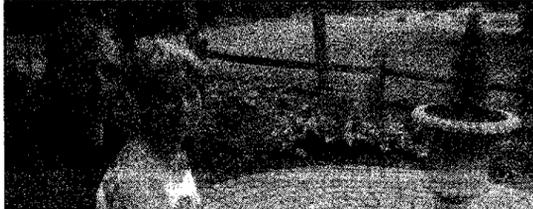


6/2



**Garden walk features  
6 beautiful gardens**

AT HOME, B1

**Shower Power: Mom helps out daughter with events** - TASTE, PAGE B5

No plans for the weekend? Turn to **GET OUT** for a listing of fun things to do and see

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joseph L. Tebor of the Bova VFW Post 9885 places a flag on a veteran's grave at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West Saturday afternoon in honor of Memorial Day.

## Fallen heroes

### Volunteers make sure flags fly over veterans' graves

Flags The graves of veterans dating back to World War I were dressed in the Stars and Stripes in time for Memorial Day, thanks to the efforts of a group of volunteers.

Each year, members of the Bova VFW Post 9885, its ladies, junior girls and men's auxiliaries, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 387 and JROTC students from Livonia Churchill and Livonia Stevenson high schools gather on the Saturday before Memorial Day at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland in what has become an important part of the holiday weekend.

Their mission is to decorate the graves of veterans with small American flags.

"We try to cover as many as we can," said Rick Patrny, VVA secretary and VFW trustee. "We usually do 1,800 flags and there's still some graves left. We keep adding flags each year."

The decorating of the graves came the day before residents lined Wayne and

Ford roads for the city's annual Memorial Day parade.

The volunteers have been meeting at the cemetery for eight-10 years. They meet at the administrative building and carpool to the veterans area "in the far back corner" where a brief ceremony, originated by the VVA chapter, is held. Then the group breaks up into teams.

Usually 20-30 volunteers take part in the effort.

"I have a buddy from Vietnam buried there and I take care of that," Patrny said. "There's also a father and son who both served in Vietnam buried there."

One volunteer cruises through the cemetery, resupplying volunteers with flags.

The flags stay on the graves for three-four weeks and then are gathered by cemetery personnel and returned to the veteran's organization to use the next year.

The remembrance is just one of several type ceremonies the veterans group do throughout the year. Their next big event will be the POW-MIA ceremony slated for 6 p.m. the third Friday in September at Westland City Hall on Ford.

According to Patrny, the ceremony is the second largest in the state.

By Sue Mason



Sue Lemmon, a member of the Bova VFW Post 9885's Ladies Auxiliary, pauses after placing a flag on a grave.

## District, 2 unions OK contracts

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Labor peace prevails between the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and two more of its unions.

The board of education has approved a new two-year contract with its secretarial union, two weeks after approving a two-year agreement with the Brotherhood of Specialized Skills.

Both agreements are retroactive to July 1, 2004, and were approved overwhelmingly by the unions' rank-and-file.

Both contracts include 2-percent pay increases in each of the two years and health care changes that will help the district better manage those costs.

"It's what we've been striving for," said Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for business. "The cost has been going up 10-20 percent a year and, most years, it's been 15-20 percent."

Both unions agreed to a step down from the MESA Super Care program to MESA Choices, a more managed PPO plan. Additionally, new BOSS members will be offered an HMO-style plan.

PLEASE SEE **CONTRACTS, A5**

## Walkway project helps maintain 1-room school

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

The road to Oz was built with yellow bricks, but Westland historians chose red for the walkway that leads to the old one-room Perrinsville schoolhouse at Warren and Cowan.

And, while Dorothy and friends sought help from a far-away Wizard, local historians are looking closer to home.

Historians are selling bricks for \$100 each and allowing buyers to choose what they want engraved on them.

Already, former teachers and students who attended the school have contributed to the walkway project.

PLEASE SEE **WALKWAY, A4**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jim Franklin, president of the Friends of the Westland Historical Museum, shows how the engraved paver bricks are being placed in the walkway at the Perrinsville School.

## Teens find Junior Civitans good experience

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

While a lot of teenagers are whiling away their time on computer and video games, Stephanie Zielke of Westland devotes an average of two hours daily working on projects sponsored by the newly formed Westland Ambassadors Junior Civitan Club.

Zielke, 14, is a freshman at Wayne Memorial High School and vice president of the youth chapter of the Civitan group.

The Junior Civitan Club was co-founded by Zielke's grandmother, Ruth Zielke, with her friend, Barbara Polich. Both women are Westland residents and members of the adult chapter of the Westland Civitan Club.

Ruth and Polich work as advisers to the

younger group and they encourage students, in sixth through 12th grades, to consider joining the nonprofit group that focuses on helping a wide range of people in the community.

The Westland Junior Civitan Club started with 16 students when it was formed in November and it has already grown to 36 youngsters from Westland, Livonia, Taylor, Dearborn Heights, Southfield, Wayne and as far away as Onstead.

"These kids in the club are an awesome bunch of kids," Ruth said.

The group was launched after Stephanie helped her grandmother with a couple of fund-raisers for the adult Westland Civitans, like selling flag magnets to benefit the Civitan International Research Center which helps people challenged by developmental disabili-

ties. The Civitan International Foundation awarded a grant of up to \$1 million for 20 years to the University of Alabama at Birmingham for the creation of the Civitan International Research Center, which was the first institution of its kind in the U.S. solely dedicated to research of developmental disabilities.

Through interdisciplinary research, clinical services and community programs, the Civitan International Research Center improves the lives of people at risk for, or affected by developmental disabilities, according to the Civitan Web site, www.civitan.org.

The center conducts research on the devel-

PLEASE SEE **CIVITANS, A5**

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**Coming Sunday**  
on the **BLUE** page

Don't forget to shop for dad:  
The PINK Page turns BLUE



# 3 new principals await their assignments

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Beginning with the new school year, Livonia Public Schools will welcome three new principals to its elementary buildings.

The school board unanimously approved the appointments of William Green II, Tammy Spangler-Timm and DeAnn Urso on Monday night.

Supt. Randy Liepa called it a "great night" but also a bitter-sweet one as the district bids farewell to three retiring administrators: Helene Lusa at Tyler Elementary; Karen Milton at McKinley Elementary and Karen Winters at Garfield Elementary.

"There is a bit of changing of the guard," said Liepa. "It is an exciting time. We have three excellent candidates."

William Green II, who teaches at Buchanan Elementary, holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Wayne State University and a bachelor's degree in history as well as elementary education certification from Madonna University.

"I look forward to serving in a new capacity," said Green. "Thank all of those who came and showed support. It is truly an honor."

Trustee Lynda Scheel took the opportunity to recognize Green's father in the audience, who taught in the district for 40 years. "He was my fifth-grade teacher," she said.

Thank you Mr. Green for all of the wonderful memories. You were a great force in my life."

Spangler-Timm comes to the district from Huron Valley Schools, where she serves as director of continuing education. She holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan, a master's degree in teaching from Marygrove College and a bachelor's degree and elementary education certification from Saginaw Valley State University.

"I've heard many positive things about Livonia Public Schools," she said. "I'm very pleased. I promise to do my best to honor this privilege." Urso brought several members of her family to the meeting, joking that she comes from a "large Italian family."

She holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree from Madonna University. Urso has been a teacher in the district since 1992 and served as acting administrator, and most currently as a teacher leader at Cooper Elementary School.

"I assure you, I'll do my very best," she told the board. Trustee Cynthia Markarian noted that Urso taught her two oldest boys at Adams. She said the appointment was "well-deserved."

Sheila Alles, director of elementary education, said 37 applications were turned in for the three openings, with eight outstanding candidates inter-



MARYPAT BENJIT

DeAnn Urso (left), William Green II and Tammy Spangler-Timm have been appointed as new elementary principals in Livonia Public Schools.

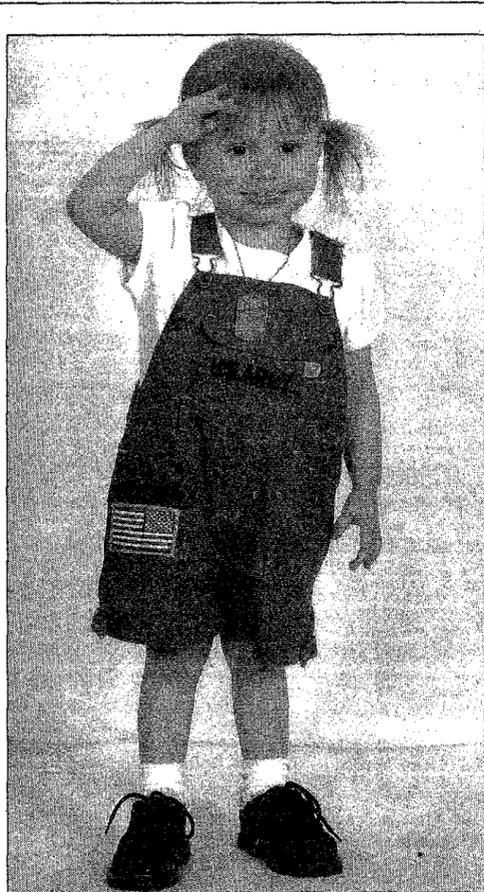
viewed by two teams. One team was comprised of six administrators, and the other was made up of six teachers from various elementary schools. Alles said the most qualified of the candidates were then interviewed by Liepa and a recommendation to the board followed.

"I'm looking forward to working with our new principals," said Alles. "I believe they'll be wonderful."

The elementary principals have not yet been assigned to specific schools for the coming year. Alles is currently weighing requests from current principals seeking a change of assignment and considering

the needs where there are vacancies. She said she will match the skills and talents of the candidates to the needs of the building to ensure it is a good fit. Board President Kevin Whitehead told the newly appointed administrators that they are "joining a very high-caliber group... I'm sure they're going to welcome you with open arms."

Trustee Joanne Morgan gave the new principals a timely, pop-culture-laden, bit of advice. She said: "We are so looking forward to your talents being more developed here. Welcome and may the force be with you."



## A salute to you

It may not have the polish of a proper military salute, but Lorelei Bungard tried her best for a Memorial Day photograph taken by her father, Jamie, a military veteran and member of the Canton Police Department. The family lives in Westland.

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**Morning mixer**  
The Westland Chamber of Commerce and Garden City Chamber of Commerce will have a Morning Mixer at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 7, at Amantea's Restaurant, 32777 Warren.  
The networking session will offer an opportunity for meet business owners from the two communities.  
The cost is \$10 per person. To make a reservation, call the chamber office at 326-7222.

## PLACES AND FACES

**School openings**  
St. Damian Preschool still has openings available for 4-year-olds in the afternoon session (noon - 3 p.m.) and for 3-year-olds in the morning session (9-11 a.m.). Summer hours are from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday through Thursday.  
St. Damian is at 29891 Joy Rd, Westland. For more information, call (734) 427-1680.

**Book signings**  
As part of the grand opening of the Borders Express, formerly Waldenbooks, at the east entrance of the Westland Shopping Center, local authors Daryl Alan Bailey and Sherrye Louise Huggins Bailey will be on hand to sign copies of their book, *Images of America: Westland*. The couple will be there 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, June 4.

**Carnival time**  
The Wayne Ford Civic

League at 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland will host a carnival now through Sunday (June 3). Adult and children rides, games and food will be featured. Call (734) 728-5010 for information. The civic league also is offering a dinner for seniors 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 12, at the league. The price is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members for a buffet dinner with beer, wine, pop and dancing to live entertainment. This event is for people age 55 and older. Call (734) 728-5010 for information.

**Skating party**  
Walking with Faith Inc., a team of more than 100 walkers and volunteers who walk in the annual Multiple Sclerosis Walks, will hold a "Kids FUN - RAISE for Multiple Sclerosis" skating party 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 16, at Skate Land West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland. The cost will be \$10 per person with rentals of

\$1.50 for roller skates and \$5 for inline skates. There will be 50/50 raffles, and a PSP raffle. Tickets cost \$1 each or 3 for \$5. For more information, call Alecia Harris at (313) 999-5259.

**Summer program**  
Westland Bowl in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department will offer free bowling for kids now through Aug. 20.  
Kids up to 18 years of age will be able to bowl one free game per day during summer hours with a participation card, available at the bowling center, 5940 N. Wayne Road.  
The centers also is offering a free family bonus package on Saturdays. For more information, call Westland Bowl at (9734) 722-7570.

**Fund-raiser**  
Westland residents can buy frozen pizza, home-style fudge, gourmet coffee samplers, cookie dough, mixed nuts and such things as light bulbs and trash bags without making a trip to the grocery or hardware stores.  
Representatives of AmeriFund are calling homes in John Glenn High School community on behalf of the Instrumental Music Boosters as part of a special fund-raiser.

The calls will be made between 4 and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday for about three weeks. The main goal of the campaign is to complete fund-raising for new band uniforms, according to booster and campaign director Barry Hensel. The proceeds will help cover the costs of rain gear and accessories. All products are guaranteed and will be delivered to homes free of charge.

**Buffet and comedy**  
Royal Oak Township native, Crystal Parker will perform her feisty stand-up comedy act at Marvoso's Italian Grille in Westland, Michigan on Saturday, June 18.

Parker, known on the comedy circuit as Crystal P., has been doing stand-up comedy, "sass with class," providing laughter without all of the profanity. Her goal is to get her audience to really think about current events or just everyday living. Subject matter ranges from relationships, sports, modeling, and pets to a night at the club. Crystal P. said her motto is, "I want to bring love 'n laughter into your life!"

Showtime is 9:30 p.m. Also appearing with Crystal P. will be Cool Aide of Detroit. Crystal P. Marvoso's Italian Grille is at 6569 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (734) 405-5222 for more information.

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# Checkmate

## Youngsters master their moves with Schweitzer Chess Club

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

The stakes were high and time was short as youngsters in the Schweitzer Elementary Chess Club moved their pieces around the game board.

After three rounds, the pairings began for the quarter final games where there were no two to three hours to ponder a move. Just three minutes. The players moved quickly, hoping to finish the game or amass the most points to advance to the next round.

Welcome to the Schweitzer Elementary Chess Club where youngsters squared off in their final meeting of the school year in hopes of winning a *Star Wars* chess set.

"They love it," said Principal Diane Nichols, watching the preliminary rounds. "They're very well-behaved and focused. Chess is excellent for teaching thinking skills."

This is the fourth year the school has had a chess club thanks to the efforts of parent Noel Derr.

"I grew up with chess," said Derr. "My father played chess and had chess clubs at Kettering, Adams and Wayne Memorial for years. He used to take the teams on the road. I'm not that courageous."

"At my father's house, there was a chess board set up



Delaney Compeau, a student in the Young Fives program at Schweitzer Elementary, makes her move in a chess tournament match against Brett Smith.

every day like a newspaper stand or a TV remote."

The club meets after school and has grown every year since Derr started it. Its success she credits to word-of-mouth and siblings who have played. Several of her former players return as middle schoolers to help each week.

Derr sends home a letter the first week of school and the club usually starts meeting the third week. This school year 50 kids showed up to play. After about three weeks, she realized the group needed to be split up.

"It ended up that I wasn't able to teach them, so we split them up," she said. "Every other week we get the older and younger students together."

"It's a great game for girls because it teaches strategy."

Derr has played all her life. Not that well, she said, "but I can teach."

Club members cover all grade levels from Young Fives to fifth-graders.

Delaney Compeau, 5, is in her first year of playing chess. She admits she loses a lot, but still enjoys the game.

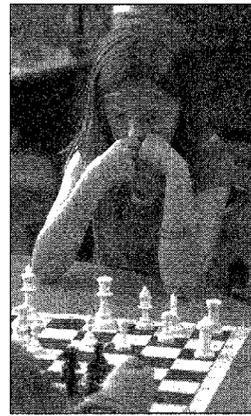
"Sometimes, I play with my mom," she said, watching one her pawns being swept from the board.

Her mother Darci helps with the club and for the final meeting of the year provided cupcakes frosted in chocolate and white, some with solid chocolate chess pieces and arranged on a board to look like a chess board.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Second-grader Beau Smith (left) and fifth-grader Ian D'Arcy (right) watch as third-grader Madison Floyd (left foreground) and fifth-grader Mariah Richards (right foreground) move their chess pieces.



Third-grader Madison Floyd thinks about her next move in the first round of the Schweitzer Elementary Chess Club tournament.

Fourth-grader Mike Nicholson, who is in his second year with the club, loves chess.

"Some people think of a strategy and some people think of moves," he said. "I have the strategy then I add the moves."

His opponent, third-grader Madison Floyd thinks the game is fun, she's always liked it.

"I played my dad and got bored, so I joined the club," she said. "I win more than I lose."

She easily won her first two games, but lost in the third round to Mike. She admits he caught her by surprise by some of his moves he had tucked up his sleeve.

But in the semi-finals, Mike

take their queen." The secret to his winning? "I just see how they play the game," he said.

This is the champ's second year with the club. He usually plays with his dad and plans to challenge him on his new chess set ... "and win."

All four of Derr's children play chess. In fact her son Hayden, one of the middle schoolers that comes to help, was a state chess champion at age 5.

In addition to the tournament, the club also has a pizza and movie party at Christmas where they watch *Searching for Bobby Fisher*.

"The best part of the club is when they show up when it starts and then six or seven days after Christmas come in and say they got a chess set," added Derr.

For Mariah Richards, the tournament was her last chess club meeting. A fifth-grader, she moves to the middle school and hopefully another chess club.

"If they don't have one, they will," she said.

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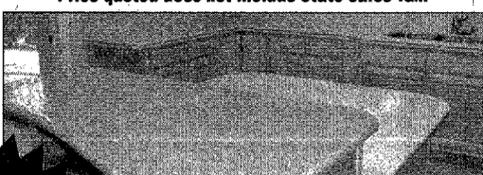
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# Bishop Borgess welcomes students, alumni to farewell picnic June 12

BY M.B. DILLON  
CORRESPONDENT

For 39 successful years, Bishop Borgess High School and Academy educated young people, committed to "changing the world, one student at a time." On Sunday, June 12, the Redford Catholic school will welcome its 200 students, 13,000-plus graduates, faculty and their families one last time to say goodbye.

The Bishop Borgess Alumni Association will host a free farewell picnic from 1-6 p.m. at the school at 11685 Appleton at Plymouth Road. In March, Detroit Archbishop Adam Cardinal Maida announced that Borgess is among 15 schools closing at the end of the school year due to low enrollment and increasing costs.

The picnic will be fun for all ages, according to Maria Staten Bobo, a 1991 graduate and school board member. "It'll be like a big pep rally, with everyone coming together to share memories. We will have face painting, clowns, music and a special farewell ceremony at 3 p.m."

## THE BORGESS EXPERIENCE

"We are going to acknowledge teachers, past and present," she said. "Four or five alumni have been selected to speak. They're going to share their experiences of Borgess and what it has meant to them."

"We'll have speakers to highlight each of the eras at Borgess, and a guest speaker for the

farewell ceremony honoring the teachers and alumni," said Janice Slomba-Koss, Class of 1978, who is helping with the picnic. "So far, more than 250 people have RSVP'd. We'll have food, and games for the kids. The classrooms will be open, so the memories will still be there."

For reservations (which are requested and encouraged) and more information, call (313) 624-8447 or visit [www.borgessalumni.com](http://www.borgessalumni.com).

Organizers are asking for help tracking down alumni and letting them know about the picnic, according to 1978 graduate Dominic Sabatini - one of nine Sabatini children, eight of whom attended Bishop Borgess.

All help is welcome. Donations of time, food, T-shirts and party supplies - not excluding hot dog stands and moonwalks - are gladly accepted, he said.

## 'A GREAT PLACE'

Dozens have signed the online guestbook: Russ Duff, who graduated in 1978, left this message: "Hate to see such a great place close. My heart dropped when I read the news."

Linda Zelle, a 1979 graduate, had this to say: "Ahhh. The memories! The back commons, Mr. Brisky... 'You're late AGAIN, Zelle?' Ms. Shreve: 'What a big voice for a little person!' Sister Anne: 'Sit DOWN!' Backwards Day. Mirza Beg: 'It's a vertical line.' Sister Kathleen: 'Como Esta?' The gymnastics team...we shared mats with the wrestlers. Eeewww. Ha ha! I hope to see a lot of

familiar faces on the 12th! Go Spartans!"

Leonard Sabatini, Class of '70, asked, "Who can ever forget Father Dunn, our religion teacher and Bible scholar in 1967-69 who always had a famous poem to recite to us at the start of class? He was wounded serving our country and one leg was slightly shorter than the other because of the injury. I wonder if he is still reciting poetry from the pulpit?"

"Sister Karen, our honors math teacher, and all the Felician nuns who helped Borgess grow. The Dominican order was the main order of Borgess religious, but we also owe a great deal to the Felician order too," said Sabatini.

The late, beloved Rev. Thomas McAnoy was principal at Borgess. "Father Mac was a great man, leader, pastor and friend," Sabatini said. "He said Mass each morning in the chapel for some of us who came extra early to school on some days."

Tina Brama Buscemi, who graduated in 1980, remarked: "With the dwindling enrollment and the closing of the feeder schools, this seemed likely to happen. But the years spent there were the best! I hope that I will be able to send my kids (Tori, 5, and Tony 2 1/2), to a co-ed Catholic high school (fingers crossed)."

## NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI

In the 1970s, Bishop Borgess was Michigan's largest Catholic high school, with nearly 2,000 students. Some highlights include:

■ Last year, NASA selected Borgess fourth-

and fifth-graders - along with students from 18 other schools from across the nation - to participate in an experimental launch at the National Scientific Balloon Facility at Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

■ Bishop Borgess teacher Ronald Ferenczi won the Outstanding Science Educator Award bestowed by the Metropolitan Detroit Science Teachers Association in 2004.

■ Jerry Abraham, '70, a legendary volleyball coach at Madonna University, was named to the NAIA Volleyball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Catholic League Coaches Hall of Fame. Abraham's teams racked up numerous titles at Borgess.

■ In 1995, the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers drafted Shawn Respert, a 1990 graduate who starred at Borgess and Michigan State University.

■ Both Maxann Reese, '95, and Aiysha Smith, '97, were named Miss Basketball by the Basketball Coaches' Association of Michigan. Reese was drafted by the Portland Fire in the 2000 WNBA draft; Smith by the Washington Mystics in the 2003 draft.

Gerald Sabatini of Plymouth, a 1971 Borgess alum, can't help but see symbolism in the fact that the day his alma mater closes, his son graduates from high school in Canton. "I view the farewell as a final chapter of my youth, and the graduation as the beginning adulthood for my son," said Sabatini, who chairs the Plymouth Zoning Board of Appeals.

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## WALKWAY

FROM PAGE A1

ect, along with city leaders, history buffs and other community-minded residents.

The walkway fund-raiser, in its 10th year, has been one way that members of the Friends of the Westland Historical Museum have raised money to spruce up Perrinsville School and maintain it.

Sitting inside the one-room school with historians Ruth Dale and Georgia McDaniel, Friends President Jim Franklin underscored the importance of raising money to protect what was the first brick school in the former Nankin Township.

"You can either read about it in a book when it has been destroyed and long gone, or you can see the real thing," Franklin said.

Dale commended residents like John McGuire, who has bought 15 bricks. The school was built in 1856, but it has been restored to the 1890s era, complete with a pot-belly stove, old blackboards, old-fashioned wooden desks and the original school bell.

Mildred Hoops Harris, the last Perrinsville teacher in the mid-1930s, bought a brick before she died a couple of years ago.

"And a lot of the people who have bought the bricks are former students," Dale said.

Some buyers have the bricks engraved with a family name. Others choose to make a brick into a memorial for a loved one who has died.

In all, members of Friends of the Westland Historical Museum have raised \$20,000 for Perrinsville School - much of it from the sale of 175 bricks.

"Most people will have a company name or a person's name engraved on the brick," McDaniel, Friends treasurer, said. "They're not really reciting poetry, although we'd take it."

Modern-day teachers take their students to Perrinsville for one-day visits that help the youngsters learn about the past. The school is stocked with reproductions of late-1800s textbooks and a teacher manual that guides classroom instruction.

"That's the Bible for the teachers who come here," Franklin said.

At \$100 a brick, historians clear \$75 from each sale. The other \$25 pays for engraving. Anyone who would like to support the project may call Dale at (734) 425-1955.

dclm@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110

## DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR FLEA MARKET

The historic, 1856, one-room Perrinsville School will be the location for a flea market scheduled 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 18.

The school is located at Warren and Cowan, just a quarter-mile west of Merriman Road.

Proceeds will be used for Westland's historic buildings.

Historians are seeking donations for the flea market.

Items being sought include dishes, furniture, jewelry, linens, toys, tools, kitchen items, knick-knacks, antiques, books, collectibles and other miscellaneous items - but not clothing.

Donations are being accepted Saturdays 1-4 p.m. at the Westland Historical Museum complex, on Wayne Road north of Cherry Hill.

For more information, call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119 or Ruth Dale at (734) 425-1955.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Advanced Technology Academy - Notice of public hearing on 2005-2006 proposed budget. Held 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 29 at Henry Ford Community College, M-TEC center, Schaefer Rd., Dearborn, MI (Executive conference room). Budget available for public inspection at 7265 Calhoun St., Dearborn, MI 48126. Public Act 493 of 2000.

Publish: June 2, 2005

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**CIVITANS**

FROM PAGE A1  
 opment of the central nervous system, with special emphasis on human development and developmental disabilities.

**INITIATIVE**

Civitan members also try to meet many other community needs. Stephanie decided she wanted to be part of group with such impressive goals.

"One day Stephanie said, 'Why isn't there a Junior Civitan in Westland?,' because she knew there was one in Wayne," Ruth explained. "She said, 'What do you have to do to get one started?'"

The Westland Junior Civitans have already been involved in a number of community projects, including fund-raisers for Sean Clark, a 7-year-old boy who lives in Canton and is suffering from mitochondria disease, a disorder that saps the energy of its victims. The fund-raisers were dedicated to helping Sean's parents buy a lift for their van to make it easier to get Sean in and out of the vehicle.

The local group of young volunteers also fed the homeless and on another occasion visited residents of American House, a senior living facility, on Venoy and Palmer. They gave each resident a Valentine card and a Beanie Baby.

In honor of the work and dedication by youth and adult Civitan members, Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli recently proclaimed April Civitan Awareness Month in the city.

**GREAT GROUP**

Ruth, who has been a member of the Westland Civitans a couple of years, said she joined, because "I liked what they

stood for and what they did helping the handicapped and mentally challenged people and the homeless. It's a great non-profit organization."

The young Civitan group gives kids a chance to learn leadership, development, organization and work skills, she said.

"It's a really good experience," Stephanie said. "I'm personal friends with every member and we're helping people."

"One of newest members turned 12 and she's on the board of directors already," Stephanie said. "A lot of people on the board are a lot older."

Stephanie works on a myriad of Civitan projects on a regular basis. On any given day she might be putting together Civitan scrapbooks, writing columns to the Civitan International paper, calling volunteers to work on fund-raisers and writing notes for the next meeting.

Stephanie's boyfriend, Ryan Sedlarik, a Westland resident who attends Franklin High School in Livonia, puts in just as much time, Stephanie said. He is the group's sergeant of arms, historian and director.

Stephanie, Ryan, Ruth and Polich are among an impressive group of past and present Civitan members, including Thomas A. Edison.

Starting with one club and a vision for helping others, Civitan has grown to more than 40,000 members in 24 countries, according to the Civitan Web site. The organization involves all age groups and has a program for college students.

The Junior Civitans meet at 6:30 p.m. every Sunday at the Bailey Recreation Center on Ford Road. Anyone in sixth through 12th grade is invited to attend. For more information about Westland Civitans, call Ruth Zielke at (734) 331-2235.

**CONTRACTS**

FROM PAGE A1

The Wayne-Westland Educational Secretaries Association has had an HMO in place for new members since 1991, Martin said.

The BOSS contract also includes language changes on overtime, the removal of the carrier name for life, dental and vision coverage and allowing the district to bid out for life, dental and vision coverage that would be equivalent.

BOSS and the district also agreed to an adjustment in longevity pay and a stipend to encourage network technicians to work toward advance certifications, Martin said.

"I'd like to thank both bargaining groups for their hard work in reaching a fair and equitable contract," Martin said of the BOSS agreement.

School board Vice President Cindy Schofield, in approving the secretaries contract, acknowledged the work that went into reaching the agreement.

"I know you put in a lot of hard work and time into this contract," she said.

The district is now focusing its attention on its last two contracts — with Local 4, which includes the district's custodians, bus drivers and food service employees, and with adult education teachers.

Martin said the district "expects to get a deal done" with Local 4.

The district and union entered into expedited negotiations in early February in hopes of hammering out an agreement.

"We're still meeting and working very hard to get an agreement," he added.

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**Humane Society offers Puppy Preschool classes**

The Michigan Humane Society's behavior and training department, the Pet Education Center (PEC), invites puppies up to three months of age and their guardians to enroll in the PEC's first-ever Puppy Preschool.

A one-hour "preschool" seminar will be presented at 1 or 3 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Michigan Humane Society Westland adoption and veterinary medical center.

The seminar costs \$10 per puppy and will focus on proper socialization, an important factor in preventing dog bites. Pre-enrollment is required by calling the PEC at (248) 650-1059.

All breeds are welcome and class size is limited to eight puppies and their adult companions. Dog lovers or those considering adopting a puppy also are welcome to observe at no charge. Proof of age-appropriate vaccinations is required for Puppy Preschool enrollment.

"The prime socialization period for dogs is from birth to 16 weeks of age," said C.J. Bentley, Pet Education Center behavior consultant and business manager. "By introducing puppies to a variety of people and animals during this critical time, guardians help ensure their

canine companions will react positively to new people, sights and sounds."

Puppy Preschool will begin with a demonstration about socialization, and certified dog trainers will explain the importance of teaching puppies through positive reinforcement. Puppies also will learn their first vocabulary words — sit, come and leave it. Since preschool is about fun and games as well as learning, puppies will have time to play games and win prizes.

"Guardians have a responsibility to help their puppies grow up to be well-adjusted dogs who happily react to the people they encounter," said Bentley.

Puppy Preschool will be held in the Pet Education Center training room at the Michigan Humane Society's newly expanded and renovated Westland facility at 37255 Marquette.

The Pet Education Center offers group dog training classes in Westland, Rochester Hills and Oak Park and uses only positive training methods. Private lessons are available in Westland and Rochester Hills. For more information, call the Pet Education Center office at (248) 650-1059, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org).

**Annapolis Hospital earns Award of Excellence**

Oakwood Healthcare System's Oakwood Annapolis Hospital has received the Governor's Award of Excellence, a distinction for improving care in the hospital setting.

This is the second consecutive year OAH has received the honor. "Our staff is demonstrating that we are providing the best in medical treatment and care," said OAH President Tom Kochis. "We are extremely proud to be a recipient of this distinguished award."

Gov. Jennifer Granholm presented the 2004 Governor's Award of Excellence for Improving Care in the Hospital Setting for Acute Myocardial Infarction to OAH at a ceremony on May 19.

The award honors Michigan hospitals that are performing quality initiatives aimed at

improving outcomes in patient care. The clinical topics that the award measures have been designated as national health priorities by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Earlier this year, the Michigan Health and Hospital Association recognized OAH with two awards in connection with the hospital's participation in the Keystone ICU (Intensive Care Unit) project, an initiative for achieving clinical quality and patient safety excellence in ICU patient care. OAH won the award in two categories — Eliminating Ventilator-Associated Pneumonias and Eliminating Catheter-Related Bloodstream Infections. The hospital also received an award recognizing the its childbirth nursing team from Johnson & Johnson.

**DEATHS**

- B**  
William E. Barnett, 76, of Plymouth, died May 29.
- K**  
Raymond J. Knickerbocker, 65, of Ludington, died May 17.
- N**  
Margaret Elizabeth Nunn (nee McKinnon), 88, of Grand Rapids, died May 26.
- R**  
Edward H. Rofe, 92, died May 23.
- S**  
Will Scott, 83, of Bloomfield Hills, died May 26.
- V**  
Rex M. Valentine, 85, died May 26.
- W**  
William M. Wilson, 72, of Westland, died May 29.



**For the Record** appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's *Sports in Passages* on page C9.

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# MADD director sees progress, work to do

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nechole McClendon, executive director of Wayne County Mothers Against Drunk Driving, looks over a tribute quilt of area victims of drunken driving crashes.

Nechole McClendon gave a friendly reminder about not drinking and driving to two young women at the Marshall Field's Clinique counter recently.

They were at the Harper Woods store to have their prom makeup done, and met McClendon, chapter executive director for Wayne County Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"You guys be careful," were her words. "They said thank you and walked away."

Getting the message out on drinking and driving is a 55-hour a week job for McClendon, 36, who lives on the east side of Detroit. The Grand Rapids native ("born and raised") earned a bachelor's degree in organizational communications and management from Eastern Michigan University and a master's in industrial relations from Wayne State University.

"It ended up being a good fit," she said of the Westland-based MADD job, which she took over in November 2004. She had over 14 years of experience with various nonprofits.

McClendon doesn't have a family member who was killed by a drunken driver.

"I really didn't know MADD ran so many concrete, in-depth programs," she said. "I just associated MADD with the red ribbons, probably like everyone else."

MADD has some 400-500 members in Wayne County, the majority nonvictims, and McClendon's work has been largely in prevention.

"Our most recent event was the Buzzfree Prom," she said.

"We did that at Belleville High School. The cost was underwritten by Visteon."

McClendon, who had to learn her duties quickly, started with "Tie One on for Safety" last November, the holiday red ribbon campaign.

That was followed by Project LifeRide at New Year's, a collaborative effort to get people who've had too much to drink home safely. "Protecting You, Protecting Me," an alcohol awareness program for grades one through five followed that, and then the March LifeSavers award banquet to recognize police personnel.

"We had 150 people there," she said of the event, underwritten by attorney Terry Cochran.

Coming Sept. 24 will be the "Strides for Change" national MADD event, for which the Wayne, Oakland and Macomb chapters have a \$125,000 goal.

The 5K walk will be at Olde World Canterbury Village in Lake Orion. For information, call Beth Sowulewski at (248) 682-0057 or e-mail her at beth.sowulewski@madd.org.

For McClendon, court-ordered Victim Impact Panels are the toughest part of her job. She recruits victims willing to speak to offenders in a non-accusatory way, and often finds victims just can't handle that.

"They're not ready," she said.

MADD runs about five such classes per month with 40 people in each. "I think the aware-

ness is there," she said of police and court collaboration to remove drunken drivers from the roads. "But there's still a lot of work to do."

She and colleagues at the 600 chapters in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico aim for funding to fight drunken driving. U.S. federal grant money for victim advocacy is in peril.

"If the money is removed, then you're taking away a key component of the mission of MADD," she said. "We're really concerned about that." McClendon is married to Keith and they have a son, Knicolas, almost 4. "I'm a huge sports fan," she said. "I love the Lions and I love the Pistons. That's my relaxation."

Meeting people's the best part of her job. "Everyone knows MADD and they appreciate MADD," she said. "The work continues."

Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans praised McClendon as high-energy and committed, and MADD as "the voice outside of government" for victim advocacy.

"My dealings with her have been very positive," the sheriff said. "We've worked well together."

Evans credits MADD with increasing awareness, adding that there have been a large number of arrests on outstanding warrants. "What we want them to do is go to court and comply with the judge's orders," he said.

# Tree cutting urged to fight infection

The Wayne County Roads department has been cutting down ash trees infected by the emerald ash borer over the last couple of years.

"We have cut down about 10,000 trees using funds from our roads department," said Pat Hogan, director of Wayne County Roads. "We have about 10,000 more trees to cut down."

Crews are cutting down trees on Wayne County property and

MDOT roads that the County maintains.

"We want to highlight the importance of the cooperation of the citizens, communities, government and industry partners to successfully contain the borer and prevent the spread of the disease in the county and state," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

Bringing awareness to the general public takes a team

effort which includes the Department of Environment.

"We do encourage citizens to cut down any infected trees on their own property," said Kurt Heise, director of Environment. "We know that if these trees are not cut down, they will fall down and could cause serious damage or injury."

For additional media inquiries, call Vanessa Denha-Garmo at (313) 213-5274.

# Minutemen try to make community safe

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

Because homeland security begins at home, and because the president called upon citizens to give service to their communities, the Michigan Minutemen are taking an active part in the defense of their neighborhoods.

They're also looking to grow. Minuteman Platoon Leader Jerry Hinsperger, a Vietnam veteran, life member of the Marine Corps League and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, took to heart President George Bush's call for citizens to give 4,000 hours of service to their communities.

"After 9/11 there were many people who decided to get involved," Hinsperger said. "I had been trying for years to get a group together."

He created the Minutemen as an adjunct of the VFW with the purpose of bolstering homeland security. They meet in his Pontiac sports bar and talk about events around the nation, natural and man-made disasters and trade tips on how best to help their communities. Each meeting begins with every member donating five cans of food for a communal food bank.

"If we don't use them through the course of the year (they collect to feed their families in case of a terrorist attack or natural disaster) we give them out at Thanksgiving and Christmas," Hinsperger said. "Last year, we gave 600 pounds of food to a local food bank."

But it's not all safety tips and canned corn. The Michigan Minutemen are, all 40 members, Community Emergency Response Team trained as well as

## HOW TO JOIN

Interested in joining the Michigan Minutemen? Membership is open to anyone, but there are a few restrictions.

Platoon Leader Jerry Hinsperger said the organization is open to residents 21 years old and up who are willing to submit to a background check by the Pontiac Police Department. No one with a felony or drug history will be allowed to join.

The Michigan Minutemen are not synonymous with the Michigan Militia.

Applicants should be ready to purchase one pair of boots, one canteen with web belt, knife with sheath and a shotgun or rifle. Sidearms are not necessary but those owning one must be legal and registered.

New members should also be ready to undergo CERT training as well as other forms of emergency and disaster preparedness. More than anything else, the Minutemen are looking for people who are going to give of their time. For more information about the Michigan Minutemen, contact Hinsperger at (248) 431-8081.

Red Cross certified in first aid and CPR via training with the Pontiac Fire Department. Many of the members are working toward their first responder and National Association of Search and Rescue certifications. The mission statement of the

Minutemen is "to defend and uphold the government of the United States of America and its Constitution, protect and maintain our freedom and defend the United States of America against all enemies both foreign and domestic, to uphold the laws of the state of Michigan and to provide hometown defense and security where needed within the city of Pontiac, county of Oakland and state of Michigan."

"We met with the Pontiac police three years ago and they opened their arms," Hinsperger said.

Although 15 of the Minutemen are licensed to carry concealed weapons, they don't carry them when they're working with the police as an extra set of eyes and ears for events like Arts, Beats and Eats, Jambalaya and the Woodward Dream Cruise. They aren't there to enforce the law, they're there to support it.

Pontiac Police Capt. Wendy Keelty said the Minutemen have been a welcome addition to operations in the city.

"They're great," she said. "We've worked with people as part of citizen's watch groups but these guys are different. They're uniform, they're present and obvious. I would absolutely recommend them to other police departments."

Hinsperger said he isn't trying to create a statewide organization, since that would defeat the purpose.

"My goal is not to produce a huge platoon," he said. "My goal is to have one platoon in every community in Michigan. Because we're fighting in the Middle East, people have to start paying attention at home."

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## OUR VIEWS

# Join forces to offer grads opportunities

Today's high school graduates and the state of Michigan need each other, given current economic conditions. But each must play an active role in making a kind of symbiotic relationship productive.

Recent statistics show that while the number of jobs in Michigan has grown somewhat, so has the unemployment rate, often leading the nation in the number of people seeking jobs with an uncertain future.

What is certain, according to experts, is that the traditional assembly line and manufacturing jobs are fewer forever. The job outlook shows that new jobs will come in the technology and research sectors.

To encourage companies to locate here, Michigan must show that an appropriately skilled workforce is available to hire. That's why Gov. Jennifer Granholm is encouraging all graduates to continue their education beyond high school.

It's the right move for both the state and new graduates.

Unfortunately, after finishing 13 years of education, some graduates just want to get out, exert their independence and earn some money.

But not so fast. If they haven't done so already, graduates need to take time to consider their options. Without additional training, graduates may not be able to earn much more than someone flipping burgers.

No longer can graduates find a job readily open to them by going from high school to an auto factory. And they have to realize that the sweet pay and benefit structure of such jobs are likely to change.

The best possible option for them is to further their education. In making that decision, prospective students will come up against two factors — cost and commitment. That's where the state comes in.

Any future effort by elected officials to cut state-funded Merit Scholarships and grants must be rejected. The cost of further college education is prohibitive, and while the state must continue a substantial level of support for institutions of higher education, those institutions must also use restraint in setting their budgets — and tuition and fees.

But opportunities and options don't mean anything without a commitment by today's graduate to make staying in school job one. Which brings us to the role of parents.

Mom and dad, your job isn't over with the playing of *Pomp and Circumstance*. It's up to you to encourage your kids to continue their education. Sometimes, that may also mean your continued financial support.

For parents, graduates and the state, it all comes down to commitment — a decision to productively provide for educational opportunities, and a decision to make the most of them.

# Merit Award increase, delay make sense

Half the students who start college never complete it. There may be as many reasons as there are individuals. But a lack of money and/or motivation are certainly among them.

That's why Gov. Granholm's plan to delay but also increase the Merit Scholarship makes sense.

Currently, students who do well on MEAP tests in high school receive \$2,500 from the state for college tuition, split into two payments of \$1,250 each over two years.

The scholarships give individuals and families a jump on paying those costly college bills, allowing them to save up a little for their junior and senior years.

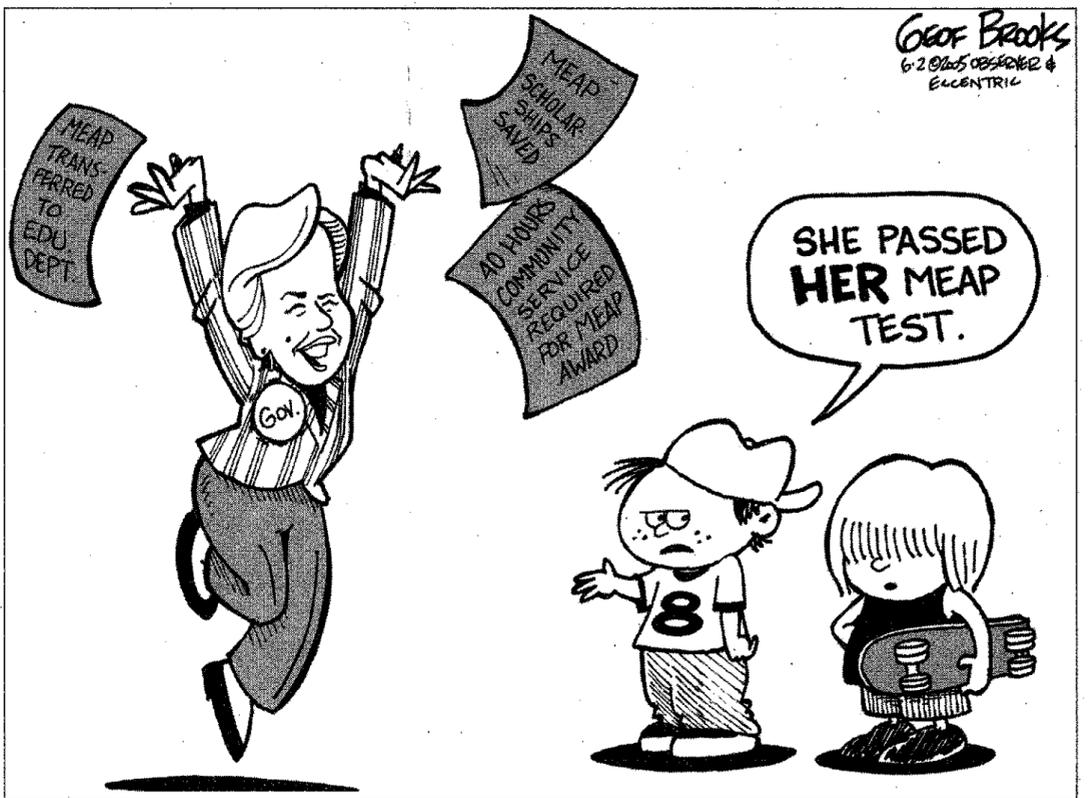
But the money is wasted on students who drop out after a few semesters.

College isn't for everyone. Some students have every intention of earning a degree when they start school, but they soon discover they'd rather apprentice in a trade, start making money right away or travel the world before getting tied down.

Granholm's plan would increase the Merit Scholarship to \$4,000, but delay it until a student has earned an associate's degree from a Michigan community college, achieved junior standing at a four-year Michigan college or university or completed an equivalent technical or career training program. Qualifying students must enroll in a post-secondary education within two years of graduating high school and reach the "two-year" milestone within four years. Military service would not be counted against those requirements.

Instead of passing the MEAP, students would be required to take a college entrance exam.

There's no sense in the state paying for students to take just a couple of college classes. It doesn't help the students land a high-paying job — and it doesn't help Michigan prepare its workforce for a changing economy in this new century.



## LETTERS

### Theft was heartless

Hello, this letter has nothing to do with politics or concerns that I have with the city. I'm writing this letter to express my feelings to the heartless, selfish person who stole my little boy's scooter.

Let me give you a quick rundown of my son. His name is Brian. He will be 9 years old the first week of June. He was diagnosed at age 4 of a brain tumor. He went through six weeks of radiation and 1 1/2 years of chemotherapy which affected his hearing (he has to wear hearing aids in both ears!), his sight (he has to wear glasses now!) and his balance, so needless to say he is unable to ride a "regular" bike.

So he's not the "average" 9-year-old boy, but he's very well-liked by all the kids on our street. Brian loves all the kids as well. He's a very sweet kid, so it really stinks that some bad apple does something like that to him. So I hope you enjoy the scooter, the thing is, all you had to do is ask if you wanted to use it. Brian would have let you, he's just that kind of kid. He's got a heart the size of Texas!

Kelly Warzocha  
Westland

### Students know their history

On May 26, I had the opportunity to speak to the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders at the Edison Elementary School in Westland. It was my pleasure to share some of my knowledge of the history of Westland with these young scholars.

Following my talk, there was a brief question and answer period. I was very impressed with the length and depth of the questions from these young minds. Several of their questions centered around the book my wife, Sherry, and I wrote last year. The book, entitled *Westland*, is one book in the Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series.

I am grateful to the principal, Barbara Hastings, and the staff at the Edison Elementary School for giving me that opportunity. This opportunity came about because of a third-grader at Edison, Jacob Beaudoin. In November 2004, Jacob and his grandfather attended a lecture I gave at the Wayne Public Library. Following the talk, my wife and I took time to sign copies of our book. Jacob's grandfather purchased a copy and we signed it to Jacob.

Jacob brought the book to school and showed it to his teacher and classmates. That led to my opportunity to speak to the students at Edison Elementary School. Thank you, Jacob!

Daryl A. Bailey  
local historian and author

### Illegals hurt state

Allowing illegal immigrants to enter our country is causing a perversion of our representative democracy, which directly hurts Michigan.

How is that so? Because, amazingly, illegal immigrants are counted right along with legal inhabitants at each national census. That census, the last one being in 2000, determines the number of congressional representatives each state is apportioned for the following 10 years.

As a result, the millions of illegals living in California and Texas gave California three additional representatives it otherwise would not have been given after the 2000 census, and after the 1990 census gave California two additional representatives and Texas one.

Since the number of representatives in Congress is fixed at 435, the representatives that California and Texas gained were seized from other states. Michigan was one of the victims.

Michigan now has only 15 representatives; in 1980 we had 18 representatives. California now has 53 representatives and Texas 32 — huge blocks of congressional power. Allowing states to gain power in congress on the basis of illegals makes a perversion of our representative democracy.

Loss of representation hurts Michigan in reversing the loss of good jobs, getting a fairer share of funds to maintain and improve our highways, protecting the water of our Great Lakes, etc.

If the Southern border isn't made fully secure by citizens contacting their representatives, senators and president to insist and keep insisting that they be 100 percent proactive against illegal immigration, then perversion caused by illegals will get worse and Michigan will be further weakened.

Our senators are Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow. Contact them to help our state and ourselves.

Herbert D. Sherbin  
Farmington Hills

### Bush accountable

There should, indeed, be some way to hold President Bush accountable for his many lies which have caused death and destruction for so many. He lied to the American people to get us into Iraq and about how long we would have to be there, and has now changed his "motto" to a war against terrorism in order to keep fear in our citizens. Anyone should know that a fearful people are the easiest to lead.

Which is worse, to lie about your personal sex life (Clinton), or to lie about the reason to send our sons and daughters to the slaughter? Bush never had to face enemy fire nor had to send any sons to war, and I don't see his daughters offering their patriotic services in any way.

Bush is doing his best to make our democracy into a theocracy and still I have yet to see him do even one single thing according to the teachings of Jesus. He claims to have a mandate from God to do as he pleases and is leading our country into a dictatorship. All empires of the past have eventually fallen. Is the U.S. of Jesus next?

What Bush should really be worrying about is China. But he is too concerned about not letting down his corporate buddies who are making billions off China's cheap labor. He can't see the future while looking through the dollar bills. Bush — beware!

Genevieve Herman  
Farmington Hills

### Need fair judges

Results of recent polls show the popularity of President Bush at an all-time low. Yet, the push for his policies and nominations

are escalating. Doesn't his disapproval rating tell our representatives in Washington anything? Apparently mainstream America believes the courts should do what they were designed to do. Bush and Congress should stay in their own yards.

Over 95 percent of the judges President Bush nominated were approved, demonstrating how untrue accusations by the ultra-conservatives are, that the liberals aren't playing fair, because they will not approve 5 percent of the judges originally nominated. Even if Bush really did have a mandate, does this mean he should get 100 percent of all his appointments and policies? This sounds more like dictatorship than democracy.

I urge all Americans, before we lose any more of our rights, to tell Congress to protect the filibuster. Allow the Senate to debate controversial issues. How else can democracy work?

Carolyn Maxwell  
Plymouth

### Race politics must stop

Detroit had problems long before Engler, Limbaugh or Kilpatrick arrived on the scene. Electing political leaders that take advantage of race differences must stop. Cross-district busing destroyed our school system and endangered our children when we lived in the racially mixed Marygrove area. HUD moved criminal elements into formerly unlocked homes and no one was safe anymore. Property values dropped faster than suburban prices increased. We remained until 1964, but the first to flee suffered the least.

Coleman Young was elected to end STRESS, the police decoy program that happened to capture mostly blacks. Crack addict Malice Green became a hero and the white police officers enforcing the law went to prison. A smart cop will look away because criminals are often untouchable.

Industry hesitates to move into a city that taxes even the incomes of employees living elsewhere, and preferential hiring and "living wages" discourage the likelihood of making a profit. Government does not create jobs, but it certainly destroys them.

Hank Borgman  
Farmington

## SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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

## QUOTABLE

**"It's a huge change. The Westland shelter was functional but not adequate and now we have this amazing addition to our resources and our ability to meet the needs of the animals."**

— Michelle Goff, president of the Michigan Humane Society's Board of Directors, about the new Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland

# Today's UAW leadership is 'hiding under a mushroom'

Monday was Memorial Day, a holiday now rightly devoted to the remembrance of things past.

Originally designated to honor those who died serving our country, the holiday has taken on broader meaning. These days, it is right and fitting to take this occasion to recall friends and family from all walks of life who are no longer with us. Like many other families, my wife Kathy and I marked the day by planting flowers (bright red geraniums in our case) in front of the black granite gravestones on our family plot in the cemetery.

My musings about the meaning of Memorial Day were nourished by a lunch I had last week with a friend of more than 40 years who — until retirement — held a high position in Michigan's labor movement.

We got together to discuss their planned move to Florida, where the warm and humid weather is supposed to help rheumatism. But our conversation quickly shifted to what we saw ahead for our state.

We agreed the Michigan of the future would almost certainly not be like the Michigan in which we grew up. We concluded that our auto industry is in crisis, now that global markets are no longer dominated by the Detroit-based "Big Three." We wondered whether General Motors and Ford would survive, fall into bankruptcy or be sold, as Chrysler was, to a foreign company.

We agreed the auto parts supply chain that has employed so many people was also in trouble. And we concluded that the management of companies in the industry and the leadership of the United Auto Workers union were "hiding under a mushroom," as my friend put it.

"If you were running the UAW these days, what would you do?" I asked.

"I would do everything I could to help the domestic auto industry," was the response. "I'd eliminate all those job classifications. I'd drastically reduce work rules. I wouldn't touch health care, but I'd take the money now being wasted in all those training programs and redirect it into health care. ... I'd freeze wages, at least until the companies turned profitable.

"And I'd demand a seat at the table while management considers plans and strategies for the business. For GM to spend all that money on first buying a part of Fiat and then dump more money down the drain to get out of the deal is just criminal. And people in the plants are sore.

"I admit this would make a lot of people mad, but we've got to face reality that either the auto companies are going to survive or a whole lot of people are going to be out of work and even more retirees are going to get their pensions and health

**The Michigan we grew up in no longer exists. The Detroit that was a thriving city when we were starting our careers has now lost half its population and is teetering on the edge of receivership.**

care cut drastically."

Whew! Strong stuff from a labor leader who has for years been militant, but at the same time realistic and practical.

My friend is right, of course. The Michigan we grew up in no longer exists. The Detroit that was a thriving city when we were starting our careers has now lost half its population and is teetering on the edge of receivership.

The hundreds of little tool-and-die shops that used to populate southern Oakland County are now broke or out of business, and the parts supply companies that made good livings for so many are in what could be terminal trouble. The unions of the AFL-CIO, once united, are now threatening to break up the labor movement. And our politics, once driven largely by labor and the Big Three, are now fragmented beyond recognition.

When former Secretary of Defense Charlie Wilson said, "What's good for General Motors is good for the country, and vice-versa," he wasn't just making a political statement. He was setting out a business model that worked in Michigan for decades. But that model is broken today. The men who built it are either dead or retiring.

As we finished our lunch, my friend and I agreed on one reason so many people are so anxious on this Memorial Day holiday. It's not at all clear what business model makes sense for Michigan today.

Worse, I'm beginning to think that the traditional places we look to for answers — our great corporations and labor unions and the politicians — are the places least likely to come up with any sensible ones. They are all imprisoned in iron boxes, so hemmed in by demands from their constituencies they are scared to offer far-reaching solutions.

And I couldn't help reflect that while my old friend and I could talk intelligently about what the union should do to help the auto industry, there was something poignant about the occasion. For it was a conversation that took place just before the retired leader was abandoning our state for Florida. How symbolic of the situation in which we find ourselves!

Phil Power is chairman of HCN, Inc. and a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

# Firms find narrow self-interest trumps community, citizenship

Not long ago, a labor-business coalition asked President George W. Bush to intervene in a situation where China was manipulating its currency in order that its exports to the United States would be cheap and our exports to China would be expensive. The president of the United States declined, indicating that by doing so, he would be an economic isolationist.

Let me see if I've got this right. On the one hand, it is wrong to intercede in a global economy where Americans are competing against miserly wages and currency manipulation that, ultimately, harms our standard of living. On the other hand, it is in our national interest to economically support a brutal Communist dictatorship that we once thought was worth going to war with. Welcome to the religion of free trade, where "protectionism" is the refuge of the devil.



Al Churchill

Forgotten is America's rich and enthusiastic tradition of protecting its industries and citizens from cheaper foreign competition. Without protection, it is unlikely that early colonial manufacturers would have survived competition from cheaper European goods.

Indeed, the very first piece of legislation signed by George Washington was the Tariff Act of 1789 on July 4 of that year. The father of 70 years of protectionism, Abraham Lincoln once said, "Give us a protective tariff and we shall have the greatest country on earth." Teddy Roosevelt once called free trade a "pernicious doctrine." Both acted accordingly. More recently, import duties were attached to steel, machine tools, computer chips, Japanese cars and motorcycles in order to save American jobs and industries.

So, what's going on here? What has changed? Historically, American industry has espoused a governmental "hands off" policy. At the same time, robber barons were carrying suitcases full of money to politicians. Contract, patent, and copyright law, along with laws that placed labor at a disadvantage, gave succor to businesses. Later, huge public investments in education and infrastructure allowed Henry Ford's genius to blossom and Michigan prospered. Currently, the lobbyists of K Street roam the halls of Congress, stuffing laws with tax breaks, subsidies and special provisions favorable to the business community. "Protectionism" has many forms.

Early in our history, American shopkeepers, craftsmen and population, generally, supported "protectionism" simply because the nation ben-

efited from doing so. The quality of American life that we presently experience is directly related to the fact that they did. However, American citizens today are tied to the land of their birth while capital is mobile. As a result, corporations that are shy when practicing citizenship, outsource American jobs to China, India and other foreign locations. In the process, America is being seriously bloodied.

Ask your neighbors who work at Ford's Wixom Assembly Plant what they think of the current brand of "free trade." After 40 years of building Lincolns and receiving recognition as the third best assembly plant in North America by a recent J.D. Power quality study, they have been notified that the assembly of a new Lincoln Zephyr has been outsourced to Mexico.

So, what has been the response of the movers and shakers? Get smarter they say. Go to college. Get a degree. Attach our universities to commercial research and development and then pray that the corporations involved don't send production to China or India. Bribe businesses to locate in Michigan. Low skill jobs are passé.

Well, three million manufacturing jobs have been lost in this country since 2000. Inasmuch as our educational system has been the envy of the world, does anyone really think that the people employed in those jobs lost them because they're dummies? No, they lost them because people in India are willing to work for \$100 a month. They lost them because people in Mexico, China and soon Central America will work for money that is below our minimum wage. The possession of 19 Ph.D.s is of no help against \$100 a month. And the smothering proliferation of, however valid, "get smarter" ideas stifle recognizing the source of the problem.

Those "low skill" jobs were lost to trade and favored nation policy aggressively promoted by major corporations and politicians of both political parties that were and are quite willing to leave American workers unprotected. It was called NAFTA and now we will have CAFTA, with more American jobs lost when American corporations resettle in Central America and import products from there that once were American made. There goes our textile industry and the few family farms left.

As we, rightly, compete internationally, corporations find social responsibility and loyalty to the flag that nurtured them to be a disturbing public relations exercise. Narrow self-interest, manifested in the availability of cheap labor, now trumps the virtues of community and citizenship. As in the first Gilded Age, the few gain at the expense of the many.

Who speaks for America?  
Al Churchill is a Livonia resident.

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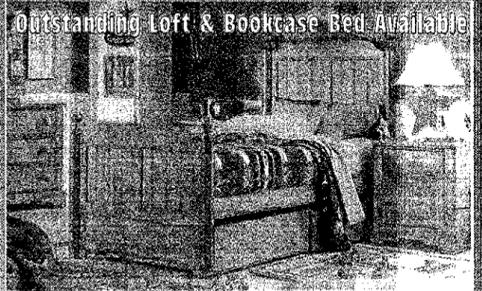
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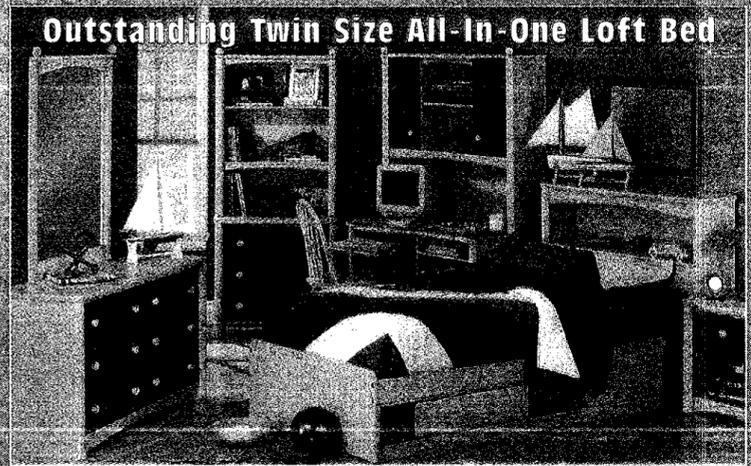
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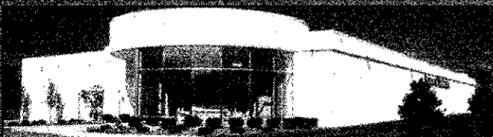
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