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A SUMMER MOVIE GUIDE

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No primary needed for mayor, council races

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland voters won't have a primary election for mayoral and city council races.
Not enough candidates beat Tuesday's filing deadline to force an Aug. 2 primary, City Clerk Eileen DeHart said.
Even so, Westland voters still will have a primary election but only to help decide whether to renew a

Wayne County parks millage. As the filing deadline passed, incumbent Mayor Sandra Cicirelli was facing a challenge by city government watcher Elenor Swistak. Cicirelli will be seeking her second two-year term. Swistak will be making her first mayoral bid.
The candidates will square off in the Nov. 1 general election. Voters would have had a mayoral primary if three or more candidates had entered the race.

All four council incumbents whose terms are ending filed to seek reelection and four challengers also have entered the race.
Incumbents Cheryl Graunstadt, Michael Kehrer, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlmyer will be seeking new terms.
Other council hopefuls include Westland Planning Commission member Normie Brazier, Westland Chamber of Commerce President Lori Brist, city government watcher

James Davis and former Mayor Robert Thomas.
Voters would have had a council primary if just one more candidate had entered the race. Candidates will have until Friday afternoon to officially withdraw from the race.
The winner of the mayoral race will receive a four-year term. The top three vote-getters in the council primary will get four-year terms; the fourth-place finisher, a two-year term. DeHart and her staff will oversee a

primary due to the Wayne County parks millage. With no city races, however, DeHart said the county is supposed to reimburse the city for the election.
"The good news for Westland residents is that the county will have to reimburse us for the costs," she said.
DeHart estimated that the primary will cost \$25,000 to \$30,000. "It's not going to be cheap for the county."
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Jennifer Smith and Dana Somerset of Harrison Township wear 'Wings Of Angels' this past weekend at the Relay for Life in Westland.

PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cancer fighters brave storm for cause

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Organizers of this year's Relay for Life in Westland are thrilled with the event, even if it did rain on their parade.
The American Cancer Society fundraiser, held last Saturday and Sunday in Central City Park, raised just over \$100,000, surpassing the \$92,292 goal. Money continues to come in, said Megan Holt, community development director for the ACS.
"It was fantastic," Holt said of the 24-hour event, which included a survivors' walk Saturday afternoon. Passing the six-figure mark in this the fifth year for the Westland event was a milestone. Last year, \$83,000 was raised in the event in which walkers walk continuously on the park track, including overnight.
"We just had a lot of strong teams, some really dedicated fund-raisers and dedicated volunteers," said Holt, who praised co-chairs Pam Shaw and Lynette Hobyak and their committee. There were 26 teams in this year's event.
"Ecstatic," Shaw said of her reaction to the event. "I get goosebumps just thinking about it. The committee did an incredible job."



Annette Stutrud of Plymouth, James Gilbert of Westland and Sue Dodson of Canton are on the Relay for Life track. Dodson, in the wheelchair, is a cancer survivor.

She and Hobyak are sisters who took on chairing the event after losing their mother to cancer.
"That's why we put such passion into trying to make it a success," Shaw said. She praised the committee, team mem-

bers who participated and the Westland people who supported the event.
Heavy rain struck Saturday and may have cut public attendance but not the enthusiasm of participants. "Our teams stuck it out and kept on walking," Holt said. "We're troupeurs."
"All of our entertainment was still on," she added. "People were still walking and had a good time."
Mark Wolnowski did a great job heading up the entertainment, which included a number of live bands, said Shaw.
Working in a large tent selling food, Shaw said she used the inclement weather to benefit the fund-raiser telling people they needed full plates or had to go outside in the rain.
"The whole point was to raise money," Shaw said with a laugh.
The rain held off Saturday night when luminaries were lit in honor and memory of loved ones impacted by cancer. Money raised in this and other Relay events goes for research, education, advocacy and service for cancer patients, their loved ones and the public. Shaw is pleased that corporate sponsorships were up this year, too, adding that early planning helped to make the event such a success. Westland cable material on the event helped to get the word out, she said.
The event will be held next year in Westland, Holt said, with the date to be announced.
"We can do even better," vowed Shaw.
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Accident injuries fatal to woman, 82

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

An 82-year-old Westland woman has died from injuries she received when she was struck by a car driven by an 88-year-old Livonia man.
Josephine Gregory, who suffered multiple injuries, died Saturday at the University of Michigan Hospital - nine days after she was hit in the Meijer parking lot at Newburgh and Warren.
The driver is facing possible criminal charges. Police said he lost control of his car while backing out of a parking space.
Mrs. Gregory's daughter, Anita Gillman of Long Island, N.Y., remembered her mother as a community volunteer and political activist who was loved by her friends at the senior citizen Friendship Center.
"She made cancer pads for cancer patients, and she clipped coupons to send overseas to the wives of servicemen," Gillman said. "She was there when anybody needed her - even her neighbors."
Gillman recalled how her mother was politically active in Westland. She worked in campaigns such as those of 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos.
"My mother was very active in the city," Gillman said. "Anytime there was a political affair, she was involved. She went to all the political dinners."
"She loved the slot machines at the casinos, too," Gillman recalled. "And she loved to come out to New York and spend time with me and (husband) Steven."
A Pennsylvania native, Mrs. Gregory met her late hus-

PLEASE SEE FATAL, A6

District maintains program by tapping into reserve funds

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district will spend more money than it takes in during fiscal 2005-06 to continue offering students a full educational program.
The school board Monday evening approved the district's new budget which anticipates revenues of \$113.07 million, about the same as last year, and expenditures of \$118.6 million. The \$5.5 million shortfall will be made up from the district's reserves, taking the fund down to \$10.6 million.
Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for business, said the district could be in the position of having to borrow money next year, if the state continues to underfund education.
"That's what the state did when it had a \$1 billion balance," Martin said. "It ran the rainy day fund dry and now

PLEASE SEE FUNDS, A6

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Coming Sunday
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Hot shoes that sizzle

Land swap could give district building sites

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public School students interested in taking the Home Construction course at the district's Career Technical Center are running out of lots on which to build.

The class, open to seniors who have completed all of the Building Trades prerequisites, allows students to construct a home with contractors from the ground up. Houses are sold on the open market, and the money raised goes back into the program.

"We currently have one lot remaining for construction," said David Watson, director of operations. "We would need to go out and purchase some lots."

A local developer may provide another option for the district. Livonia Public Schools is considering trading part of the landlocked property north of the career center in exchange for five lots within the subdivision that would be established on that land.

"We would give up over 3 acres in exchange for five buildable lots," Watson said. At one home per year, this arrangement would ensure at least an additional five years of home building for students in the course.

While the deal is still in its early stages, Watson sought direction from the school board to have the property appraised.

"We don't have any particular use for that (property)," said Randy Liepa, superintendent. "There would be a process the developer would have to go through."

The process would include rezoning part of the property for residential use, gaining approval from the city's Zoning Board, Planning Commission and finally, City Council. At each stage, public hearings would be held.

Watson said he anticipates that residents who live on the border of that property will want the district to maintain the wooded area as it is, rather than sell it to a developer. He estimated about six homes on the west side of the property would be impacted by the proposed project.

"They won't have an open field behind them," he said.

Should the plans go through, the district-owned lots would be built one a year. For Livonia Public Schools, he said, the arrangement could be "perfect."

Principal Janet Haas also thought the plan could prove beneficial for the Career

The board has taken no formal action, but expects to discuss the matter in the future.

Technical Center. "We're happy with any land for development," she said. In the past, students have built on nearby property along Stonehouse, Newburgh and Joy roads.

Watson said it is becoming increasingly difficult to find lots on which to build about 1,700-square-foot ranch houses, the size and style of construction that can be completed by the students over the course of a school year.

Harry Jachym, who teaches the course, said he's happy to use any land the district can find, though lots this close to the school would make it much easier on his students and eliminate travel time to a job site.

"Any time we can get bordering land, we're happy," he said.

Jachym has 16 students enrolled in the Home Construction course currently. "They get the skills in construction," he said. "We do see a maturity in the students. They really develop a lot of teamwork. When they walk out of here, they know what it is like to get their hands dirty."

Jachym, who has been teaching the course for 10 years, said there are only about 130 similar programs offered throughout the state of Michigan.

"That is a nice location for the career center," said Joanne Morgan, board member.

Trustee Dan Lessard called it "a marvelous opportunity for us." Should the deal become a reality, a developer would be responsible for establishing the road and all utility lines.

"It will be all there just for us to connect to," said Watson.

Of the 3 acres, Trustee Rob Freeman estimated the district would receive about 1 acre back in trade.

Watson assured the board that any agreement would require board approval, and be contingent upon the developer obtaining all of the necessary approvals needed from the city of Livonia.

he board has taken no formal action, but expects to discuss the matter in the future.

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American Legion Riders co-founders Bill Kaledas (left) of Garden City and Chuck Dare of Texas line up to begin the group's presentation of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day weekend.

Legion Riders lay wreath at Tomb of Unknowns

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

As part of Memorial Day weekend observances, the American Legion Riders were chosen to present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

"It was actually very emotional, especially right at the end as *Taps* was played," said Bill Kaledas, co-founder of the American Legion Riders and national director. "It's something I'll never forget. I never expected to do it."

Kaledas joined co-founder Chuck Dare in placing the wreath with an escort that included Terry Woodburn, Illinois Department Adjutant, and Wisconsin Riders Director Roy Helms.

The American Legion Riders were selected to present the wreath last fall in response to letters to Arlington and the Department of the Army from Kaledas' wife Diane.

There were about 90 motorcycles in the procession

to Arlington with about 400 people present for the ceremony.

The four American Legion Riders were led to the Tomb of the Unknowns by a guard. After the wreath was placed, the guards were given the orders to "present arms" and *Taps* was played by a bugler from the Department of the Army.

"It was a great honor for the American Legion Riders to be able to perform this ceremony in front of our nation's most sacred monument," said Kaledas, a Garden City councilman who goes to Washington, D.C., each Memorial Day weekend as part of Rolling Thunder to remember POW-MIAs.

Formed at Garden City American Legion Post 396 by Kaledas and Dare in 1993, the American Legion Riders has grown to 318 Post-sponsored chapters in 43 States with a membership of more than 14,000.

"Even when we formed the American Legion Riders, I never thought it would get



Members of the Legion Riders stand at attention, waiting to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

this big," said Kaledas. "The nice thing is there are groups all over the country providing service to the community and to our veterans through the American Legion."

The idea has now spread beyond the United States with the formation of the Royal British Legion Riders

and also in Canada with the Royal Canadian Legion Riders.

More information on the American Legion Riders can be found on their Web site at <http://www.americanlegionriders.net/>

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Music, technology in mix in new businesses

SOUND OF STRINGS

Downtown Plymouth residents heard it coming.

This past weekend marked the grand opening of a new instrumental music store in Old Village, complete with live performances. Blue Fish Music has opened its doors and specializes in string instruments.

Owner Paul Murphy said his store will offer more than competitors who "cater to musicians, but fail to understand the guitar/music culture."

Expect the unexpected from Blue Fish Music, as the store carries a varied selection of instruments, including some from England and Ireland. Murphy keeps up on current equipment by trying out various brands and reading trade publications.

In addition to instruments, Blue Fish offers beginning to advanced level courses in guitar, bass and mandolin.

Seven instructors cover varied genres, including classical, jazz, rock and country. Most instructors hold master's degrees in guitar performance.

"They're trained to be teachers," said Murphy. "It's not just



something they do when they're not gigging. They take it pretty seriously."

Instrument repair is also offered.

Blue Fish Music is located at 744 Starkweather in Plymouth. Call (734) 927-0675 for more information.

COMPUTER SPEAK

Albert Betzler started his own business - Albiecomp Onsite Computer Repair - after gaining more than 10 years of experience in the industry as a computer technician.

His new, Redford-based business offers a variety of services, including building custom computers, installing and upgrading hardware and software, repairs, removal of spyware and viruses, general maintenance and diagnostics, and creating home networks.

"We do everything onsite," said Betzler. "There is no need for the customer to call a help desk, wait for a long time, only to get a 50 percent resolution rate. Nor do they have to go through the hassle of dismantling their computer, dragging it to a store, and waiting, in some instances for 2-3 weeks to get it back."

"We come right to the house and, in most instances, take care of everything right there."

According to Betzler, the company also strives to "give the best customer service and technical expertise we can at affordable prices."

The cost for Albiecomp's services is a \$120 flat fee which includes a home visit and up to two computer problems. Anything more costs an additional \$60 to diagnose and repair, regardless of how long it takes to complete.

I have seen some places that charge \$120/hour or will charge a dispatch fee," said Betzler. "We like to remove what I call hourly fee anxiety. People know before we come over exactly how much it's going to cost. We have found

that people really seem to like this."

Small business owners can call Albiecomp on a per-incident basis, or purchase a package including monthly visits in which technicians run diagnostics on the machines. Prices range from \$100-\$500 and up, depending upon the number of computers.

"We also give unlimited technical support so if you use this plan and something happens between maintenance cycles we will come out and fix it for free," said Betzler.

Albiecomp currently serves the following communities: Redford, Livonia, Plymouth, Westland, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi and Northville.

Albiecomp technicians are available 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call (313) 534-0805 or send e-mail to albiecomp@sbglobal.net.

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

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4 generations step to same beat

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Debbie Felton has taught students of all ages at her local dance studio. But this year, four generations of a single family came to study at Debbie Felton's Academy of Dance in Livonia.

And they'll all strut on stage this weekend for an end-of-the-year recital. It all began when Westland resident Beth Patton convinced her mother, Katherine Goltra of Farmington, to join her in a tap class.

Then this year, Patton's daughter Jillian Toth of Westland joined the class and enrolled her own daughter, Bailey Crouson, age 3, in ballet at the school. "It's so much fun," said Goltra.

They all agreed it was a great activity to share, as an art form and form of exercise. On Saturday, June 18, the tap dancers and their little blonde ballerina will be part of a Music Legends recital at Clarenceville High School's Auditorium. Showtimes are 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Goltra, Patton and Toth will be dancing to a traditional tap song called *The Voice* by Al Gilbert. While Bailey will dance to the standard *Thank Heaven for Little Girls*.

Janet Coppola, manager at the dance studio, said preparing for the recital is a year-round job. No sooner is the show over than Coppola and Felton are brainstorming ideas for next year's theme, music and costumes.

Coppola said the classes boost self-esteem, confidence and coordination for those who take them. "They learn teamwork," she added.

Currently 224 students are enrolled in a



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katherine Goltra of Farmington, (left) and Westland's Beth Patton, Jillian Toth and Bailey Crouson, 3, are four generations of a family of dancers performing this weekend in a recital for Debbie Felton's Academy of Dance in Livonia.

combination of 400 classes at the dance school.

And for dancers, like Goltra, Patton and Toth, practice never ends. They even get together to practice on their own.

"It's just fun," said Toth, whose toying with the idea of taking ballet class, like her daughter does.

Felton said all four generations will share the stage during the finale, when all of the performances are done and the

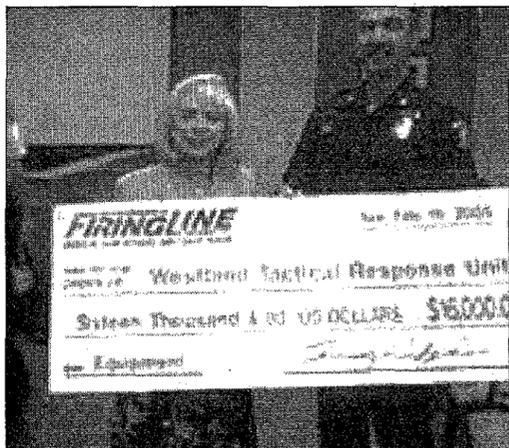
dancers take their final bow.

After 35 weeks of practice, the women took their last class on Tuesday, followed by a dress rehearsal for the main event.

Patton said they miss having class during the summer months. "It seems like there's something missing," she said.

They have already enrolled for the coming year.

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Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and Police Chief Daniel Pfannes hold a huge replica of a check that a local gun shop, The Firing Line, gave to the Westland Police Department.

Firing up raises money for police department

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Where there's smoke, there's money.

A cigar fest sponsored by Firing Line - an indoor gun range and shop - recently raised \$16,000 for the Westland Police Department.

The money will buy equipment for the department's tactical response unit, which uses gas masks, goggles, helmets, weapons and other supplies while resolving such situations as barricaded gunmen.

The Firing Line - off of Hix Road south of Warren - sponsored the cigar fest for a third year, bringing to \$45,000 the total amount raised for the police department.

"This is something that I am so proud to be a part of," Police Chief Daniel Pfannes said.

The Firing Line, owned by

retired and current police employees, charged \$50 a ticket and provided patrons with premium cigars, a full meal, raffle prizes and entertainment ranging from a live band to a comedian.

The latest cigar fest was held at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

The event has become so popular, Pfannes said, that officials from some other organizations have indicated an interest in sponsoring similar events.

The event gives The Firing Line owners an opportunity to give back to a department that has been their livelihood.

"We're all cops that own this place," Sgt. Ron Kroll said. "We just wanted to give back to the department, just to help them out to get the equipment they need that the city can't give them."

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Happy Father's Day to all dads! Fatherhood and parenting can make for a great story, especially if you happen to be a celebrity or have a celebrity for a child. Few people can write a really intimate biography better than someone writing about his or her own father.

There are so many examples of this - some with a negative, "exposé" theme, such as the book about Bing Crosby by his son Gary called *Going My Own Way*, and others that are simply good biographies written by family members.

Stephen Humphrey Bogart wrote a book about his father entitled: *Bogart: In Search of My Father*. This book is written as a string of tales about Bogart as told by some of his old friends, although there is an element of the son trying to resolve his anger and misunderstanding of his father.

It may be difficult to find a really positive famous father biography, but at least they are usually honest and reveal a side of the star that no one else has seen.

Nancy Sinatra wrote about her life with her father Frank in 1995, called

Frank Sinatra: An American Legend. More recently, Daughter Tina Sinatra published a book on her father in 2000 called, *My Father's Daughter: A Memoir*.

Speaking of the Rat Pack, in 2004 Deana Martin published a book called *Memories Are Made of This* about her father Dean. It's a great example of how only a family member can reveal the private nature of a person. In reality, Dean Martin was not a heavy drinking womanizer, but was actually a beloved husband and father who loved just to be at home.

For some other interesting biographies try looking at the sections on the Bush and Kennedy families. Several members of each family have written memoirs on being raised in the public eye. A few other fathers that may be overlooked but have famous sons are the fathers of Brett Favre and Peyton Manning. In both cases, the son was strongly influenced in sports by his father. **The William P. Faust Public Library** is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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<p>All Natural No Cholesterol</p> <p>Joe's White Corn Tortilla Chips 2/\$4.00</p>	<p>Great with Joe's Salsa</p> <p>Joe's Salsa All Flavors 2/\$6.00 <small>15 oz. Jar</small></p>	<p>Great with Joe's Salsa</p> <p>Joe's Organic Blue Corn Tortilla Chips 2/\$5.00</p>
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Named to the honor roll for the fifth marking period of the 2004-2005 school year at John Glenn High School were:

Jessica Abner, Ashley Acosta, Kyle Acuna, Ryan Acuna, Curtis Adams, Asia Agnew, Hammed Ajerunmobi, Nicholas Ajourou, Latasha Albert, Ryan Albright, Shaun Alderton, Nazjel Alexander, Ourat Ali, Jamie Allen, Lemaritte Allen, Maria Allen, Darnell Alleyne, Eric Arakelian, Jeremy Armstrong, Robin Arno, Borislav Atansov, Jeremiah Austin, Tia Authie, Lashawnda Austry, Victoria Awosika, Anita Azeta, Jesse Backman, Sean Barone, Linda Barrett, Rebecca Barrett, Eric Barry, Shannon Barton, Andrew Bartrum, Dominique Battle, Jacob Bee, Melissa Begarowicz, Caitlin Belisle, Navjot Benipal, Bridget Berg, Ashley Bess, Kevin Bessinger, Gregory Bevel, Stephanie Beveridge, Lindsay Bies, Jessica Biglow.

Brandon Bise, Chelsea Blake, Alexis Bland, Kathleen Blight, Joseph Blouse, Brittany Bojanic, Elizabeth Bomya, April Borda, Jennifer Boris, Carson Boron, Zachary Borromeo, Kaylyn Bothell, Nathan Bou, Alisha Boucher, Toni Bourcier, Natalie Bower, Nicole Bower, Sarah Bowers, Jaret Bozigan, Michael Bradshaw, James Brancheau, Alexandra Brandt, Melissa Braunstein, Marshae Brazier, Jason Brendel, Emily Brennan, Stephanie Brennan, Brittany Brincat, Olivia Brooks, Mallory Brosious, Emily Brothers, Brandi Broughton, Brittany Brown, Scott Brown, Tiffany Brown, Elizabeth Brozek, Mary Bruce, Cody Bryan, Chantel Bryant, Amanda Buelow, Kaan Buluc, James Burger, Jaclyn Burgess, Jonathan Burgess, Nicole Burns.

Jessica Burton, Derrick Bush, Virginia Butler, James Byberg, Alexander Cabildo, Cristina Calbajos, Amarilda Cami, Garrett Camilleri, Scott Campenella, Amanda Campbell, Adrienne Camunag, Samantha Cannon, Ryan Carlington, Heather Caron, Lorraine Caulkins, Elijah Cavender, Orlando Carswell, Amber Rose Cassidy, Michael Caudill, Lorraine Caulkins.

Elijah Cavender, Rebecca Celeski, Jonathan Celmer, Angela Cetrone, Justin Chadwick, Jeffrey Chambers, Veronica Chambers, Shardaé Champagne, Schieffer Chapman, Brandy Chaston, James Chave, Angelica Cheeks, Situnyive Chirunga, Kayce Choate, Jamel Chokr, Gary Cingel, Anna Clark, Brandon Clark, Brent Clark, Joye Clenney, Jessica Coakney, Jacquelyn Coats, Eriona Coka, Kailey Coleman, Ryan Collings, Evan Collins.

Sarah Collins, Nicole Colon, Anthony Colosimo, Kija Colts, Amanda Colwell, Brittany Colwell, James Compton, Sarah Conley, Nereal Connally, Anya Straka-Conway, Gregory Copeland, Jonathon Copland, Jennifer Corney, Kimberly Costello, Cameron Couch, Hope Cover, Christina Cox, Rachelle Cox, Sabrina Cristofaro, Sharonda Crump, Ashley Curtidor, Gabriel Curtidor, Angela Czarniowski, Richard Curylo, Christopher Daniels, Lorenc Dashi, Jonathon Daugherty, Shantel Davenport, Brandon Davis, Christopher Davis, Megan Davis, Michelle Davis, Sara Davis, Andrew Dean, Jana Dean, Jonathan Dean, Megan Dean, Rebecca Debono, Bruce Debruhi, Andi Dede, Joslyn DeGroot, Julia DeGroot, Jessica Delaforce, Salina Delarosa, Vincent Deluca, Donald Demiri, Christopher Deron, Amy Deverich, Melanie Devieu, Brisida Dhembi, Nicole Diehl, Ermona Dino, Ashley Dobos, Chantel Doe, Amanda Doherty, Tina Donali, Justin Dorosh, Jennifer Dotson, Amber Downing, Kayla Downing, Ryan Downs, Sarah Drum, Matthew Dudash, Jessica Duncan, Shawn Dunford, Kristin Dutchak.

Jessica Dwyer, Jerin Eapen, George Easter, Jessica Easter, Justine Easter, Kathryn Eby, Amber Edens, Laura Eiben, Brandon Eldred, Joshua Eldridge, Hillary Emmons, Vernon Emmons, Heather Ennis, Ashlee Erickson, Jill Erikson, Taneisha Ervin, Mary Erwin, Michelle Erwin, David Espinoza, Matthew Espy, Marilyn Estrada, Amber Evans, Daniel Fabrey, Fiona Murphy-Fahlgren, Natasha Falkiewicz, Corey Farris, Amanda Femat, Hilary Fenton, Jonathon Fenton, Joseph Ferguson, Wilbert Fields, Aaron Figurski, Kali Fishaw, James Fisher, Kacy Fisher, Chelsie Fitt, Alicia Fitzpatrick, Julie Flacks, Collin Fleissner, Marissa Flores, Jasmine Flowers, Zina Flowers, Casandra Floyd, Tearra Forbes, Andrea Fountain.

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Amanda Gillies, Jonathan Gillis, Justin Girard, Jeffrey Girgen, Cassandra Gisel, Rowdy Glasgow, Canensha Glaze, Ashley Glenn, Love Goba, Dafina Goci, Dayna Goldstron, Ava Gomez, Freddy Gonzalez, Abigail Gordon, Jessica Grabowski, Sara Grabowski, Kevin Graham, Ryan

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FUNDS

FROM PAGE A1

they have to find a way to fill the holes."

STATE AID

The district anticipates receiving \$85.5 million from the state, reflecting the governor's proposed \$7,571 in per pupil state school aid. That's up from \$7,396 it has received the past three years.

But it does not include the additional \$50 per high school student the governor had proposed. That was stripped from the budget when district officials began hearing "rumblings" that it would not be included in the state school aid proposal, Martin said.

The district also expects to generate \$21.4 million in local non-homestead property taxes, with \$5.8 million coming from other revenue sources like the federal government.

"We have no way to generate more money," Martin said. "They (the state) control the purse strings without a doubt."

A lion's share of the money goes into the classroom. Salaries will cost \$72.9 million, up marginally from 2004-05. Benefits, however will be increased to \$32.8 million, up almost \$3 million over last year.

The district will shell out more for in retirement costs. The rate will jump to 16.34 percent, and a double digit

increase in health and benefit insurance rates is expected, but that blow will be softened by the lower health care costs the district has been able to negotiate with employee groups.

HEALTH COSTS

"Health care is the only piece we can have some control over" said Martin. "That's why we negotiated so hard with employees. We'd like to have better, but we can't afford it. Eighty-nine percent of our expenditures are salaries and benefits."

Martin also expects the cost of utilities to remain about the same as last year. The district purchases its electricity and natural gas as part of a cooperative and is able "to save pretty good money," Martin said. As in previous budgets, the district is continuing its cost containment, trimming \$4.1 million in purchased services. Purchased services and supplies will be \$12.9 million, down \$3.1 million from last year.

That's the area where the district has been able to trim expenses without cutting classroom programs and means no new school buses purchased in 2005-06.

School buses should be replaced every seven-eight years, and given the condition of the fleet which received 100 percent on its recent state inspection, Martin estimates the district can forego such purchases for a few years.

But that could set the dis-

trict up for some larger expenses down the road, he said.

"We've been in cost containment since the early 1990s, this district learned to scale back early on," he said. "We were prepared for this, but we expected to cut a couple a million a year not \$5 million."

"We're lucky we had a cushion and didn't have to do a knee jerk reaction."

The budget also includes a projected loss of 200 students, with a blended student count of 13,737 in 2005-06. The 200 students is about what the district has averaged the last few years, although 2004-05 the actual number was less than expected.

Declining enrollment also means some teacher layoffs - about 12 - according to Martin.

"We do what we can with the resources we have," said Martin. "We've not cut any programs and that should be an attractive commodity. We have a good range of housing to attract families."

Martin praised the school board for its wisdom to build up the district's reserves to more than \$20 million.

"The hits have been much worse than we ever dreamed," he said. "We were reading reports. We knew health care was going up. We anticipated a lot of stuff. We do five-year forecasts. We had a pretty good idea, but nothing like this. It's four years of disaster."

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ACHIEVERS

Detroit Phi Beta Kappa Association has announced its honors bestowed to the top graduating seniors at John Glenn High School in Westland.

Honored were Quart Ali, Alexis Bland, Jennifer Boris, Melissa Braunstein, Emily Brennan, Situnyiew Chirunga, Jacquelyn Coats, Anthony Colosimo, Amanda Colwell, Andrew Dean, Joslyn DeGroot, Laura Eiben, Tearra Forbes, Rachael German, Jessica Grabowski, Whitney Graham, Andrew Haarer, Robert Haarer, Kimberly Hagelthorn, Angela Hastings, Steven Holden, Sheryl Jacobs, Heather Kobylarek, Shannon Krushlin, Jessica Langley, Kristen Lewis, Kyle Maxwell, Stephanie McGuire, James Meyer, Chantal Moore, Roslyn Morris, Jeffrey Novak, Megan Palka, Sachiben Patel, Sonal Patel, Lauren Perry, Stephanie Rees, Kyle Reichert, Rachel Sienko, Ashley Sorensen, Sean Southard, Ashley Stone, Charmane Thurmand, Erik Tuttle, Bryan Van Toll, Jennifer VanderKlipp, Marika Wegiel, Renee White and Tanya Wildt.

Wayne Memorial High School seniors honored include Taylor Brooks, Amanda Dye, Nilton Gjeci, Patrick Goring, Christina Haley, Kelly Harris, Ryan Herbst, Tiffany James,

Angelina Johnson, Jason Kantner, Anthony Karasinski, Jennifer Kopacz, Sarah Maynard, Carolyn McCaffery, Michael Remington, Justin Schofield, Mark Valentin and Julie West.

Lutheran High School Westland seniors honored included Megan Bahr, Jacqueline Brewer, Kevin Brown, Monica Calhoun, Joshua Davis, Elyse Gieschen, Christina MacKenzie, Julie Macomber, Ruth Pranschke, Jaclyn Puhlman, Joy Schultz, Jennifer Timm and Christina Yancy.

Detroit Catholic Central High School seniors honored included Christopher Atkinson, Kevin Bender, Jeffrey Bowling, Timothy Breen, Alex Brinza, David Budde, Benjamin Chabala, Martin Collins, Matthew Craig, Daniel Crawford, Thomas Daigneau, Charles Drummond, Matthew Fleszar, Corey Flood, Bret Fortuna, Nicholas Foster, Daniel Gill, Andrew Gonyea, Jeffrey Grad, Michael Holda, Kevin Hughes, Gary Klump, Anthony Kudron, Michael Kurtz, Douglas Laurain, Jemius Lee, Adam Lusch, Daniel Maciolek, Hamoody Macki, Evan McLaughlin, Isaac Miller, James Musgrave, Alan Olson, Alan Omilian, Michael Palombo, Scott Pfeffer,

Dominic Piro, Craig Plonka, Sterling Price, Thomas Pugmire, Brett Quada, Alexander Romine, Zachary Roofner, Gregory Rost, Matthew Rutkowski, Anthony Sabo, Jon Smart, Joshua Smith, Christopher Szybisty, Eric Vrtis, Scott Wagner, Matthew Walters, Brett Wanamaker, Andrew Well, Garin Wind, Maxwell Working, Joseph Zatkoff and Michael Zuidema.

University of Detroit Jesuit High and Academy seniors honored included Benjamin R. Beckett, Ravi T. Bodepudi, Dane A. Caputo, Samuel N. Churukian, Joseph A. Churukian, Nicholas A. Comment, Brian C. Dempsey, John Z. Dillon, Charles H. Dorger, Evan A. Eustice, Geoffrey S. Garrett, Grant T. Griglak, Vincent M. Haddad, Aaron D. Handelsman, Alexander M. Hayner, Gregory R. Hylant, Michael A. Kesner, Szymon A. Kietlinski, Nicholas S. Kovach, Joseph C. Maccio, Patrick W. Moore, Neil G. Nandi, Martin J. Palmer, Marcus A. Parker, Andrew J. Perkowski, John B. Plonka, Kevin A. Reilly, Vincent E. Roberge, Garth J. Sabo, Joseph J. Shaheen, James T. Stanhope, Timothy E. Storch, Michael H. Van Tiem, Matthew J. Vitous, James C. Wilson, Christopher L. Wilson and Jeffrey J. Yackley.

SUMMER CAMPS

Rockers Soccer

Rockers Soccer, along with the Border Stars Professional Outdoor Team, will be conducting a summer soccer camp July 25-29 at Central City Park. Qualified instructors (professional and college players) will share their knowledge of the game.

The camps are designed for boys and girls ages 4-14 of all skill levels. Players will learn how to develop individual technique and team strategy. Each camper will receive a soccer ball, T-shirt and one free Border Star game ticket. The camp will be 1:30-4 p.m. and costs \$140 per camper - each additional family or team member will receive \$10 off the regular price. Register by July 8 at the Bailey Center or with the Rockers Soccer by phone at (734) 427-6017 or look them up on line at www.detroitrockers.net.

Dance Camp

Join Ms. Helen's Westland Dance Summer Day Camp, learning tap, jazz, hip hop, pom-pom and ballet. Youngsters will participate in three dance classes each day, swimming every day and do a craft each day. Snacks and drinks will be provided each day, but participants should bring a sack lunch. On the last day, there will be a pizza party.

The program is for ages 7-12 years. Session 1 is 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, July 12-15, preregister by July 1, and Session 2 will be 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, Aug. 9-12, preregister by July 29. Cost is \$180 per student. Enrollment is limited, and each student will receive a camp shirt. For more information, call (734) 261-3744.

Euro Soccer Camp

Learn different soccer styles from around the world in this camp which employs coaches from about 20 countries like the U.S.A., Romania, Hungary, Serbia, Italy, Greece, France, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, England.

They will teach youngsters of all ages all the various soccer styles and techniques used across the world. The will be two sessions - 9:30 a.m. - noon soccer and noon-1:00 p.m. swimming July 11-15 and 5:30-8 p.m. July 25-29. The cost is \$125 per camper per session. A coach signing up an entire team will pay \$100 per camper per session. Register at the Bailey Recreation Center.

For further information, call (248) 280-9434.

FATAL

FROM PAGE A1

band, Thomas, while he was serving there in the military.

"He was a Detroit, and he brought her here," said Gillman, in Michigan for her mother's funeral. "When my father died (of cancer in 1993), it took us awhile to get my mother active in anything again."

Mrs. Gregory and her husband moved to Westland from Inkster in 1966 - the same year Westland became a city.

According to police, Mrs.

Gregory was injured after the Livonia man's car spun counterclockwise while in reverse and struck her. The driver then hit a trash bin and struck another woman, 49, who was treated for her injuries.

The driver also struck other vehicles in the parking lot.

"My mother didn't deserve to die like she died," Gillman said. "She was in the hospital for nine days, just hanging on. She wanted to live. She will be missed very much."

The accident damaged Mrs. Gregory's brain, according to her daughter, and she also suffered multiple broken bones and internal bleeding.

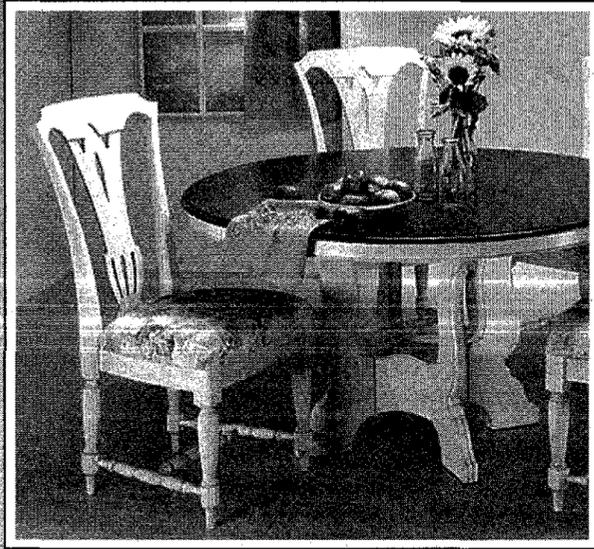
Gillman held out hope that state legislators might consider a bill to strengthen tests that drivers, particularly those who are elderly, have to undergo to continue to drive.

"Somebody, somewhere, has got to start guidelines to test people to see whether they can drive or not," she said.

Services for Mrs. Gregory were held Wednesday at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Westland. She was interred at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy - buried next to her husband and their grandson, Darren.

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- Merrilat Vanity in cherry, maple or oak
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Grant will buy sheriff's office 15 handheld computers

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office is embarking upon a mini-technological revolution in its hunt for wanted criminals. The "mini" however, refers to the size of the technology, not its considerable potential impact on the department, according to Sheriff Warren Evans.

The sheriff's office recently obtained a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice that is allowing it to purchase 15 handheld computers - Blackberry PDAs - that are programmed to let officers retrieve a rapidly growing amount of data and view it on the palm of his or her hand.

Currently, that information includes outstanding warrants, mug shots and criminal histories, but soon may include court records, prison records access to information kept by other police agencies around the state. The department is testing five of the devices and will receive the rest in the next couple of months.

Typically, a patrol officer uses a computer terminal in his or her car that has access to the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN), to run the vehicle's license plate and to check for outstanding warrants. If an officer has no LEIN terminal, he or she must radio into a dispatch center for the same limited information. The Blackberries, with their access to a greater range of data, make them a powerful tool. The Sheriff's Office, for example, maintains an ever-growing database of more than 100,000 arrest and jail photos taken by deputies and officers from other local police departments.

Evans said a recent example highlights the Blackberry's potential. During a countywide warrant sweep conducted in March, sheriff's deputies and Southgate officers waded into a room looking for a man wanted for failing to show for court on a drunken driving charge.

"When they walked into the location, the officers were looking at a room full of people." To avoid confusion or a possible mis-identification, Evans said, one officer pulled out his

Blackberry, typed in the man's name and date of birth and in seconds was staring at the man's mug shot from his original drunken driving arrest by Southgate officers. "That easily, officers picked the suspect out of the crowd and took him into custody," Evans said.

When his department receives the rest of the devices, Evans said he plans to deploy them to units where officers typically can't have a computer, such as the mounted, marine and motorcycle patrols, as well as specialty units like narcotics.

"When our officers raid a suspected drug house, there often are a lot of people inside, many of whom have warrants or may be under orders of probation to stay out of drug houses," Evans said. "With these handheld computers, we can easily verify the identity of

everyone inside the house and determine whether we need to arrest them. This technology will make our department a lot more efficient."

The new handheld computers represent the latest in a series of technological improvements Evans has instituted recently. Last year, the Sheriff's Office switched over to an all digital inmate booking system to more easily retrieve photos and data related to the more than 40,000 individuals who get booked into one of the county's three jails each year. That system has been extended to a growing number of local police departments, which now can input and retrieve records of their own. Evans also secured a grant that will allow the department to start equipping its vehicles with in-car video and new LEIN computers.



Handheld computers are helping sheriff's deputies access needed information on the go.

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OUR VIEWS

We know city is best place to be

Wow. That seems to be the appropriate response to news last week of Westland receiving a prestigious quality-of-life award for its fire-safe neighborhood program.

Westland was one of five cities nationwide with a population less than 100,000 to receive the 2005 Outstanding Achievement City Livability Award. It's nice to receive such a recognition, and it's programs like the fire-safe neighborhoods that continue to make it a great place to live.

Much of the city was developed in the 1960s and 1970s and with aging housing stock, it's a wise idea to focus on making the city's older homes safe. And that's what the fire-safe program does.

Much of the city was developed in the 1960s and 1970s and with aging housing stock, it's a wise idea to focus on making the city's older homes safe. And that's what the fire-safe program does.

Firefighters provide, install and instruct residents about such safety improvements as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and "grab" bars for the disabled. They provide a book of safety information along with a "file of life" that compiles medical information into one place to help emergency personnel.

But their work doesn't stop there. They also provide educational classes on CPR, first aid, baby sitting, swimming and bicycle safety.

Quality of life can be measured by the things a city has to offer. Westland is well-managed, has a fine recreation program, library and two of the best school districts in the metropolitan area. It has a great selection of housing available for sale and rent and a well-established business district.

We congratulate the city officials, especially Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and Fire Chief Michael Reddy, who initiated the fire-safe program, for garnering this national recognition for Westland. Now the rest of the country knows what residents have known for quite some time. Westland is the best place to be.

Want a good time, just look about you

Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam, circumspice.

Michigan cuts a handsome profile on the globe — two bold peninsulas surrounded by the deep blue waters of the Great Lakes. As our Latin motto invites us, "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you."

Summer is a particularly splendid time to live and play in Michigan. Every community seems to be in a festive mood — ready to celebrate every fruit and vegetable harvested in the state's rich soil, the diversity of musical and visual arts or just the human history that has made Michigan a special place.

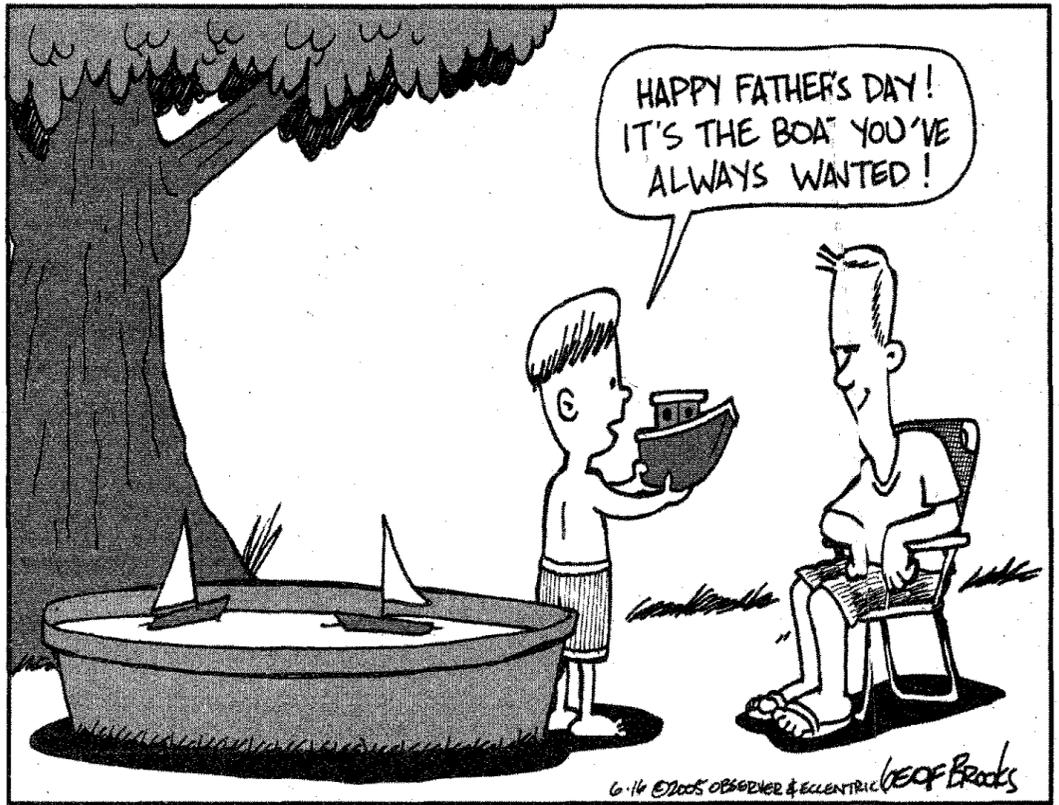
Locally, the summer festival season is about to crank into full gear. It's a great time to join friends and neighbors for a brat and a beer, a pancake breakfast, a ride on the Tilt-a-Whirl or a sampling of local pottery and watercolors. Since many of our festivals are also prime fundraisers for the service clubs that do so much good in the community, it is also a time to be charitable while having fun.

Summer is also the time when metro Detroit residents explore the riches found in other parts of the state — in the Thumb, along Lake Michigan's "gold" coast, at the Straits and in the rugged Upper Peninsula. Here the glory of our Great Lakes is on full display.

We are blessed with the nation's second longest coastline (after Alaska), beautiful forests, countless inland lakes and streams for water sports or for quiet nature study. Northern and western towns cater to the tourists with seasonal gourmet restaurants, coffee houses, T-shirt emporiums and art galleries. The yellow sand beaches of Lake Michigan are an invitation to frolic in the waves, toss a Frisbee, fly a kite or just soak up some summer sun after our long, snowy winter.

While gas prices have made it a little more expensive, they've actually been falling a bit in recent weeks. And there are numerous options for visitors from camping in state and national parks to bed and breakfast houses and historic inns to modern chain motels.

So get out there and explore the Great Lakes State and confirm what you've always suspected, that it's great to live in Michigan!



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LETTERS

Thank for helping

We want to thank all of those who contributed in anyway to help make the recent "Back to the '40s" fund-raiser a big success. Many business and individuals came together contributing time and/or money to help us show our wounded servicemen and women returning from the current conflicts that, "We care!"

The event proceeds will be divided evenly between Veteran's Haven Inc. and the Wounded Warrior Project. Both organizations are 501(c)3 and are committed to helping the returning wounded transition back to a productive civilian life.

If anyone cares to contribute to this worthy cause, a donation can still be made by sending a check, made out to Veteran's Haven Inc., with Iraq/Afghanistan wars on the memo line, to Robert Stottlemeyer, 2175 N. Crown, Westland, MI 48185.

We would especially like to thank:

- Bill Johnson of the Burton Manor, who so generously donated the use of the hall and his staff and suppliers who gave their time and services.

- Region 1A UAW for its generous donation to help cover the cost of the Orchestra.

- Clyde Smith & Sons for donating all of the beautiful table centerpieces.

- The Chocolate Drop Shop of Westland.

- Frank Beckman of WJR-AM (760) for donating his time to be the emcee for the evening.

- QPS Printing, which did all of our printing free of charge.

Again, our heartfelt thank you to all who gave and those who attended the event. Without you, we couldn't have done it.

Bob and Betty Stottlemeyer
Westland

Imbalance of power

There is great pressure from this administration to place conservative extremist judges on as many court benches as possible. The administration is driving these nominees through the Senate with a fury unknown before in the halls on Congress.

This is from an administration that was initially appointed by a right-wing Supreme Court. The administration has called judges not voting favorably for their interests activist judges, yet the judges being driven down the throat of the American judicial system have been much more activist than most currently on the bench.

Nearly all of Mr. Bush's nominees have been approved, except for the most extreme. More of his nominees (more than 200) have been approved than presidents of either party. Yet Mr. Bush insists on driving these extremists through, dictating to the judicial system, rather than leading with consensus and solid well-respected appointments.

All previous presidents in history have respected the balance of power, a founding tenet of this country, to determine which nominees move to the federal benches, where each must pass the muster of both parties and receive more than a one-vote margin to be approved.

The efforts of the administration reveal the "agenda." Their efforts are not

to balance the judicial system but to skew the judicial system, having judges not dispensing judgments upon principle or fairness, but to do the bidding of the party when called.

A recent decision of the Supreme Court illustrates this principle. The court review concerned an individual convicted of carrying a gun illegally in another country and being convicted in the other country and then attempting to attain a gun permit in this country.

The conservative members Scalia and Thomas had voted to not allow someone convicted of a felony outside of the United States to be allowed a gun in the United States.

These were two of the justices that argued that torture of prisoners and inhumane conditions for prisoners and holding of minors outside of the United States in Guantanamo bay was not a legal jurisdiction of the United States, yet they considered a crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the U.S. to be within the jurisdiction.

They also support guns rights as conservatives.

What is the principle or logic these justices used to make these decisions? Is the United States a sovereign domain whose boundaries define the limits of application of its laws? Is it that specific cases allow specific laws to be exported, such as democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq, but not in Sudan or Rwanda? Could it be the man brought to trial is not a conservative supporter, hence he does not receive a decision in his favor?

The imbalance of power in Washington today is overwhelming. The few lone voices of Republicans and constructive dialogue reveal the threats from the party governance to keep its members in line. Those who speak out are either very secure in their position without the Republican Party support or from the opposition party.

Not much balance in power, just dictates being passed down, including appointment of extremists to the federal bench that would not meet the approval of the majority of Americans.

Allan Biber
Westland

Ban smoking in restaurants

For the past several years, I have been very observant of the changes occurring in the non-smoking sections of area restaurants. Happily, the size of the non-smoking sections have went from being the minority sections in restaurants, to the majority sections. This change leads me to the conclusion that we should move even further ahead and ban the practice of smoking all together in restaurants, making them full non-smoking establishments. I say this because secondhand smoke has the power to do real damage to innocent people.

That is why I am interested in House Bill 4624, which supports smoke-free bars and restaurants. My husband, my children and myself dine out at least once a week. We don't appreciate being exposed to the stench and irritation of secondhand smoke while we are trying to enjoy our meal.

And put simply, secondhand smoke is dangerous. According to The American Heart Association, secondhand smoke

causes between 35,000 and 40,000 deaths annually due to heart disease. Just 20 minutes of exposure to this poison is the equivalent of smoking a pack a day! That is an unacceptable statistic that I don't feel I should have to live with, especially in public places.

Being a parent of non-smoking daughters, I feel that it is my duty to support the passing of H 4624. I have no vendetta against smokers. I just feel they should smoke in places that don't expose the public to their secondhand smoke.

Maureen Lemon
Livonia

McCotter backs Bush agenda

I read with great interest Sunday's column by state Rep. Gan Anderson regarding the need for reform of the redistricting process in Michigan.

The 11th Michigan Congressional district, which was drawn specifically with Thaddeus McCotter in mind, certainly underlines his point. I believe that this recruitment of McCotter, along with others, came right from Washington D.C., as they recognized that McCotter would be a nice rubber stamp for their neo-conservative agenda. And he has not disappointed them.

Assuming that John Kerry won at least 50 percent of the district vote, it is interesting to note that McCotter votes with the Bush/Delay agenda 15 percent of the time. Can anyone honestly argue that anything good has come out of this administration and Congress where the middle class and working people are concerned?

State and local treasures are being drained, while huge tax cuts are passed that most benefit the wealthiest 2 percent. How about the Medicare drug bill, the bankruptcy reform bill, the proposed Social Security reform with private accounts. All this legislation has proved to be huge windfalls for corporations at the expense of you, the consumer. Thaddeus McCotter has supported all of this passed legislation. There is a line somewhere about a government of the people, by the people and for the people. McCotter and his fellow Republican puppets in Congress have perverted this saying to more aptly read government of the corporations, by the corporations and for the corporations.

Kenneth Hymes
Bedford Township

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QUOTABLE

"I am very proud that our city has been selected for this prestigious award. ... Our fire safety program demonstrates that in Westland, we are dedicated to going the extra mile for our residents."

— Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, about the city receiving the 2005 Outstanding Achievement City Livability Award

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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.

'New' university funding reveals same old politics

The iron law in politics always has been, "Take care of your own."

And that's been the story of state appropriations to Michigan universities. For years, two powerful, now-retired legislators, Detroit's Morris Hood and Marquette's Dominic Jacobetti, took care of the universities in their districts.

As a result, Wayne State and Northern Michigan got favored treatment when it came time to divvy up state funding. The results were dramatic: per student, Northern got 77 percent more than Grand Valley State University and Wayne State got 36 percent more than Michigan State.

But the world is changing and, with much fanfare, the Republicans who run the state House of Representatives revealed a couple of weeks ago a new funding plan they claim eliminates all that bad old patronage.

Their new formula is based on total enrollment, graduations (with certain fields such as engineering, health and other technical subjects getting up to four times more per graduate than English or anthropology) and the amount of sponsored research done at each institution.

So is a truly level playing field being restored? Ho, ho. A careful examination of the House plan provides proof that the iron law of politics remains unchanged, regardless of the nice rhetoric about bringing objectivity to university funding. Winners include Grand Valley (up 22 percent), Saginaw Valley and Oakland universities (each up 9 percent).

The big losers are Northern Michigan (down 10 percent) and Wayne State (down 5 percent.) The merchants of spin in Lansing would have you believe that the way the formula worked out has nothing to do with the fact that Detroit and Marquette are represented by Democrats while Grand Rapids and Oakland County are represented by Republicans.

Believe that and I've got a bridge I can sell you cheap.

But beyond the obvious usual politics, there are dangerous features throughout the House plan. First, it sets in place an attempt by the Legislature to micro-manage what Michigan's 15 public universities do.

What possible rationale accounts for giving graduates in engineering, health and technical degrees four times more funding than graduates in the arts and humanities? Who says that today's legislative or social priorities will be the priorities of tomorrow?

Indeed, how can some legislator in Lansing tell a student whose long-time interest is in learning Chinese that their goal is worth only one-quarter of that of another who wants to be an engineer?

The second problem is that the House plan practically encourages universities to make bad decisions that in the long run will prove very expensive and hurt the overall excellence of our university system.

Worse, it threatens one of that system's biggest historic strengths, which is the realization that not all universities have the same mission.

The people who run our universities are not stupid; they are quick to respond to incentives. So if the Legislature proposes to pay engineering grads four times more than history majors, you can depend on it that a whole bunch of expensive new engineering programs will be started PDQ.

But setting in place the infrastructure to support an engineering program is expensive, and a poorly supported new crash program is likely to produce inferior engineering graduates.

Moreover, does the state really need all its universities switching to engineering, technical and health? What about business? What about the liberal arts? What if in 10 years, there is a nationwide glut of engineers?

Worst of all, the House plan does nothing to redress the biggest immediate problem higher education is facing: This state's amazingly irresponsible decline in overall support for higher education — now more than 20 percent over the past three years. How Gov. Jennifer Granholm and legislators can call for a doubling of the state's college graduates without proposing to spend more money on our universities is beyond me.

Here's a modest suggestion: Decide how much the state wants to spend on higher education. Give each admitted student a certain amount of money. Let the student take that money wherever he or she wants to go.

If they want to go to a school with low tuition and (likely) low quality, that's fine; if they want to go to a University of Michigan-class school with high tuition and high quality, that's fine as well.

Let free choice in the market be the deciding factor. How could you have a more free-enterprise friendly plan than that?

But such a plan would certainly be rejected. Why? Because it goes against the iron law of taking care of your own that drives all legislative behavior, regardless of the fancy rhetoric.

We need leaders who realize that "taking care of our own" needs to mean making the right decisions for higher education for all of Michigan. And the tragedy is that those statesmen are evidently nowhere to be seen.

Phil Power served on Lt. Gov. John Cherry's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth and was a regent at the University of Michigan from 1987-99. He 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

Kids and music: Thank God for edited version of songs

As parents, we try to pass on the values we learned as children from our parents. And the schools reinforce it with such things as a code of conduct, the six pillars of character and the like.

It should be a manageable process and so it is until peer pressure raises its ugly head. Reasonably priced Converse sneakers suddenly aren't good enough. It has to be Etnies or Phat Farms. And jeans need to do more than cover the butt and the ankle. They need to be long enough so as not to expose ankle when in a seated position.

And if the clothing battles aren't enough, there's music. Where it was once cool to listen to oldies with your dad, it's now a CD player with headphones and rap music.

That's my fourth-going-on-fifth-grader. My third-grader has decided school's too hard and wants to go back to first grade.

In most of our skirmishes, the kids have won, but not without earning the pricey goods. In the case of the music, the challenge came when my son advised me that the Fifty Cent CD he "just had to have" had the "A" word on it. The word happened to be in the one song he and his best friend really liked. He assured that if he got the CD, he would never say the "A" word.

It was nice to see that he has learned the lesson about honesty, but I had to disappoint him. After a brief pause, I said no.

As a parent, it's easy to say no, but as kids get older, you have give a reason. So I followed up by telling him that no CD with profanity would be allowed in the house even if it was accompanied by a promise of not using it.

I knew the promise was a hollow one. I know the extent of his language, I've heard it, and I have a good idea of where he's picked up some of the words he knows. In fact, the day after pleading his case for the CD, I walked outside to hear him tell his sister to move her posterior, using not one but two bad words.

Disappointment reigned supreme and he kept after me for days about the CD. Thankfully, my colleagues had alerted me to the fact that there are CDs out there with the bad words deleted, so I offered him a carrot. Find an edited CD and I'll consider buying it.

His grades might not reflect it, but he's a pretty sharp kid. He figured out the difference. His friend's CD had a parental advisory on it. When he found one without at

Kmart, he knew he had a clean version.

Now, just about every morning, I get to hear Fifty Cent on our short half-mile drive to school. I now wish I had not mentioned the edited version. There may be slight pauses where the bad words were, but the songs are so sexually explicit that it makes my skin crawl.

I suffer in silence listening to the tune. I hope it's not wishful thinking that he doesn't understand what Mr. Fifty Cent is talking about. I don't want to make a big deal about it, lest he look more closely at what Fifty Cent is talking about.

This does make me yearn for the return of 'N SYNC, Aaron Carter and NOW 5. The songs may have been about love and teenaged angst, but at least they weren't X-rated. 'N SYNC was too busy saying *Bye, Bye, Bye* and being *Space Cowboys*. Fifty Cent is more focused on having his girl lick his lollipop until she hits the spot. Whoa! (His word, not mine.)

I know I'm dating myself, but my introduction to music started with showtunes. My oldest brother belonged to a record club and spent his money on the music from musicals like *South Pacific* and *Oklahoma!* The first songs I knew the words to related to wind and Bali Hai.

When I discovered rock 'n' roll, it was Leslie Gore making Judy cry and the Beatles. I admit I was a bit naive back then and, in looking back, I now realize *Please, Please Me* was sexual in nature, just not as graphic as Fifty Cent's songs.

I recall a big push to censor rock 'n' roll back then because of its subliminal drug message. To this day, I can't figure out how sharing an umbrella meant sharing drugs. The symbolism escapes me ... totally.

Most songs — no matter what the genre — have something to do with sex, unless it's tunes like the Fifth Estate's *Ding Dong the Witch Is Dead* or The Royal Guardsmen's *Snoopy's Christmas*. My kid brother was about my son's age when those songs were hits and thought they were cool. My son would most likely think they were goofy.

I think one of the first lessons I learned as a parent was not to make a big deal about something. It's the route I'm taking now. I have my music, my son has his. I will listen to his, he will listen to mine. Maybe along the way, he'll discover rock 'n' roll, and I'll learn how to stifle my blushes.

Sue Mason is editor of the *Westland and Garden City Observer* newspapers. If you have a comment, e-mail her at smason@oe.homecomm.net or send it to her at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.



Sue Mason

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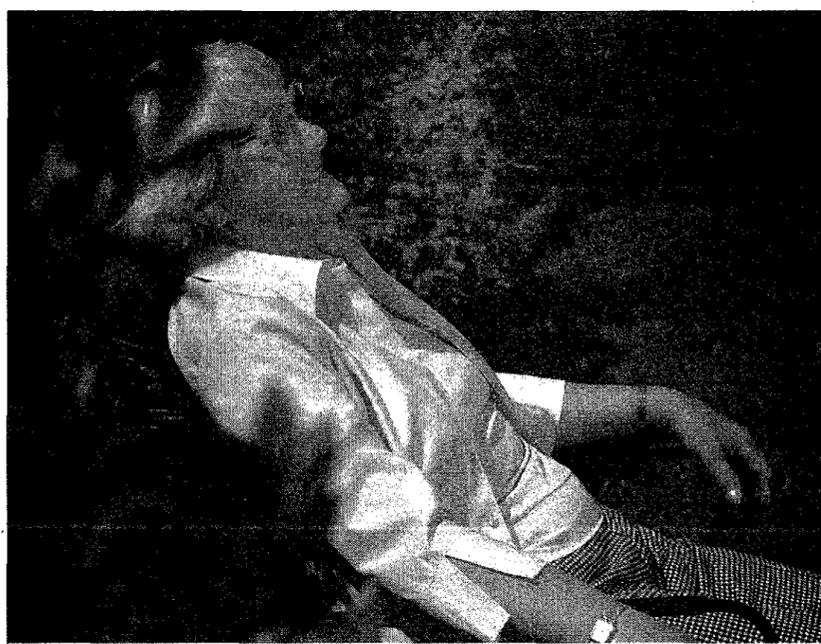
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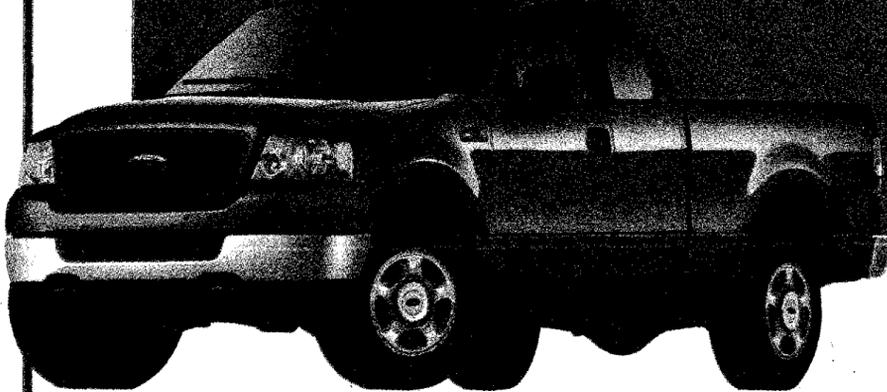
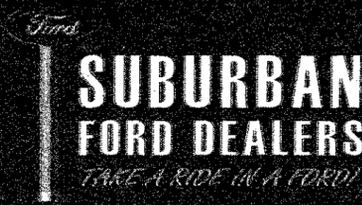


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Current Ford Employee lessees can Re-LEASE a 2005 F-150 SC 4X4 XLT

For as low as **\$204** A month⁽¹⁾ with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Re-newal Lease. *

With \$1,774 customer cash due at signing.

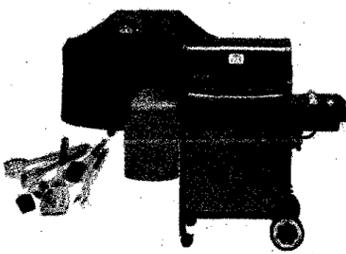
Includes security deposit and acquisition fee; excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates. Payment includes \$500 renewal cash, \$2000 RCL cash and \$1000 Ford Credit Bonus Cash.

2005 FORD RANGER

1.9% APR FINANCING or up to **\$3,000**** CASH BACK

TAKE HOME A NEW FORD TRUCK** AND CHOOSE ONE OF THESE PACKAGES FROM THE HOME DEPOT® VALUED AT UP TO \$870^{MSRP} AT NO EXTRA CHARGE.

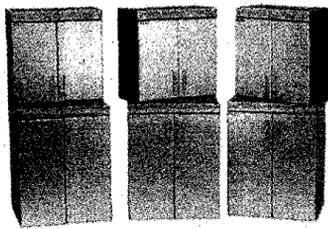
THE BUILT FORD TOUGH-HOME DEPOT® PROMOTION ENDS AUGUST 1, 2005.



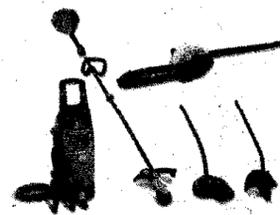
OUTDOOR LIVING PACKAGE
Includes Weber Silver Series B Genesis LP Grill Cover and Grill Tools.



POWER PACKAGE
Includes RIDGID 18-Volt 3-piece Combo Kit: 18v x2 Hammer Drill, Circular Saw, Flashlight/Swivel Head Lantern, Dual-Port Battery Charger and Heavy-Duty Bag, 12VR Impact Driver w/Carrying Case, 1/4 SheetPad Sander Corded w/carrying Case.



STORAGE PACKAGE
Includes Woodcrafters (Husky) Storage System: Three 24" Wall Storage Cabinets and Three 24" Base Door Cabinets.



OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE PACKAGE
Includes Husky Power Washer, Toro Multifunction Gas String Trimmer, Toro Edger Attachment, Toro Pruner Attachment and Toro Blower Attachment.



(1) For special Ford Credit Bonus Cash on selected 2005 models, take new vehicle retail delivery from dealer stock by 7/5/05. Restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details. *Some payments higher, some lower. Not all Lessees will qualify for lowest payment. For special lease terms, RCL Cash, on selected 2005 F-150, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 7/5/2005. RCL Cash may be taken in cash, but is used towards down payment in examples shown. \$500 lease renewal cash only available to customers terminating their Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 24 months by 7/5/2005. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employee and eligible family member Lessees. Customers must finance through Ford Credit. **NOT ALL BUYERS WILL QUALIFY FOR FORD CREDIT LIMITED-TERM FINANCING. APR or cash back vary by model. For APR or customer cash, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 7/5/2005. See dealer for qualification details. *** Buy or Lease a new Ford truck (Ranger, F-150, Super Duty) and get your choice of a premium gift package from The Home Depot® (Outdoor Living Package, Power Package, Storage Package or Outdoor Maintenance package - up to \$870 value is based on Storage Package MSRP plus shipping and handling), or \$500 Gift Card from The Home Depot®. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 8/1/2005. See dealer for complete details. The Home Depot® and The Home Depot® logo are registered trademarks of Home Depot, Inc.

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