libres, Amberlynn Lilygren, Kristi Linder, Mariah Little, Devin Lombard, Robert Lopez, Stephanie Lubeck, Ramil Manibig, Bronte Manier, Alyssa Manley, Matthew Markey.

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Rennica Merida, Katie Miller, Tony Mills, Kelly Money, Alyssa Moore, Chanice Moore, Caitlin Moreno, Jeffrey Morton, Derrick Mozham, Kayla Murphy, Jeremy Myers, Emily Narkun, Monea Neece, Christian Newsome, Giang Nguyen, Jacob Niedermeyer, Megan Nikula, Ryan Nikula, Chelsea Nowicki, Christopher O'Donnell, Sydney Oaks, Stephanie Obeirne.

Mathew Okunawo, Derrick Oldham, Timothy Oliver, Caitlin O'Sullivan, Fatimo Oyedele, Robert Parker, Stewart Patel, Chanel Payne, Katelyn Persh, Jessica Pesenecker, Kelly Peterson, Thomas Peterson, Walter Peyton, Jordan Phillips, Carly Pitrago, Christopher Pola, Kathryn Preciado, Anna Quillen, William Rafferty, Tamika Rashad, Alec Raymond.

Ann Reaume, Brooke Reckling, Zachary Redden, Amy Redfield, Darrion Richardson, Joseph Riggio, Shelby Roberts, Britanni Robinson, Mercedes Robinson, Edward Robson, Alexander Rochette, Justin Rock, Shawn Roegner, Amanda Salisbury, Thomas Sample, Elizabeth Sampson, Gary Santti, Zachary Schiaff, Gerhardt Schuettle, Amy Selewski.

Ashley Sells, Austin Sharp, Bradley Sheahan, Michael Shock, Courtney Sims, Kaitlyn Skowronski, Aaron Smith, Christian Smith, Hailey Smith, Kathryn Smith, Jacob Sperry, Kara Spisz, Marrissa Stalker, Karina Stephens, Juliana Stewart, Vince Stoddard, Edward Stone, Katie Strauss, Erika Strunk, Khalid Suleiman, Kelly Sutherland, David Swazey, Thea Swider-Sisk.

Bryan Sylvester, Corey Sznyr, Monica Szwalja, Nukunj Talati, Erika Talbot, Kanisha Tatum, Megan Trantham, Shane Trantham, Shelby Trigg, Shane Trantham, Shelby Trigg, Tyler Trombley, Max Trudell, Marinela Tupa, Shaquille Turner, Ryan Vaughan, Anthony Vettraino, Maggie Wacker, Steven Wakeford, Justin Walker, Jesse Wallen, Zachary Wallen.

Onjaleese Warren, Jade Watts, Michael Wegehaupt, Ashley Wells, Lorenzo Wells, Taylor Whigham, Emily White, Joshua White, Brittany Wilkins, Simone Wilson, Christopher Wimer, Kaela Wojtowicz, Ryan Woodhouse, Latina Yacks, India Young, Krysta Ziegler, Christine Zuke and Brooke Zywick.

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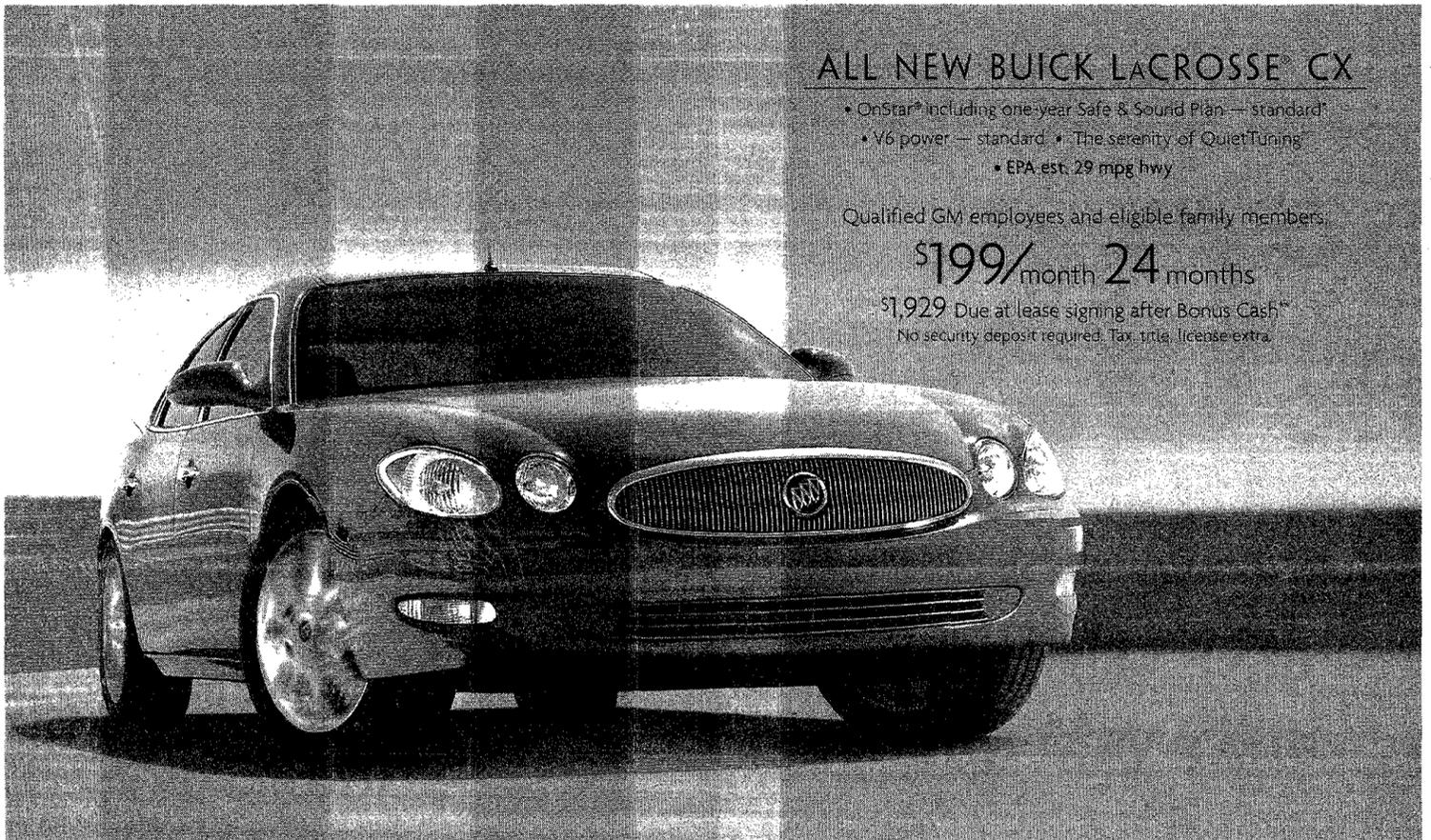
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'Disaster' focuses on preparedness for All-Star game

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The commander of the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps did his part as a chaplain during a mock disaster this past week.

"I have some crisis intervention training," said Capt. Matt O'Neil, who serves as commander with his wife. He and other chaplains were sent to a family reception area.

"We were trying to calm them down." O'Neil helped at fire scenes as a church member in Alpena, but has never handled a big disaster.

"It's all good," he said of the

training. "I know it was good for the people that were coordinating it."

Wednesday's portion took place in the Comerica Park area of Detroit, said Kenneth Bresnan, area emergency manager for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Some 500-plus volunteers were involved in addition to at least 300 emergency personnel.

"It was rather large," said Bresnan, a Detroit resident.

There were three separate coordinated "attacks," beginning around 1 p.m. Wednesday with a car bomb by the Fox Theatre. That was followed 20 minutes later by an anthrax scare at the

Detroit Opera House.

A pretend performance of *La Boheme* was under way, and the opera house had to be evacuated of about 2,800, and those people were checked out. At 1:30 p.m., a suicide bomber struck at the baseball stadium during the make-believe All-Star game, all part of preparations for the actual game this summer.

That "bomber" blew himself up in the bleachers off the third base line, Bresnan said, and also used sarin gas.

"That's what was used in Tokyo in the subway. Nasty stuff."

At that point, 6,000 hospital

'It went well because we learned a lot. These people really stepped forward.'

Kenneth Bresnan
Department of Veterans Affairs

beds were needed and the national disaster medical system was activated, of which Bresnan is coordinator. The National Guard was summoned for air evacuation, with the team meeting Thursday at the Metro Flight Services hangar in the Metro Airport area in Romulus.

There were some 84 mock victims, mostly "walking wounded," to be flown to Indianapolis, Des Moines and Minneapolis for medical treatment, Bresnan said. The actual flights didn't occur, but helicopters were used in the training.

Chaplains from the Salvation Army, VA and International Fellowship of Chaplains handled the family reception function. "Everybody wants to know where their loved one is or see the body," Bresnan said.

He's been working on the exercise since January and deemed it a success. "It went well because we learned a lot," Bresnan said Thursday by

phone from Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. "These people really stepped forward."

The Detroit Veterans Medical Center, Ann Arbor Veterans Medical Center, Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Michigan National Guard, chaplain units and Community Emergency Response Teams of volunteers were among participants.

"The Salvation Army fed us," Bresnan said. "They did a great job."

Many think such training began after 9/11, he added, although it actually dates back much earlier. "But nobody took us seriously until 9/11."

McCotter speaks on Lebanese freedom

Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter, R-Livonia, was joined by hundreds of Lebanese-Americans to pay tribute and honor the Lebanese Independence Movement, during a Cedar Revolution Solidarity Day celebration in Washington, D.C., on May 10.

In conjunction with the daylong celebration, McCotter introduced House Resolution 273 denouncing the actions of the Syrian occupation and other foreign aggressors in Lebanon, and supporting free and democratic elections in Lebanon. Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., Christopher Cox, R-Calif., Dan Burton, R-Ind., and Joe Schwarz, R-Mich., are original co-sponsors to the resolution, which has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

McCotter spoke about the need for America to show its strength and sup-

port to the Lebanese people "as they endeavor to stand up for their political independence, protect human rights, and defend democracy."

"It is the duty and the honor of every child of the American Revolution to stand as one with his fellow human beings abroad who are striving to break the yoke of tyranny and, finally, breathe free," McCotter said. "I extend my deepest gratitude for the privilege of uniting with you amidst these transcendent times of the Cedar Revolution, in which Lebanon's impending elections will continue to signal her people's resurrection from Syrian dominance."

At a reception following the press event, McCotter was joined by Lebanese-American dignitaries like Joseph Hage, president of the American Lebanese Coordination Council; Tom Harb, president of the American Maronite Union; Dr.

Joseph Gebiely, president of the Lebanese Information Center; Dr. Walid Phares, secretary general of the World Lebanese Cultural Union; Stephen Solomon, of the American-Lebanese Chamber of Commerce; Milad Zohrob, president of the Assembly for Lebanon; and Michael Assaf, of the Lebanese Information Center.

The resolution and the Cedar Revolution Day event also garnered support from other prominent Lebanese-Americans like Nobel Prize Laureate Elias Corey; Emmy, Golden Globe, and SAG award-winning actor Tony Shaloub of the USA Network hit series *Monk*; Tony Bou Samra, of the American Lebanese Alliance; Tony Haddad, of the Lebanese American Council for Democracy; and former executive director of the American-Arab Chamber of Commerce Nasser Beydoun.

Missing Southfield man's body recovered from Detroit River

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

An examination of dental records has confirmed that the body recovered from the Detroit River is Southfield resident Barry D. Berry who was reported missing April 15, according to the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office.

The cause of death won't be known for about six or eight weeks, pending the results of toxicology examinations, the department's chief investigator said Friday.

"There were no signs of trauma or foul play," said Albert Samuels.

The body was recovered Tuesday, after municipal workers saw it floating in the river, said Detective Sgt. John Szczepaniak of the Grosse Ile Police Department.

There was a wallet and identification on the body, Szczepaniak said. But the body was turned over to the medical examiner to determine the cause of death and to verify the identification.

Berry, who worked at a furniture warehouse, left home on the morning of April 15, his day off, to run errands, according to his wife, Cocoa Berry. She contacted Southfield police when he did not return. His vehicle was subsequently found by Detroit police near the MacArthur Bridge, which is also known as the Belle Isle Bridge.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Swanson Funeral Home, 14751 W. McNichols, Detroit.

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Vietnam lessons merit heeding

One of the main perks of being a news reporter is having the opportunity to meet intriguing people from all walks of life. I'm also able to attend many interesting events that I not only get to write about, but that also make me take stock of my own life.

A ceremony I attended last week was definitely one of those events that made me re-evaluate my thoughts about war, both past and present. It really was an honor for me to witness U.S. Sen. Carl Levin pin a Distinguished Flying Cross to Gerald Towler's chest at an American Legion hall in Livonia. The medal is awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.

Towler, a Canton resident, actually earned the medal some 40 years ago in the jungles of Vietnam when, as a 22-year-old U.S. Army helicopter pilot, he bucked the advice of others — and probably common sense — to fly in supplies and reinforcements to fellow soldiers locked in furious battle with enemy troops during the battle of Ia Drang Valley in November 1965.

According to the soldiers who nominated him for the award, Towler completed the missions despite a battlefield "enshrouded by smoke and haze that nearly obscured the battlefield, making flight at treetop level extremely hazardous." Towler flew through a steady aerial bombardment, with mortar and artillery shells bursting all over the perimeter, so he could fly in troops and supplies, and evacuate the wounded, even after medevac helicopter crews had refused to land because of the violence on the ground.

For anyone that has not experienced war, me included, it is almost impossible to fathom the sights and sounds of that battlefield.

Some 58,000 American soldiers died in Vietnam. Countless more were forever wounded, either physically or psychologically. Towler, who recently retired after a long career as a commercial pilot, has rarely spoken about his war experiences because of the pain it brings him. In fact, when he was notified he would be awarded the medal, he initially didn't want anything to do with it, he said. He doesn't see himself as a hero, just a soldier who did his duty. He says the real heroes were the ones who came home in body bags, having made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The scars of the Vietnam War, which was one of this nation's greatest disasters, have yet to fully heal. Maybe they never will. The war began as a noble mission to prevent the spread of communism, and to help democracy flourish in a part of the world where freedom, at least how we see it, was and still is a foreign concept. After investing so much energy, and the lives of far too many of our men and women in uniform, we pulled out of that quagmire.

I find it difficult to understand how, less than a generation later, we find ourselves stuck in an equally confusing quagmire, where our men and women in uniform have again been asked to sacrifice so much. Why did we not learn the lessons of history?

In a hundred years or so, when historians look back at this conflict in Iraq, what will they say? My guess is they will say the American people were misled by their president, who convinced many of us that Iraq had some responsibility in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11,

2001, or that the country posed an imminent threat to us because it had stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. Of course, we now know that those claims were untrue. Whether President Bush knew this or not will be something for historians to figure out.

The Bush administration now says the war in Iraq is about creating a democracy in a region that is hostile to America and its global interests. Had the president and his cronies told us this in the first place, few would have supported this war. If Vietnam taught us nothing else, it taught us we can't be the world's police force. Or create democracies in places where they are not overwhelmingly supported.

Sure many, many Iraqis showed up at the polls to vote when the country held its first democratic elections earlier this year. But in 1967, more than 80 percent of South Vietnam's 5.85 million registered voters cast ballots in that nation's first democratic elections. It took less than a year after our departure before the Communists led by Ho Chi Minh supplanted this democracy.

How long must our troops stay in Iraq to support this newfound democracy? President Bush says only long enough for Iraqi military troops to be trained. Does anybody remember "Vietnamization," which was President Nixon's answer to getting us out of Vietnam? He surmised that by training South Vietnamese troops, they would be able to fight the war themselves.

"We have adopted a plan which we have worked out in cooperation with the South Vietnamese for the complete withdrawal of all U.S. combat ground forces, and their replacement by South Vietnamese forces on an orderly timetable. The withdrawal will be made from strength and not from weakness. As South Vietnamese forces become stronger, the rate of American withdrawal can become greater," Nixon said in a speech on Nov. 3, 1969, when he announced the Vietnamization plan.

This sounds very similar to what the Bush administration is saying to an increasingly wary American public about this war, which has now claimed more than 1,600 American soldiers and countless innocent Iraqis. The death toll grows every day.

Nobody is shedding a tear because we deposed Saddam Hussein, who was a brutal dictator (is there any other kind?). But there are many other leaders and governments in the world equally ruthless. We can't continue to send our young men and women to those places to "install" democracy, because we think it is the best form of government.

Unfortunately, we now have both feet stuck in this quagmire. If we pull out now, our troops and many, many Iraqi civilians will have died for nothing. We'll also have lost any of the little credibility we once had in the Arab world. Soldiers and their families will have to pay the price for a seriously flawed decision to go to war, just like Gerald Towler and his mates did some 40 years ago.

In my eyes, there are just too many parallels, some almost eerie, between this war and Vietnam, which tore our country apart at the seams. Why didn't we learn the lessons?

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the *Canton Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at kkuban@oe.homecomm.net or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

Senator ruminates on checks and balances

When Sen. Carl Levin visited with *Observer & Eccentric* editors May 5, he pondered the concept of checks and balances and how that concept was playing out in the issues he's been dealing with in Congress.

He complained that it was hard to maintain checks and balances when the executive and legislative branches were in the hands of the same party.

He might have added that on many issues the Supreme Court tends to have a slight conservative edge as well (despite the recent attacks on the court by Republican legislative leaders).

Levin's concern is that the balance was in danger of being permanently

destroyed by Republican leadership in the Senate by the elimination of the filibuster in debates on judicial appointments. Levin argues that the filibuster is an essential tool for the full expression of a minority point of view with a long history, even on judicial appointments.

The filibuster has two images in the popular mind. One is the idealistic stand of Jefferson Smith, as embodied by James Stewart, standing up to the smug corruption of the bosses on the Senate floor in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. The other image is the ignoble grandstanding of Southern senators opposing civil rights legislation. But in both cases a minority view got its full expression.

Later in the interview with Levin, the conversation turned to the situation in Iraq, and it was here that Levin made his most interesting comments about democracy, checks and balances and what it is that sets our form of government apart.

In Iraq under Saddam Hussein, the Sunni Muslims held power, though they represented a minority in the country. The majority Shia were often an abused majority. Now the Shia see an opportunity to right the wrong and a Sunni insurgency is trying desperately to resist them and an occupying American military force.

"You have Shia who deeply embittered against the Sunni leadership and they are now in the majority and for them democracy means majority rules," Levin said. "That's not what it

means to us. We've got a First Amendment, we've got a 13th Amendment, we've got a 14th Amendment. We've got protections for individuals against the majority.

"You can print what you want and I can say what I want. If the majority says you can't print that or I can't say that, you're going to win. Minority rights are protected, we have checks and balances in our Constitution against abuse of executive power, legislative power and even judicial power. We have checks and balances embedded in our Constitution. In Iraq, they don't know about that."

He said we can not want democracy (our kind of democracy) more than they do.

Sometimes we take our democracy much too lightly. The recent school board elections had minuscule voter participation. Even in the Farmington school district, where the interest was intense among some people, less 20 percent of the registered voters even bothered. We assume that it will come out all right and we don't need to bother (except on the high profile elections where we get hit on the head by advertising).

Levin's concept of democracy is how we progress as a people. Under majority rule, slavery might have gone on for many decades more. Jim Crow laws and de facto discrimination would still be around. Women wouldn't have the vote or the opportunities (though ironically women have always been a slight majority of the population, they didn't have the vote).

But our Constitution, that glorious, flexible, eternally relevant document gives us a safety valve of freedom. It was understood after the document was drawn and ready to go that as written it would stifle freedom under rule of the majority. Human rights had to be protected, "embedded" in our Constitution. So the framers went back and created the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights.

Under the Constitution, the majority rules and the minority view is protected.

As Levin says, that's democracy to us.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149, by e-mail at hgalagher@oe.homecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279.

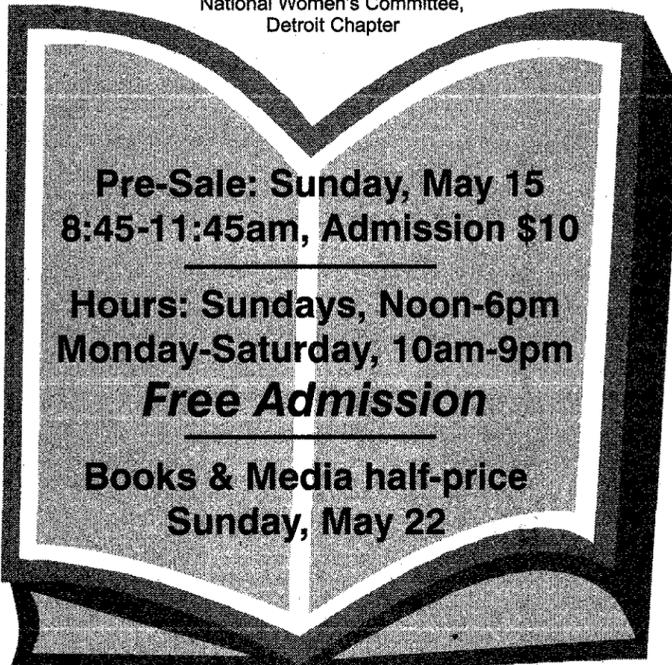
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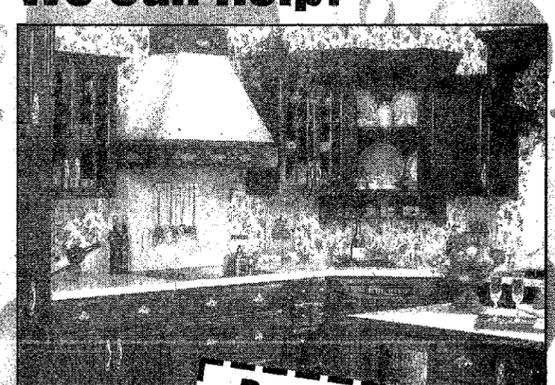
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Get the brakes engineered specifically for your vehicle. Installed by the experts who know your vehicle best.

Install genuine Motorcraft® pads or shoes on most cars and light trucks. One axle. Excludes machining rotors and drums. Taxes extra. See participating Dealership for details through 5/29/05.



Michelin Symmetry

P225/60R16 BSW

\$96.95 OR LESS EACH

Mounting, balancing and taxes extra. Replacement tire for select Crown Victoria, Town Car, Grand Marquis, Windstar, Freestar and Monterey models. See participating Dealership for details through 5/29/05.



VISIT YOUR METRO DETROIT FORD DEALER TODAY!

*Not all lessees will qualify for lowest payment. See dealer for qualifications and details. A-Plan payments based on A-Plan pricing for Ford employees and eligible family members. Payments include a low-mileage lease, renewal cash, Ford Division terminating lessees must take delivery by 5/31/05. This payment includes the Triple Down Payment Bonus Cash. Cash due at signing includes the first month's payment and acquisition fee, but excludes taxes, title, and license fees. Customer must finance through Ford Credit. Not all buyers qualify for Ford Credit financing. Cash due at signing includes customer cash down, 1st month's payment, refundable security deposit, and acquisition fee, but excludes taxes, title, and license fees. Some payments higher, some lower. Residency restrictions apply.** Each Basic Maintenance Plan includes the following services: Engine oil and filter change, tire rotation, and multi-point inspection. This contract is valid only at the selling dealership. ESP Basic Maintenance Plan will cover the cost of 3 services for up to one year and 15,000 miles from the original purchase date. (May 7 - May 16, 2005). +No purchase necessary. Licensed drivers only. Contest runs from May 9 -16, 2005.