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Intimate festival

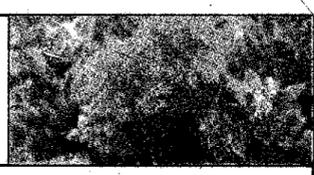
Big names headline The Community House Jazzfest

FILTER, INSERTED SECTION



Open Days opens yards, eyes

AT HOME, SECTION B



Eating outside calls for a variety of flavors - TASTE, PAGE B9

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Alisa Hayosh, 14, of Westland (left) and Tyler Retting, 12, of Livonia enjoy biting for doughnuts at the Halloween party at Camp Able, Canton's camp for disabled kids. Holding the doughnuts is camp counselor Jon Gordon.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rain delays, but doesn't dampen fest

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Jamie Manning, 22, doesn't know exactly how he emerged as a first-place winner in the Westland Civitan pie-eating contest at the Westland Summer Festival. "Don't breathe," said Manning, who works at Concrete Jungle, Westland's skate park. "That's what it is." The pie-eating contest — with Kowalski's providing the Blazo's pies — was a Sunday afternoon highlight of the festival, which ran Wednesday through Monday, concluding with Fourth of July fireworks. Manning had two brothers who emerged as first-place winners in their age division — Jalen, 12, a seventh-grader at Marshall Middle School, and Jacob, 8, a third-grader at

PLEASE SEE FESTIVAL, A2



Found and round Tiajah and Talaya Marshall went on a carnival ride while at the Summer Festival.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Special camp for special kids

Camp Able provides social time for special-needs youth

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

It's not just anywhere that a kid can dress like a princess. But at Camp Able in Canton, 13-year-old Carly Diakow of Livonia, wore a sparkly blue dress and a bejeweled tiara, transforming herself into royalty for the day camp's summertime Halloween party. Camp Able is an eight-week summer day camp for 8- to 15-year-old children with special needs.

"What we really strive for, one of our goals, is to introduce the kids to being independent, and work to give them opportunities for socialization and exploration," said camp counselor Krysten Salla. Twice a week, the children — as many as 18 at a time — head to the Summit on the Park for an afternoon swim. And three times a week, the children go on field trips, including a trip to the bowling alley, a Detroit Tigers game, and the Detroit Zoo. "The kids just love coming to camp," said camp counselor Heidi Schmidt.

The camp is better equipped to help children with special needs than other day care programs, because the staffers have some level of experience and expertise in working with children with disabilities. One of the staffers is a teacher who is certified in special education. Other staffers are college students who are studying special education and other fields of study that introduce them to special needs children.

cmarshall@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459-2700

Foul play unlikely in death of man found in Rouge

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A man whose body was pulled from a Westland river on Saturday has been identified as 49-year-old Daniel Moody of Garden City. A dive team from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department dragged Moody's body from the Rouge River after two people spotted him about 8 p.m. Saturday, authorities said. Foul play isn't suspected in the death of Moody, whose body was snagged on a tree branch in the Hawthorne Ridge area of Hines Park, sheriff's department spokesman John Roach said. "At this point it appears to be accidental," he said. Moody's relatives couldn't be reached early this week, but Roach said the victim was known to ride his bicycle to the Rouge River, where he liked to fish. This week, authorities were awaiting word from the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office on whether alcohol may have played a role in the death. "It looks like it could have been a factor," Roach said. Moody had been staying with his mother in Garden City, and she had last seen him three days before his body was found, Roach said. Moody had no identification on him when he was found, but authorities got fingerprints, and relatives also came forward after seeing news reports of a body being found in the river, Roach said. Moody's death apparently hadn't just happened when his body was found. "He apparently had been there for a long time," Roach said. "He fished in the area and usually rode a bike. A bike was found not far from there."

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

Police question family about son's stabbing

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A dispute between two brothers ended with Westland police being notified early Monday of a stabbing. Police believe that the 23-year-old victim was stabbed at a residence on Venoy near Avondale. He is recovering at the University of Michigan Hospital from an injured spleen, police Sgt. James Dexter said. The victim, stabbed in the torso, initially indicated to authorities that his 24-year-

old brother stabbed him, but the family has since become reluctant to discuss what happened, Dexter said. "They're not talking," he said. Moreover, authorities have had difficulty with the investigation because those involved speak broken English. "They're Polish immigrants," police Lt. James Ridener said. Police received a telephone call about 12:45 a.m. Monday that the younger brother had been stabbed, possibly by his older sibling. Authorities also believe that the older

brother was involved in an earlier incident in which he held a knife to his sister's throat, Dexter said. "She had a mark on her neck that the police officers took pictures of," he said. The sister, too, speaks broken English and hasn't been able to help police much with their investigation, Dexter said. The investigation was continuing this week. The victim remained at U-M Hospital, where he was described as conscious and improving.

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Number 12



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**Coming Sunday
on the PINK page**
See what
fall shoes
to start
collecting
now



FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE A1
Wildwood Elementary.
Another first-place winner was Roxanne Young, 14, an eighth-grader at Stevenson Middle School. There were a number of other winners, helped along by Robert Kosowski, city parks and recreation director.

"Is there any trash talk going on yet?" Kosowski asked as competition continued. "Second place is still up for grabs," he added as a first-place winner emerged in one age division.

The contest is held "for the fun of it," said Barb Polich of the Civitans, a festival board of directors member. "People love to do stuff like this." Miss Westland Leah Potvin and the first and second runners-up were judges.

Nearby was Ashley Cadaret, 12, who proved adept with the darts, popping balloons to win stuffed animals.

"I just threw," the Marshall seventh-grader said of her strategy. "It's just luck."

She came to the festival with her grandparents, Sandy and Beverly Cadaret, and brother Nikolas, 8, a Wildwood second-grader.

"I like playing the games and the rides," Ashley said.

Her grandmother described the festival as "very nice."

Normie June Brazier, a festival board of directors member, was beaming Sunday afternoon. The Alexander Zonjic concert Saturday evening was popular, she said, as were other events such as the Mother Goose storytelling and Richard Paul puppet show. The Impact 7 band with jazz, oldies and Motown drew crowds Friday and Sunday.

"Everybody has loved the whole setup this year," Brazier said. "It's been great. It's been



Flicker the Dragon entertained crowds as the inflatable made its way down Ford during the festival parade.

phenomenal. We've had nothing but positive comments."

Organizers are already working on next year's festival, she added, noting the volunteers work year-round.

"They work very, very hard," she said.

Chairman Kenneth Mehl noted the Monday fireworks were delayed about half an hour by rain and some people left.

"It's unfortunate that the rain came," said Mehl, who gave the festival overall high marks. "I think it was very successful. People enjoyed themselves."

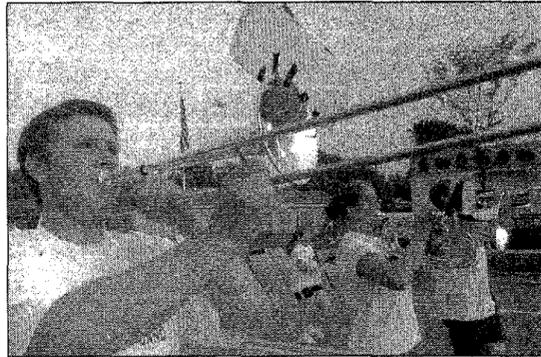
The rides, entertainment and food concessions also drew praise.

"Everybody seemed to be



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Held outdoors this year, the Miss Westland Festival pageant saw Leah Potvin win the crown. Also contestants were Sara Smith, Stephanie Orvis, Najla Muta, Nicole Miller, Kristin Lewis, Alexa Larimore, Kimberly Hagelthorn and Jennifer Guthrie.



Robert Lyndrup plays trombone in the Wayne-Westland Festival Band. The band members were from both John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools.

happy," said Mehl, who also cited the terrific Zonjic performance.

In the future, he'd like to get more businesses involved, not just as sponsors, but also with help in advertising the festival. Art Van, St. Mary Mercy Hospital and local businesses were involved this year.

"I think where we're lacking is volunteers," said Mehl, who

welcomes calls at (734) 261-5955 from those who'd like to volunteer. If a lot of people do just a little work, he said, the festival can be even better.

The petting zoo was popular with kids again this year, and Mehl noted many children wouldn't otherwise see camels and such animals.

"That is always an attraction," he said.



Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Lauren Perry rides with Junior Prince and Princess Anthony Adams and Kayla Franks in the festival parade.

PLACES AND FACES

Helping vets

Veteran's Haven, Inc., of Wayne, in conjunction with Motor City Car Wash and Elizabeth's Bridal Manor of Northville, sponsors a "Vets Helping Vets" spaghetti dinner benefit for U.S. Army veteran Brian Kolfage and Marine Dustin Howell, both wounded in Iraq. The dinner takes place at the VFW Hall Post No. 4012, 438 S. Main, Northville, 3-7 p.m. Sunday, July 10. Tickets are \$6 per person at the door. Karaoke starts at 6 p.m., and a cash bar will be available. Tax deductible donations can be made to Veteran's Haven, Inc., 4924 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184.

Top cookie

One young woman from Westland decided not to settle for mediocrity this past winter. Bridget Marie Walker was recognized as the top cookie seller in Westland by the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit.

During the annual sale, she sold 1,001 packages of cookies, showing her dedication to Girl Scouting and to her community. Proceeds from the sale stay within the local council.

Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit is the sixth largest Council in the United States, providing developmental activities for more than 30,000 Girl Scouts ages 5-17. For more information, please visit the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit Web site at www.gsofmd.org or call (800) 326-0309.

Adopt a pet

The Michigan Humane Society and Art Van will sponsor a pet adoption noon-4 p.m. Sunday, July 10, at the furniture store, 8300 Wayne Road, north of Ford.

The humane society's mobile adoption unit will be on site with homeless companion animals looking for new, loving homes.

For more information, call (566) 648-6263.

CORRECTION

A story in the July 3 *Observer* about a 50th anniversary party thrown for Plymouth residents Richard and Violet Koch should have said the party was thrown by fellow walkers at Laurel Park Place Mall. Organizers also wished to thank the retailers who provided items for the party, along with Bernie and Barb Brennan for taking pictures, cataloguing and putting them in albums.

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INFORMATION CENTRAL

The "scientific romance" *War of the Worlds* was originally published as a serial in *Pearson's* weekly June-July 1897.

While H.G. Wells is considered by many to be the father of the modern science fiction novel, he himself considered his SciFi work to be "inconsequential." Had he heard the Orson Welles broadcast of Oct. 30, 1938, he might have changed his mind.

Despite the fact that listeners were warned four times during the broadcast that what they were listening to was simply a play, Welles' radio dramatization of the invasion of earth by Martians caused a mass panic.

People rushed police stations, demanding to know when the evacuations were starting. One woman was found in her bathroom with poison, insisting she would rather die by poi-

son than by Martian death rays.

St. Michael's Hospital in Newark treated people for shock and hysteria. In Birmingham, Ala., there were prayer groups, and one woman in Boston insisted she could see the alleged fires, and she and her neighbors prepared to leave the city.

Hopefully, the new movie version of this seminal work won't generate so much fear, but it probably will. After all, it is directed by the master of big special effects, Steven Spielberg.

If you would like to experience the original *War of the Worlds* first hand, the library has several versions: The original Mercury Theatre production, a new production featuring the voices of the cast of *Star Trek*, *the Next Generation*, a fascinating video documentary featuring original footage of the madness.

Horpeat at 7 p.m. July 11- Enjoy songs about dragons, unicorns and rainbows. Free tickets available at the library.

Bilingual Storytime at 7 p.m. July 12 - Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in both English and French. All ages.

Medieval bellydancing at 7 p.m. July 12 - Try this period style dance. Wear comfortable clothing. Grades 6-12.

Stories in the Garden at 10:30 a.m. July 13 - Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in the children's garden. All ages.

The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For More information, call (734) 326-6123.

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Unit #224 Samantha Poskitt includes bakers rack, bedroom furniture, x-mas decorations, chair, desk, misc boxes & bags - contents unknown, computer & printer

Unit #171 Jonelle P. Stephens includes washer, dryer, stereo, kid's toys, file cabinet, x-mas tree, misc household items.

Unit #104 Latherisa Vaughn includes dishes, misc boxes, bags - contents unknown

Unit #A92 Carol Banks includes washer, shelves, bags - contents unknown

Unit #82 Mark Glasper includes freezer, dresser, nightstand, t.v., stove, washer, dryer, toys, crib, weight bench, misc boxes & bags - contents unknown

Unit #64 Patricia Dechon includes entertainment center, table & chairs, end tables, VCR, DVD, couch, love seat, window air conditioners

Unit #4 Charlene Singles includes refrigerator, mini refrigerator, stove, mailbox post

Unit #86 Abandoned items include entertainment center, dresser, bed, armoire, vanity, toys

Unit #47 Sheldon Benson includes wood, cement, tools

Unit #43 Darryl Lewis includes lawnmower, bar-b-que, bunk bed, couch, love seat, bike, weed whacker, refrigerator, tables, exercise equipment, misc household items

Publish: July 7 & 10, 2005

Welcome home

Westland family moves into their Habitat home

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Just minutes before the dozens of visitors, volunteers and well-wishers arrived, Neil Wesley towed beads of perspiration from his forehead and bent down to lift a piece of lumber from the dusty ground. Inside his new house, Habitat for Humanity volunteers scrambled to finish sweeping and polishing and hammering last-minute details in the house, which was constructed in just eight weeks.

The Wesley house on Marlowe Street is Canton's first Habitat for Humanity home. Wesley and his family (wife Natasha, and three children, ages 7, 3 and 2) got the keys to their new home at a June 24 ceremony at the house. The family will soon move from their apartment in Westland into the first house Wesley has ever owned.

"I do feel pretty proud," he

said. "My goal was always to own a house by the time I was 30 years old, and I'm 29 now so I made it a little early."

One of Habitat for Humanity's requirements is that homeowners must volunteer - on their own homes and others - then they receive a no-interest, 20-year mortgage, pay their homeowner's insurance and property taxes. Most Habitat homeowners pay between \$400 and \$600 per month on the mortgage, insurance and taxes.

Wesley lost count of how many hours of "sweat equity" he has racked up, once he got to about 300 hours.

"My wife kept me on track," he said, adding that he works full time for Comcast, and attends school by night. "She is the one who kept me on schedule with working those hours."

Natasha Wesley also logged hundreds of hours, and even the children rolled up their sleeves to help out.

"I cleaned the basement," said 7-year-old Jalen, straightening up his posture, proud to have had a part in building his family's home.

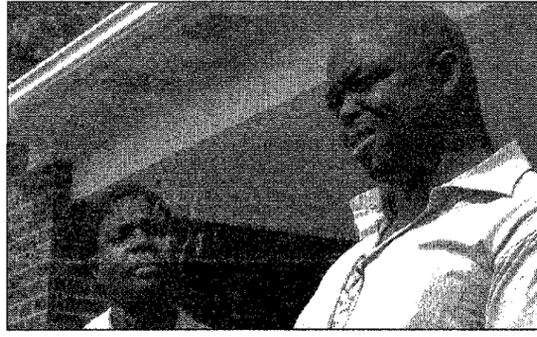
But the job is too big for a family to accomplish on its own. That's where the volunteers come in.

The Canton Circle of Faith, made up of eight local churches, sent in teams of volunteers. The group formed in April 2004, and joined forces with Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County to help sponsor and build a home in Canton.

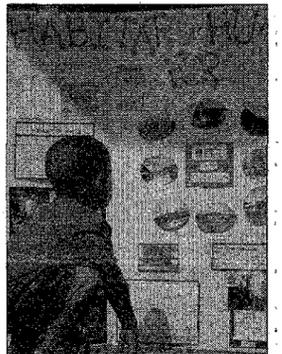
The result was a four-bedroom, 1,200 square-foot house on a quiet gravel street off Ford Road.

"The volunteers who built this house are pretty phenomenal," said Alice Dent, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County.

"We have a core of volunteers that have been here every



Cornelius and Natasha Wesley talk about their experience with Habitat for Humanity during the ceremony in which they received the keys to their new Canton home.



Bryce Wesley, 2, looks over a photo board detailing the story behind his family's new home, which was built by volunteers through the Habitat for Humanity program.

day, to build every house. They work at it like it's their jobs, when it's freezing rain or 95 degrees outside," Dent said, fanning herself with a program for the home's dedication ceremony. "They do the dirty work that no one else will do."

One of those core volunteers is Burton Sherlow of Wayne. He's worked on each of the Western Wayne houses. Every day he comes to the job site, and even though he's not being paid, there is a payoff, he said.

"My wife said I could retire as soon as I got a new job,"

Sherlow said, chuckling. "This is my job."

The truth is, Sherlow, a retired teacher, enjoys the satisfaction of seeing a project from start to finish.

Fellow volunteer Norm Recla, of Livonia, has worked on 13 sites since he started volunteering with Habitat.

Retired from Ford Motor Co., Recla said it was Habitat's mission that got him involved.

"There is a need out there, and we enjoy the work," he said.

Habitat of Western Wayne is

on track to reach its goal of 50 houses in 15 years. Established in 1995, the group has already built 19 houses (the Canton home was the 18th), and will build at least four a year until 2010 to meet the goal, Dent said.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County, call (734) 459-7744 or visit online at www.habitatwcc.org.

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Westland resident linked to robberies

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man suspected in a series of armed robberies has been captured in Wayne, authorities said.

The 28-year-old suspect is facing possible armed robbery charges in Westland, Canton and Northville, police said.

Jonathan David Pentz, a resident of Willow Creek Apartments in Westland, already was arraigned Tuesday in Wayne on armed robbery and felony firearms charges.

He was jailed in lieu of a \$20,000 cash bond in Wayne as he awaits charges in other communities.

Pentz confessed this week to Westland police Sgt. James Dexter that he robbed two local businesses - the Radio Shack on Ford Road near Wayne and the Game Crazy store at Merriman and Michigan Avenue, authorities said. The

Radio Shack robbery happened June 19; the Game Crazy holdup, June 13.

"He has confessed to both of our robberies," police Lt. James Ridener said.

The suspect admitted to having a gun with him during the Westland robberies, authorities said.

Dexter interviewed the suspect after his capture early this week at Westchester Towers in Wayne, where authorities believe he had been staying with a friend.

"He apparently was hiding out there," Dexter said.

A small-caliber, automatic handgun was found during the arrest, authorities said.

Pentz has been scheduled for a July 19 preliminary hearing in Wayne District Court. On charges in that city, alone, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison, if convicted.

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DEATHS

- A**
Wesley Angles, 87, of Westland, died June 24.
- B**
Bernice Balsley, 100, of Milford, died July 1.
Eleanor Beckner, 82, of Clarkston, formerly of West Bloomfield, died June 30.
- C**
Jan Coil, 77, of Birmingham, died June 24.
- K**
James R. Kent, 62, died July 3.
- M**
Roy McCormick, 71, of West Branch, died June 28.
- R**
James "Jim" David Roberts Sr., 42, of Livonia, died July 3.
- S**
Sister Mary Celeste Schneider, 92,

For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric* Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page B7.

of Farmington Hills, died June 29.
Leon A. Snapp, 87, died June 25.
W
Linda L. Wilson, 59, died May 17.

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'Green' cars good for the environment and job creation

BY NANCY DEUTSCH
CORRESPONDENT

Southeast Michigan manufactured engines and vehicles are increasingly environmentally friendly, and the move to a greener industry is simultaneously allowing for the retention, and in some cases creation, of local jobs.

The environmentally friendly vehicles in production or those that are in the development stage were recently on display at a meeting of partners of the Green Machines Tour in Canton.

The Green Machines Tour, which started a year ago, showcases fuel-efficient and reduced-emission vehicles and other technologies currently produced in southeast Michigan, and those planned for the near future. It is a partnership between the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Ecology Center, which is a Michigan-based environmental group spearheading the tour.

The group is lobbying for government involvement and

the establishment of new policies that would spur companies to work harder on producing environmentally friendly vehicles, by offering tax incentives and funding for these endeavors. At present, while there are financial incentives for companies to stay in Michigan, "there are not necessarily additional tools to attract advanced manufacturing," said Charles Griffith, auto project director at the Ecology Center. The push for more ecological manufacturing is "good for the both jobs and the environment," Griffith said. "They will help increase the fuel economy of more than two million vehicles per year by four to 20 percent, while creating more than \$1.5 billion in new investment and creating or preserving more than 2,300 jobs."

Jim Turner of U.S. Sen. Carl Levin's office, who attended the Canton event, agreed that government needs to step up and lend a hand.

"We need the government to be a catalyst and not a spectator," he said. "We're bringing about important fuel efficien-

cies and creating jobs."

One manufacturer included in the push for more efficient and environmentally friendly products is Ford Motor Co. Ford is investing \$170 million in its Livonia transmission plant to manufacture its version of a six-speed transmission. More than 100,000 units will be produced starting in 2005. The new transmissions will be used on a variety of Ford vehicles, including the Lincoln Navigator and the Ford Expedition.

DaimlerChrysler, Hyundai and Mitsubishi are jointly building two new engine plants in Dundee that will make advanced I-4 engines. These will improve fuel efficiency by 5 percent more than DaimlerChrysler's current I-4 engines. The plant will also create 500 new jobs.

The Detroit Diesel's Redford engine plant is building two new advanced diesel engines beginning in 2007. Production of these engines is expected to preserve 1,300 jobs.

In Romulus, the UAW has already started building 5.3

liter V-8 engines that incorporate GM's Displacement on Demand technology- allowing for half of the engine's cylinders to shut down during light driving and automatically reactivate when driving demand increases. The Trailblazer and Envoy are the first vehicles to incorporate this new technology.

At GM's Willow Run plant in Ypsilanti, a new six-speed engine is in the works, with production beginning this summer. It will first be used in Corvettes and Cadillacs, said Chuck Rogers, president of the UAW local 735 in Canton.

"Low volume production will

start next month," he noted. "I give credit to the workers of our plant whose productivity and quality got us this work. We are the first of anybody in the industry to build a six-speed."

The six speeds improve performance and increase fuel efficiency by up to 4 percent depending on the type of vehicle, added GM Power Training Communications Manager Nick Richards. In addition, more than 650 jobs have been retained, he said.

GM is committed to improving efficiency and performance, he noted. "Today we have over 19 models that get 30

miles per gallon on the highway."

The Green Machines Tour is a good because it promotes what all the North American manufacturers are doing, Richards said. "It helps highlight fuel efficiencies developed by the UAW and government right here in the USA."

It will hopefully dispel the myth that foreign cars are more efficient or offer vehicles with lower emissions than those made in the states, said Jim Pedersen, community action representative. "We promote the industry building the fuel efficiency and low emission vehicles here."



The Green Machines Tour showcases fuel-efficient and reduced-emission vehicles and other technologies currently produced in southeast Michigan, and those planned for the near future.



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OUR VIEWS

Focus on real issues facing troubled state

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the state Legislature should forget about installing a replica of the Ten Commandments at the Capitol and instead focus on a real issue: reviving the state's economy.

Last week's split-decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on two cases involving public displays of the Ten Commandments did little to end the controversy. In fact, the rulings almost guarantee a long and costly legal fight if any effort is made to create such a display in Lansing.

Frankly, we are puzzled by Granholm's position on the issue. Aligning herself with the likes of state Rep. Robert Gosselin, R-Troy — a favorite of the Christian right of the Republican Party — is more likely to cause her problems with her liberal Democratic supporters than gain her any support from conservative Republicans.

At best, this issue is a misguided attempt by Granholm and a handful of conservative lawmakers to bring a visible sign of their beliefs into the public eye.

Instead of wasting political capital debating whether it is appropriate to have a religious symbol gracing the grounds of the Capitol building, the governor should be focused on solving the ever-deepening budget crisis, attracting new business and jobs to the state, and addressing the growing K-16 public education funding problem.

The state of Michigan is in real trouble. A week doesn't pass without a major employer announcing major work force reductions; the domestic auto industry is in a full-blown crisis; and the state is losing a growing percentage of its recent college graduates because of a lack of quality jobs.

These are the issues that should be gaining the governor's and Legislature's full attention.

The Supreme Court decisions focused on two states that already had Ten Commandment displays in place, and it was challenges to those displays that led to the lawsuits and eventual court decisions.

No such controversy exists here. In fact, we could not find any public place in the *Observer & Eccentric* coverage area where the Ten Commandments are displayed.

At best, this issue is a misguided attempt by Granholm and a handful of conservative lawmakers to bring a visible sign of their beliefs into the public eye.

At worst, it is being used as a smokescreen to hide the fact that our politicians are either unwilling — or unable — to address the real issues facing our troubled state.

It's a baseball town

Detroit may be the place where the Lions sometimes roar, but fans often moan. It may be where the Pistons found that going to work wins a championship "the right way," but where it's just as easy to get Spur-ed. And, Detroit is still Hockeytown for those whose ice dreams crashed in this season on the rocks.

But Detroit has long been Tiger town and, at times, like when our hometown team gets on a roll, many of us know that Detroit can truly be a magical baseball place.

Remember the way Trammell, Gibson, Parrish and Morris started 1984 rattling off win after win? And remember how gonzo this town followed its blessed boys through that enchanting championship? Those of us old enough can't forget 1968 — that magical summer that followed the riots of 1967 when the song united us, "We're all behind our baseball team ..." and we eagerly went along for a seven-game thrill ride victory.

Yes-s-sir, Detroit may share its sports pride with all its teams, but this is still a baseball town and it's only fitting then that our region's effort to rebuild its national image hits the big time in earnest this week with the Major League Baseball All-Star Game on July 12 at Comerica Park and surrounding festivities leading up to the event.

With baseball as the leadoff hitter — followed by national showcases like the 2006 Super Bowl and the 2009 NCAA men's basketball Final Four — we can hope that metro Detroit can hit this one out of the park.

Now that doesn't mean hiding our blemishes, pretending things are perfect. We all know that our region has suffered and continues to suffer economically, and such world-stage events tend to have little long-term economic impact. But a successful event, followed by another, then another, can build or supplant those old images. With the national spotlight beaming on us, our region as a whole has a lot to gain from helping to turn around some of the negative viewpoints that destroy hope and ignore many of our area's positive attributes.



LETTERS

Bush is embarrassment

The second term of Mr. Bush is proving difficult. His dominating style of governing — either support everything they propose or be crushed and destroyed (operated by hatchet man Karl Rove) — is having difficulty finding qualified, acceptable personnel to fill positions.

This may happen because qualified individuals with some integrity refuse to be associated with his administration. But even facing failure and public outrage, the Bush administration continues to drive the extremist nominees down the throat of America.

When our founding fathers put this democracy together, it was understood all political nominations would be approved by the Senate with a majority vote. Recognizing that a one-vote majority in the Senate may not be majority representation of the populace, it was decided that a majority of 60 percent would be sufficient, not an up-or-down vote. The thinking was that if a few members of the opposition party could not be convinced of the integrity of a nominee, then they were too extreme to be appointed to a position.

Today, the Republican majority of 55 senators represents 45 percent of the population of the United States. The Democrats are not united in opposition with Bush, each Democratic senator is voting for the interests of their constituents. And yet Mr. Bush continues to nominate candidates who haven't met approval of five Democratic senators, representing half of American citizens.

The appointment of the extremist judges Owens and Brown and several others to the federal bench again demonstrate the extremist nature of Mr. Bush. Until recently, all nominees required a majority of the Senate to be appointed. These re-nominated extremists have been previously rejected. Now Mr. Bush has driven the decision for judicial and other positions to be a simple majority, 51-50 to approve his extremist appointments. Much like himself, Mr. Bush continues to nominate underqualified and underwhelming individuals to prominent positions. Yet the Republican Party continues to support his administration. Perhaps the lack of courage and inaction within the Republican Party itself reveals the true party tenets.

This country has never before been more embarrassed by the actions of its administration both within the United States and outside our borders.

Allan Biber
Westland

community's generous gifts of time and money.

In the early years, the Red Cross served military families and then added a relief program for natural and man-made disasters. Today, our disaster relief and military programs remain at the core of our mission. The Red Cross also helps people prevent and prepare for emergencies through life-saving training programs, such as first aid and water safety, that began in the early 1900s.

Every year, we touch nearly 250,000 lives in the tri-counties. To accomplish this, we rely on tri-county residents' time and financial contributions as we are not funded by the federal government or the national Red Cross office.

I invite you to learn more about the Red Cross's work in southeast Michigan. For more information on Chapter Centennial events and how to support the Red Cross in the next 100 years, call (313) 833-2664 or visit www.semred-cross.org.

James J. Laverty
chief executive officer
American Red Cross
Southeastern Michigan Chapter

No one knows when

We have two cities that have lied to the people about Henry Ruff being redone. Westland and Inkster have agreed to redo Henry Ruff from Palmer to Cherry Hill, but no one knows what happened, if you call city hall in Inkster or Westland. They think you're stupid for asking or don't know what you're talking about.

I think we taxpayers should start protesting this matter.

Bob Johnson
Inkster

Telling it like it is

Mr. Power: As usual, your articles always seem to be on target regarding our local economy, especially the auto industry. Recent articles in the *Free Press* and *News* indicate that the UAW just doesn't get it, or realistically, their current leaders don't want to be the "bad guys" by making decisions toward the future.

The corporate leaders aren't any better. They kept giving the union what they wanted over the years rather than "biting the bullet." Again, the leaders don't want to take the responsibility for making the tough but correct decisions.

I hope you will keep writing about this issue and sending copies to both the union and corporate leaders. Thanks for telling it like it is.

Joe Easa
Livonia

Red Cross celebration

This month brings a historic celebration to southeast Michigan — the American Red Cross will honor 100 years of service in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Over the next year, we'll celebrate this community's contributions to the Red Cross.

In June 1905, the American Red Cross opened its first Michigan office in a Detroit home on East Jefferson Avenue. This office became the Detroit Chapter, which was the largest Red Cross in the country during World War II due to our

Ban smoking

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 four non-smoking daughters, I feel that it is my duty to support the passing of HB 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

Hear the truth

Jack Straw wrote a letter to the prime minister of England, Tony Blair, in March 2002, one year before the war in Iraq, stating that there was no evidence that Saddam Hussein had any weapons of mass destruction worth talking about.

In addition to this, The Downing Street Memos, (minutes of a secret meeting between Blair and his top intelligence official, Sir Richard Dearlove) reveal that President Bush had privately determined to go to war at least as early as July of 2002, and was willing to fix the intelligence around the policy to make the case for war.

In light of this astounding information, the public should renew the call for Sen. Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, to initiate the committee's delayed investigation into the use of intelligence in the lead-up to war. It is time the American people heard the truth.

Katie Jacob
Birmingham

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QUOTABLE

"The mall was very vital to our economy. Hudson's was a big drawing card. We wouldn't have all that development down Warren Road without the mall."

— Westland historian Jo Johnson, about the impact of Westland Shopping Center on what was then Nankin Township

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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.

Political skulduggery leaves state's wine lovers hanging

Wine lovers rejoiced — briefly — in May, when the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that Michigan's law that outlawed out-of-state shipments of wine to consumers while allowing in-state wineries to do so violates the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution.

What many hoped that meant was that non-Michigan wineries would now be allowed to ship into the state, thereby breaking the distribution monopoly now held by the beer and wine wholesalers.

But the politicians had other ideas. Last week, the House Regulatory Reform Committee approved, 5-1, a bill to ban any direct shipment of wine to consumers, at all, including sales at tasting rooms at Michigan vineyards. Instead of acting to make life better for the consumers, they voted to prevent us from ordering shipments of wine at all. Why? The answer lies in an interesting tale compounding politics, lobbying, money and philosophical analysis.

The bill restricting wine sales is sponsored by Rep. Chris Ward, R-Brighton, among others. It is backed by the Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association, one of the most powerful lobbying groups in the state. Supporters of it argue wine-by-mail would give kids under 21 easy access to alcohol. (Imagine most teenagers trying to figure out how to order a perfect Sonoma County pinot noir.) The bill was vehemently opposed by the association for the state's 42 wineries, who claim it would kill their businesses.

If there's anything Michigan doesn't need right now, it is another move to kill some state businesses. The House committee hearing was interesting. The vote was taken without discussion. The hearing room was packed with lobbyists, many from the wholesalers association.

Opponents distributed campaign finance reports showing how much money the committee members were paid by the wholesalers' association.

It was a lot. According to the nonpartisan Michigan Campaign Finance Network, the association during the 2004 election cycle contributed a total of \$683,316 to the campaigns of 97 out of the 110 House members. The association contributed around \$5,000 (the maximum allowed by law) to four of the five committee members who voted for the bill.

Ward, the bill's sponsor, received \$4,138 for his campaign and another \$7,900 for his political action committee.

A Hamburg Township group called Wine Consumers Across Michigan (WineCAM), put out a press release pointing to those contribu-

tions, commenting "there's an implicit quid pro quo, and now Chris Ward is expected to give them the bill they want, whatever the impact on Michigan's consumers or wineries."

The press release also quoted Jim Lester, owner of Wynecroft Winery in southwest Michigan, saying "It's bribery, pure and simple." How did the representative respond? A story in the *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*, Ward's hometown paper, quoted the state representative: "One never gets used to name calling. It's certainly insulting and way off-base."

Well, well. If nothing else, the brouhaha highlights the distinction — rampant throughout all politics today — between campaign contributions from interest groups and outright bribery.

The distinction in the law is subtle, but clear. A bribe is a direct payment to a lawmaker to solicit a vote. It's a crime. A campaign contribution, on the other hand, is given to support (and gain access to) a lawmaker whose views are often aligned with the interests of the contributor. It's far more indirect than a bribe, and it is legal.

Fair enough. But in the muddy and imprecise real world, what's the real difference? Not much, say advocates for cleaning up the system. And the massive contributions given by the Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association in this particular case give particular force and power to that argument.

The core issue here is what the philosophers call "causation." Can it really be argued that a campaign contribution actually causes a legislator to vote in a certain way? The Michigan bribery statutes suggest that unless there is a direct link — a quid pro quo — between a payment and a vote, accepting a campaign contribution does not in itself cause a legislator to vote in a certain way.

But untangling just what causes something or, indeed, understanding the meaning of the word "cause" is not so simple and has been debated by the philosophers for centuries. Perhaps the best word on the subject was offered by the 19th century Scottish philosopher David Hume. Hume argued that if B always comes after A, it's fair to assert that A caused B; the term he used was "constant conjunction," which means anytime B occurs, A shows up first.

So what does all this say about Ward, his committee colleagues and the Michigan Wine & Beer Wholesalers Association? My guess: awfully close to the edge of bribery, but probably not legally over it. By the way, Ward, his colleagues and the wholesalers association are taking a lot of flak just now, which they richly deserve.

They are also betting that consumers forget all about this before they face the voters again next year. They may be right. But wine lovers have a long memory for good years, and bad.

Phil Power is 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

Wayne State reeling under flawed state funding plan

The Michigan Legislature has adopted a funding model for universities that emphasizes associate and bachelor's degrees over master's, medical and other advanced academic programs.

For example, the House provides only one-fourth the funding for a master's or doctorate as for a bachelor's degree, despite the fact that graduate education is much more costly to provide. A professional degree (e.g., an M.D.) receives only half the funding of a bachelor's. Such weights are without precedent in other states in which higher education funding formulas are used.

All national studies have found that higher degrees require greater investment of resources. A 1989 report by Paul Brinkman showed that master's instruction costs three to four times as much as bachelor's, and doctorates eight times as much. When analyzed this way, considering the proportion of degrees at all levels, the present differentials among Michigan public universities are similar to those in other states. This underscores that existing cost differences among these institutions align with national norms.

The House's funding legislation allocates funding by field of study. Such distinctions are appropriate, but again, how the fields of study are funded is unlike other states. In House funding, for example, an undergraduate "athletic trainer" is funded at 16 times a doctorate in mathematics. This is not an isolated case, but is typical of problems inherent in Michigan's proposed formula.

Wayne State University, with its heavy responsibility for advanced graduate instruction, finds its proposed state funding severely curtailed, while institutions with larger proportions of undergraduates are allocated increased funding. There are many reasons for improving higher education funding for all public institutions in Michigan. All of us have lost enormous support through successive budget cuts in recent years. Wayne State University alone has already lost more than \$40 million. With the proposed additional cut of \$10 to \$12 million, our reductions will total

more than \$52 million in less than five years. However, adopting a highly eccentric funding model that takes funds from two universities to transfer to other universities is not the way to address inadequate funding.

Some individuals have suggested that these new weights reveal a bias against the city of Detroit. But I do not think so. On the other hand, the nature of the new funding weights does beg the question of why Wayne State University is a target. These are not cuts only to Wayne State or Detroit. They are cuts against everyone served by Wayne State across the entire state. This means all persons to whom we provide an education, including 7,063 students from Oakland County, 4,842 from Macomb and 7,956 from Wayne County outside Detroit.

Though many people regard Wayne State University as a Detroit institution, four-fifths of students enrolled currently are from outside the city. Students from Genesee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne make up 86 percent of our enrollment. We estimate that most of these students remain in Michigan after graduation to contribute positively to the life of their economically challenged communities.

The state of Michigan deserves to have an honest assessment of its universities and their missions. It should be done in the open. If the state wishes to take an objective look into the use of a different funding model for its universities, it should seek the assistance of a broad spectrum of our citizens headed by the respected Paul Hillemonds, who has served in the Legislature as well as on the boards of two public universities. Such a group could assist Michigan's Legislature to do this right by taking a careful look at peer university systems in other states such as Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, Tennessee and Minnesota, among others.

The way in which we resolve future funding of higher education will determine universities' ability to assist Michigan's future progress and prosperity. In the meantime, the citizens of Michigan need to know that ultimately the burden of reducing Wayne State University by another \$10 to \$12 million will fall on more than Detroit.

Irvin D. Reid is president of Wayne State University.



Irvin D. Reid

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Or Email jberne@att.net
Or Fax to 248-851-1209
Nominations are due by July 31, 2005

*This award is sponsored by
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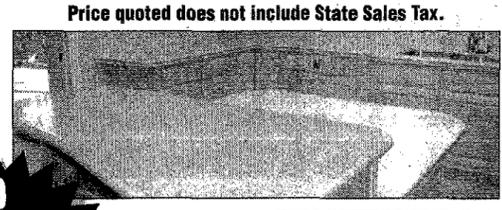
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Hours: 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat, Closed Sunday

Celebrate Our

40th
ANNIVERSARY!

EVENTS

July 6-July 10: Summer Sidewalk Sale Regular mall hours, throughout the mall. Find bargains at many of the stores as they make way for the new season of merchandise.

July 15-July 16: Lakeshore Grill Menu Sampling 11 am-5 pm both days, East Court. Sample signature menu items from a popular mall restaurant.

July 22-July 23: Longhorn Steakhouse Menu Sampling July 22: 12 noon-4 pm, July 23: 11 am-3 pm, East Court. Sample signature menu items from our newest member of the mall family.

July 28-July 31: 4 days up to 40% off Promotion Regular mall hours, selected stores. The anniversary gifts are for you as select stores offer up to 40% off merchandise in their stores.* Coupons will be available online, in the newspaper, and at Our Customer Service booth starting as early as July 24th. *some restrictions apply

July 29: Anniversary Celebration sponsored by Marshall Fields 4 pm, East Court. Join us as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. Events for the evening include recognition presentations, anniversary greetings from local and state dignitaries, drawing of grand prize for Enter to Win, entertainment and the cutting of the anniversary cake.

July 29: After Hours sponsored by Lakeshore Grill 5 pm, Lakeshore Grill, 2nd level Marshall Fields. Join us after the anniversary celebration for a light supper and refreshments* courtesy of the Lakeshore Grill. If you were born in July 1965, register at our Customer Service and receive a birthday bag filled with special savings opportunities when you join us at the After Hours. *Cash bar

July 29: The Balloon Buddies 5 pm-7 pm, Play Area, JC Penny Court. Treat your child at our new play area to a balloon animal or any other shape they want as "The Balloon Buddies" entertain with their colorful balloons and fun shapes they create.

July 30: Play Area Grand Opening 11 am-4 pm, JC Penny Court. Join us as we celebrate the official opening of the Outdoor Adventure Play Area sponsored by St. Mary Mercy Hospital for all the children in the community. Events planned for the day include an outdoor safety talk from a park ranger; face painting, clowns, teddy bear clinic and giveaways.

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