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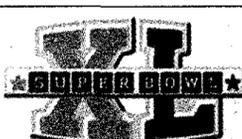
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READY FOR SOME (NOT FOOTBALL) - PAGE A7
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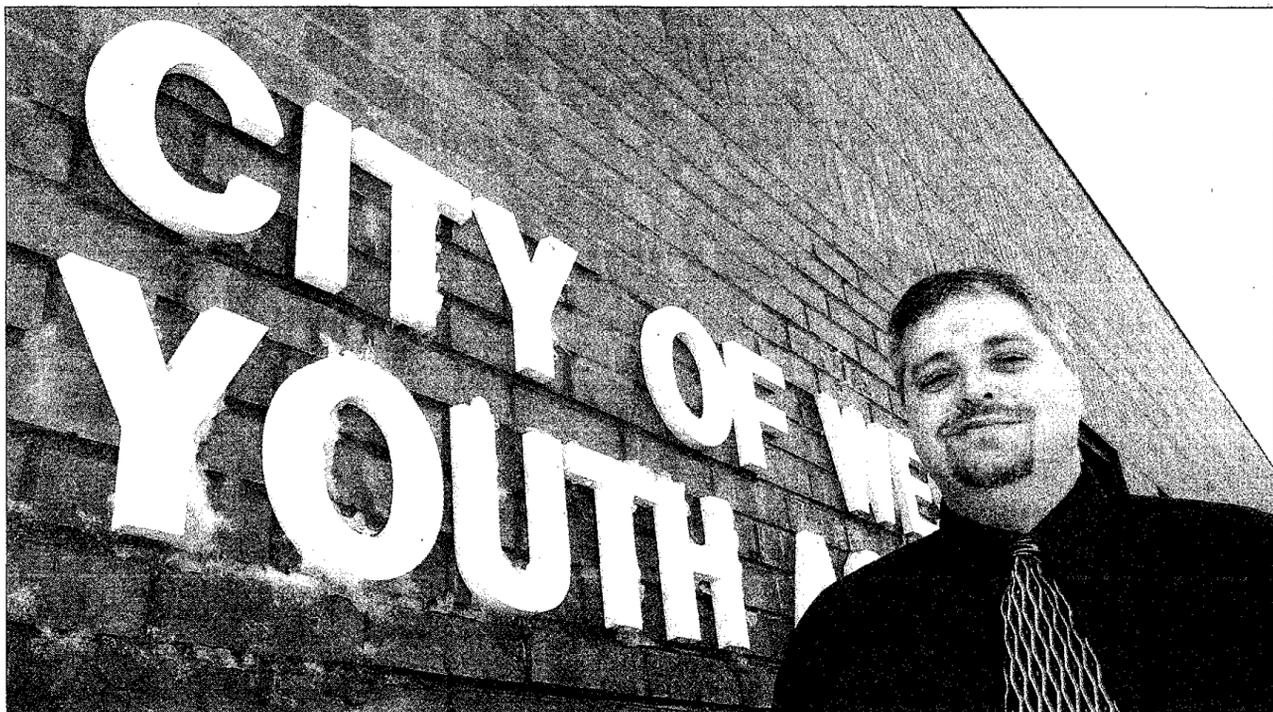
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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Director Paul Motz is taking it one step at a time as he moves the Westland Youth Assistance Program forward following the retirement of Ronaele Bowman in December.

Motz takes helm of Youth Assistance

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Paul Motz has a knack for defusing arguments between children and their parents. Whether it's a dispute over skipping school, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, ignoring a curfew or failing a class, Motz has an innate ability to get the two sides working toward a solution, his supporters say. It's a skill he'll find useful in his new job as director of Westland Youth Assistance - a program that helps troubled youngsters improve their behavior and steer their lives in positive directions. "I don't know anybody who has the ability to communicate with parents and kids the way Paul does," said Ronaele Bowman, former Youth Assistance director. "He can go into a room with a family and quickly defuse a problem. He'll have them talking and laughing within 10 minutes."

Motz, 39, became Youth Assistance director in January after Bowman retired from that job and took a new one. He joined the program part-time in 1996 and worked his way to the top. "I do believe in the program. I know it helps," Motz said, during an interview in his office. "I want to continue providing quality services to our kids and families in Westland. That's my top priority." Youth Assistance helps youngsters ages 7 to 16 who get into trouble and who appear headed for deeper problems, possibly even jail. They are referred by the police, courts, schools and their parents. They are paired with adult mentors and offered supportive classes and community service projects to help them improve their behavior. "We're trying to offer intervention at the early stages," Motz said. "Some kids just need somebody to shoot basketball with. Some of them just need somebody to talk to - somebody who will listen to them."

One of the programs offered by Youth Assistance is called the Life Choices class. Motz, himself, made some early life choices that put him on his career path. Born in Highland Park and raised in the Thumb area of Michigan, Motz is a 1989 graduate of Central Michigan University where he majored in sociology, with a concentration in criminal justice and a minor in psychology. As a child, he helped his parents with a motel and restaurant they owned. "I worked the cash register from age 7 or so and bused tables," he recalled. Motz had several jobs that prepared him for the Youth Assistance Program. He worked as a social worker for the Boys & Girls Republic, a detention center in Farmington, and for Vista Maria, a girls facility in Dearborn Heights. He worked for Family Service Inc. in Wayne

PLEASE SEE DIRECTOR, A5

Police probe fatal crash

Westland had its first traffic fatality of the year Friday morning when a car crashed into a dentist's office at Wayne Road and Avondale, police said. A 51-year-old Inkster man was dead after his Lincoln Navigator, traveling south on Wayne, crossed the center line, left the road, traveled across a field and went through two chain-link fences before hitting the side of the office, police Sgt. Rob Collier said. The accident happened about 7:45 a.m. Friday. The man's name hadn't been released Friday afternoon. The front part of the man's vehicle lodged inside the dentist's office, which Collier said was unoccupied at the time. The man was declared dead at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center in Wayne. An investigation was continuing, and police couldn't say Friday afternoon what caused the accident or whether the man might have had a medical condition. Police were awaiting a medical examiner's report on what caused the man's death.

Group files petition for board recall

Citizens for Livonia's Future filed recall petition language with Wayne County on Thursday. The grassroots community group, which opposes the controversial Livonia Public Schools Legacy Initiative cost-cutting and reorganization plan, plans to begin campaigning in February for signatures to try to recall five of the current seven school board trustees this year. Targeted for recall are board president Dan Lessard and trustees Lynda Scheel, Rob Freeman, Cynthia Markarian and Kevin Whitehead. Trustee Tom Bailey voted against the Legacy Initiative. And Trustee Joanne Morgan faces the end of her term this May, though she is expected to formally announce her run for re-election on Monday, Jan. 30. According to a letter from the citizen's group leaders to school liaisons and this newspaper, subgroups are starting to meet to set up fund-raisers and communications. Leaders of the group were to meet with Southfield-based attorney Mayer Morganroth this weekend to discuss possible legal action against the school district. A community meeting is also being planned for February by the Citizens for Livonia's Future.

by Stephanie A. Casola

Awards honor teens, those who helped them

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A tear rolled down Samantha Sterling's cheek as she stood in front of a supportive crowd of people who smiled and applauded her. It was her moment to shine, her time to win praise for staying out of trouble and overcoming difficulties in her life. Sterling, 17, earned one of four annual awards given out Monday by the Westland Youth Assistance Program, which uses adult mentors, special classes and community service projects to help troubled youngsters improve their behavior. "They really helped me be



Samantha Sterling was honored with the Spirit of Giving Award by the Westland Youth Assistance Program.



Deputy Superintendent Charlotte Sherman of Wayne-Westland Community Schools was one of several district employees attending the Youth Assistance program. The district won an award for Agency of the Year.



Theodore 'Teddy' Jodway won the Youth Assistance award for Most Improved Youth.



Helen Bell was honored as Mentor of the Year for the Westland Youth Assistance Program.

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Coming Thursday in Filter
Bar's eye view
Filter takes a look at super bars for watching Super Bowl XL

Cadets win honors at drill event

Cadet BrieAnn Rice of the Wayne Memorial High School JROTC program has plenty to smile about after finishing in first place in the recent Detroit Public Schools JROTC drill competition.

Rice competed against 250 cadets to win the top honor individual drill competition at the annual competition, held at Cass Technical High School. Twenty-seven area high schools participated.

In the individual drill competition, Wayne's Cadet Robert Lyndrup placed eighth and Cadet Richard Casteldini was 11th.

In team competition, the Wayne High drill team, led by cadet John Cipolletti, placed second in the uniform inspection, while the squad drill team, led by Cadet Patrick



Cadet BrieAnn Rice shows the first-place trophy she won in individual drill competition in Detroit recently.

McClure, placed second in the squad drill competition.

And the Armed Drill Platoon, led by Cadet John Cipolletti, placed first among the 27 schools.

Principal changes focus on continuity

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The Legacy Initiative took another step forward this week as new building principal assignments were announced for the coming school year.

Supt. Randy Liepa said two major criteria were used to determine the assignments. He said the district tried to maintain some continuity at the schools that remain open, while also taking into consideration the interests of principals willing to move.

"It worked out really well," Liepa said.

A principal on the new list, Tammy Spangler-Timm, agreed. In her first year with the district, she is serving as principal at Cooper Elementary.

Come next fall, Spangler-Timm will lead the staff of Rosedale Elementary School, a building the district is re-opening for grades K-4.

"I'm very excited about the position and the prospect of

re-opening the building," she said.

Spangler-Timm said she considers Livonia Public Schools to be "an excellent district" and she's pleased to be staying with the district next year.

Principals who were chosen to lead the upper elementary buildings were all administrators interested in taking on the goal of opening a new school, Liepa said.

Each upper elementary has been assigned a team of two co-principals.

The new assignments and school closings resulted in a reduction of four administrators.

Two of those positions were being filled by temporary employees, according to Liepa. Warner Frazer at Washington and both Jerry Nehs and Marsha Weiss at Roosevelt had been hired for a temporary time period.

In addition Dorothy Chomicz, currently principal at Holmes Middle School, will fill

a vacancy at the cabinet level this summer. She will replace Steve Smith, who recently retired as director of human resources.

Administrators at the cabinet level came together to make the assignments, Liepa said. "We talked to principals prior to making a decision."

Now the focus lies on planning for next year. "Especially at the 5/6 schools, we'll be meeting with them on a regular basis, working through the different issues you face opening brand new schools," Liepa said. "We're beginning to think about that."

The Livonia Public Schools finalized and released the assignments of their lower elementary, upper elementary and middle school principals, which go into effect next fall.

The lower elementary school principals and their schools are:

- Ann Kalec at Coolidge;
- Andrea Oquist at Hoover;
- Marcia Kreger at Cass;
- Marjorie Moore at Buchanan.

- Joanne Hughes at Randolph;
- Deanne Urso at Kennedy;
- Kay DePerro at Roosevelt;
- Gloria Parrello at Cleveland;
- Marla Feldman at Grant;
- Ernie Terry at Hayes;
- Tammy Spangler-Timm at Rosedale;
- Bill Green at Garfield;
- Lorna Durand at the district's only remaining K-6 building, Webster Elementary.

The Upper Elementary or grade 5-6 buildings will have the following co-principal teams:

- Cindy Scott and Collette Ivey at Riley;
- Richard Steele and Linda Minsterman at Johnson;
- Heidi Frazer and Terry Taylor at Cooper.

The middle school administrators will be principal Eric Stromberg and assistant principal Ann Owen at Holmes, principal Tom Tobe and assistant principal Laura Wallace at Emerson and principal Chris Berry and assistant principal Deb Dykstra at Frost.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Jan. 22 marked the 33rd anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade*. This anniversary seems especially timely in light of the recent nomination of Samuel Alito to fill the empty position of Supreme Court Justice left by Sandra Day O'Connor.

Sandra Day O'Connor is known both for a voting record that would not allow her to be labeled with one particular ideology and for the distinction of being the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court.

While Sandra Day O'Connor was not a Supreme Court Justice at the time of the *Roe v. Wade* trial, she did vote on the side of women's reproductive rights many times during her stretch as an Arizona senator in the 1970s.

If you are interested in learning more about O'Connor or any other Supreme Court Justices, the library has dozens of books that can help, both in the Reference collection and available for checkout.

Although *Roe v. Wade* went before the Supreme Court more than three

decades ago, it is hard to imagine a case that is still more controversial today. It is a platform position in every political election and even sparks lively debate among friends.

For those unfamiliar with the case, the library has a number of books on this case, such as *Roe vs. Wade: Marking the 20th Anniversary of the Landmark Supreme Court Decision that Made Abortion Legal* and *The Case of Roe v. Wade*.

However, *Roe v. Wade* was hardly the only controversial Supreme Court

case. Others include *Brown v. Board of Education* which determined that segregated schools were unconstitutional; *Engel v. Vitale* which declared that an official state prayer violated the First Amendment, and *Furman v. Georgia* which put restrictions on the death penalty at both the state and federal levels.

For those interested in learning more about major Supreme Court cases, try *Landmark Decisions of the United States Supreme Court, Freedom of Speech Decisions of the*

United States Supreme Court, or Civil Rights Decisions of the United States Supreme Court which has both a 19th and 20th century edition.

In addition, there are plenty of books on individual cases. So, why not take a journey through the cases that have shaped our country? Come by the William P. Faust Public Library to learn more.

Teen Valentine Candy Raffle: Feb. 1-14.

Can you guess how many candies are in the jar in the Young Adult area? Fill out the ballot completely and put

it in the box. Closest guess wins all the candy and a \$25 gift certificate to Westland Shopping Center. Open to grades 6-12.

Valentine's Beginning Bookies: 2 p.m. Feb. 4.

Come celebrate Valentine's Day early with us. Learn about the latest books just for you. Make a Valentine's Day craft and go home with a treat! Call the Children's desk to register.

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

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XL-ent events shape Super Bowl week

There are plenty of events to enjoy as Super Bowl XL week unfolds. For more events, click on www.hometownlife.com and look for Filter or go to sbxl.org for more listings.

■ NFL Experience
An interactive football theme park with games, displays and entertainment, 4-10 p.m. Feb. 1-5, Cobo Center, Detroit, \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 12, call (866) TIX-4NFL (849-4635) or visit www.ticketmaster.com or www.superbowl.com.

■ Taste of the NFL
An annual event of fine cuisine and entertainment featuring a top chef and player representative from each NFL team. (Detroit will be represented by Brian Polcyn, chef and owner of Five Lakes Grill and instructor at Schoolcraft College.)

During the past 14 years, it has raised nearly \$6 million for hunger relief charities that feed children and the homeless. Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest will benefit from this event.

Sponsors for Taste of the NFL XV include: Gallo of Sonoma, Xbox 360, Allouette/Chavrie Cheese, ConAgra Foods, Inc., SIKU Vodka, Ecolab, Rock Financial and WXYZ-TV (Channel 7).

Tickets to Taste of the NFL and copies of the 2006 Restaurant Guide, featuring recipes of the dishes served, can be purchased by calling (952) 835-7621. Individual tickets are available for \$400, early entry VIP tickets are \$600. For more information, visit the Web site at www.tasteofthenfl.com.



Representing the Detroit Lions at last year's Taste of the NFL were Julia Polcyn, Chef Brian Polcyn of Five Lakes Grill and former Detroit Lions player James Hunter. Chef Polcyn is back again at this year's event Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Rock Financial Showplace.

■ Bowling
Super Bowl NFL Charities Bowling Classic, at least 40 former NFL players will bowl to benefit NFL's Youth Education Center in Detroit, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, Super Bowl Lanes, 45100 Ford Road in Canton, (734) 459-6070

■ NFL Alumni Bocce Ball Tournament
Inaugural tournament, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Feb. 3, Palazzo di Bocce, 4291 Lapeer Road, Orion, \$6,000 per team of four, (952) 443-3979 or www.nflalumni.org

■ Groove Detroit: Art in Motion

Fund-raiser for The Children's Center hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ford and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Penske with buffet, open bar, live entertainment, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, Ford Conference & Event Center, Dearborn, \$450, (313) 262-1112 or www.thechildrenscenter.com.

■ Ultimate tailgate party
"40 Super Years of Football & Rock & Roll," with food, dancing, Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament and more, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, Farmington Hills Manor, 23666 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills, \$1,000 per

table of 10 or \$100 per ticket, (248) 474-3440.

■ Family football festival
"Farmington Family Football Festival" features games and activities for the family, food, showings of *Friday Night Lights* and *The Longest Yard*, at Farmington Civic Theater, noon Saturday, Feb. 4, Shiawassee Park and Downtown Farmington, free, (248) 474-3440.

■ Motown Winter Blast
Ice skating, snow slide, marshmallow roasting, dog sled rides and 22-restaurant Taste of Detroit, Feb. 2-5. Visit motownwinterblast.com.

Transportation companies enjoying landmark business

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

If you're thinking about enjoying the sights, sounds and special events of Super Bowl XL this coming weekend and would like to travel around in style without hassling with parking, you had better move quickly.

Limousine services, recreational vehicle rental companies and auto rental companies in the metro Detroit area have been swamped with requests from football enthusiasts the world over.

Sue Jarvis, owner of Aristocat Limousine Service of Troy, is having the time of her life, professionally. She's really busy.

"Like you wouldn't believe," she said. "This is the best blessing this city ever had monetarily."

Aristocat has 60 limousines and nearly all of them are booked for the Super Bowl. There have been calls from corporate officers from all over the world looking for transportation that weekend.

"We've been getting calls like there's no tomorrow," Jarvis said. "We've got a little bit of availability left over."

She said she's seen the banners along I-696 for shuttle service from malls to the event area in downtown Detroit and can't think of how bad the lines are going to be getting there and back Super Sunday. But it's not like there are a lot of other options out there.

"Every rental car company in the area is booked," Jarvis said. "This is fabulous, the most unbelievable financial opportunity for me."

Larry Andree is the owner of A&S RV Rental in Auburn Hills. The calls for recreational vehicles started in October and the company rented its last one just three weeks ago.

"Most of them went to individuals," he said. "But we got a lot of corporate calls looking for multiple units."

He said a production company called looking for five RVs for its crew. A lot of companies in town to do work for the Super Bowl are using RVs as mobile hotel rooms so they can keep their people close by where they'll be working.

Although they're already sold out, calls are still coming in.

"We refer them to our dealer association or to the newspapers," Andree said. "There are some people who are renting their own RVs through the classifieds."

Enterprise Rent-a-Car in Romulus was contacted by management at Metro Airport and the NFL to come up with a plan to handle the increased traffic the Super Bowl would bring.

"Business couldn't be better," customer service representative Brian Colt said. "There's been a dramatic increase in the number of reservations for the coming week. We've been getting calls from all over the country."

The company has increased its fleet of available vehicles from its normal standing count of 800 to nearly a thousand cars. He said the company has been planning for the event for months.

Luxury transportation provider Metro Cars has ramped up its operations considerably, but it's still business as usual on the curb at Metro Airport.

"We service the airport and that will continue throughout the Super Bowl," Vice President Kevin Dunbar said. "But you can still walk out of the terminal and get into one of our cars without a reservation."

That's because Metro Cars has come prepared. The normal fleet of 375 drivers steering 110 luxury sedans and 45 shuttle buses has grown to almost 500 drivers, 200 sedans and 65 buses.

Skies won't be crowded until after the game

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

With professional football's premier event just a week away, the entire region is gearing up for the crowds, the fans, the events and the logistical snarls that will be Super Bowl XL.

While the city of Detroit is

changing traffic patterns to accommodate tens of thousands of football fans, the Federal Aviation Administration and local airports of all sizes are changing the way the region's airspace will operate during the event.

Oakland County Director of Central Services J. David Vander Veen said the flight

restrictions shouldn't affect Oakland County International Airport very much.

"There's a four-mile restricted area around Ford Field," he said. "After the game's over, planes will be able to depart at a rate of 30 per hour."

An area from 10 miles to 30 miles outside the event, planes must fly in constant

contact with the FAA, have plans registered with traffic control and be sending out transponder codes. During the event, there will be no flight training, sightseeing flights, banner towing, crop dusting, ballooning, hang gliding or parachuting inside that 30-mile ring from 4 p.m.



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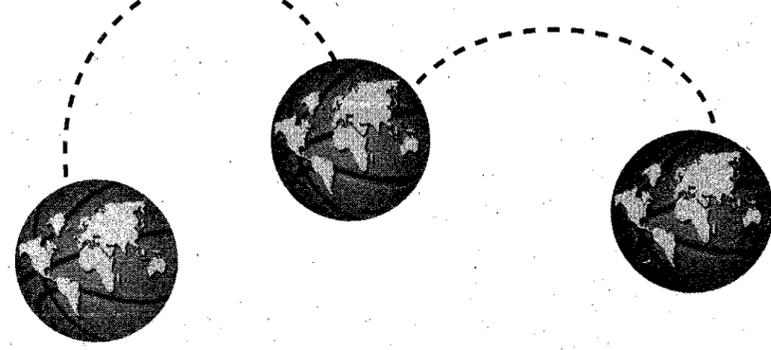
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Spaghetti dinner

The Westland Youth Athletic Association U14 Lightning softball team will hold a fund-raiser spaghetti dinner 4-7 p.m. today (Jan. 29) at the AMVETS Hall, 1711 Merriman, Westland. Cost is \$7 for all you can eat. There also will be a raffle, drawings and bake sale.

Chili cook-off

The Westland Democratic Club will hold a chili cook-off fund-raiser 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 in Westland.

There's a \$10 fee to enter the contest and cooks are asked to bring a crockpot of their chili for judging. There's also a \$10 charge to taste the chilis and vote for the best one. Beverages and dessert are included in the charge.

People who attend are asked to please bring a donation of a personal care item for our local veterans hospital patients.

Suggested items included men's white socks, liquid soap (alcohol free), disposable razors or toothbrushes and toothpaste. For more information, call Nan Melke at (734) 674-7327. The hall is at 1055 S. Wayne Road, between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

Dems meeting

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the Dorsey Center, which is on Dorsey south of Palmer and east of Venoy. Officers will meet at 7 p.m.

The club has announced that

AROUND WESTLAND

it is time to nominate officers for the positions of president, treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, sergeant at arms, and trustees.

Elections will be held during the February meeting. Club dues must be paid on Tuesday in order to vote for candidates in February. Dues are \$12 a year. Senior citizens pay \$6.

Cropping fund-raiser

A scrapbook fund-raiser, Croppin' for the Edison Eagles, will be held 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, in the gymnasium of St. Matthew Lutheran School and Church, 5885 Venoy, Westland. The cost is \$35 and includes a light breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and beverages, scrapbooking and stamping vendors, raffles and much more.

Call Kelly Salter at (734) 891-0219 or e-mail kelly@bell-creek.org for more information or to register.

Tailgate party

Residents of three American Houses in Westland are inviting friends, neighbors and family to be their guests for parties at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, celebrating the Big Game.

Each American House will celebrate with chili, nachos, chips, dip and beverages during activities preceding the 6:18 p.m. kickoff.

The free tailgate parties are open to the public. Attendees can reserve a spot by calling American House Presidential Assistant Robert W. Gillette at (877) 266-0877, or online at www.americanhouse.com. In Westland, There are

American House at 1660 Venoy, 39201 Joy Road and 35700 Hunter.

Chocolate Fantasy

Tickets are on sale for the second annual Westland ATHENA Award Chocolate Fantasy Ball Saturday, Feb. 11, at the New Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, Westland.

Tickets are \$75 per person and include cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a strolling dinner at 6:30 p.m., award presentation 7:30 p.m. and dancing to the music of White Lace.

Tickets are available at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe on Wayne Road north of Cowan - (734) 261-3680 - or through the mayor's office at Westland City Hall - (734) 467-3200.

Scrapbook workshop

Ss. Simon and Jude Parish will be the site of a scrapbooking workshop 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. The cost is \$35 per person for a full day and \$20 per person for a half day. For more information, call Sandy Kopcak at (734) 721-4867 or Karen Kopcak at (734) 634-3934 or by e-mail at khollenbeck@twml.r.com.

Open House

St. Michael Lutheran S has two open houses planned for February for parents interested in enrolling in the preschool and/or school. The preschool open house is 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, while the school open house and registration will be 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23. Call (734) 728-3315.

Ride a bus to Super Bowl events

If you want to enjoy Super Bowl activities and avoid traffic problems, the advice from SMART transportation officials is to take the bus.

"We highly recommend riding the bus downtown to avoid huge traffic problems and remember this intersection: Michigan and Cass Avenue as a hub," said SMART General Manager Dan Dirks.

The NFL Experience at Cobo Hall, the Motown Winter Blast and the Super Bowl game all take place in a short timeframe and traffic is expected to be heavy.

"We are expecting huge crowds at these events. And we intend to run regular service, however, we will call for detours as needed," Dirks said. Passengers who ride the bus downtown can also buy passes for unlimited rides between

SMART, DDOT, The People Mover and Transit Windsor. Each of the transportation agencies are offering a commemorative transit pass to travel the Detroit metropolitan and Windsor, Ontario, areas. Single or multiple day commemorative passes are available. To view available passes or purchase them online, go to: https://www5.ci.detroit.mi.us/comersus/store/comersus_spla.sh.asp.

Passes can also be bought online at SMART's Web site and at designated Ticket Centers.

Shuttle locations include:
 ■ Wayne State University, \$10 parking fee, the Lodge and I-94 off of Warren Avenue.
 ■ Northland Center, free parking, Greenfield Road in Southfield (between Eight Mile and Nine Mile).

■ The Detroit Zoo, \$10 parking fee, I-696 and Woodward Avenue (west of I-75).

■ Fairlane Town Center, free parking, Southfield Freeway, (M-39 and Michigan Avenue).
 ■ Macomb Mall, free parking, Gratiot Avenue (between 13 Mile and 14 Mile).

Service fare options are \$20 for a commemorative four-day pass, \$7 for individual roundtrip fare or \$25 for four individual roundtrip fares. Day passes will only be available for purchase at Park and Ride locations. All other passes, including the commemorative four-day pass, are available at multiple locations throughout Detroit. Call (313) 933-1300.

For more information, go to www.sbxl.org and www.detroitmi.gov/ddot/index.html.

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DIRECTOR

FROM PAGE A1

County as an in-home counselor for children before he eventually ended up with Youth Assistance, which flourished under Bowman's 13-year leadership. Motz was her deputy director.

"I'm not planning on making any rapid changes in the program," he said. "I want to make sure I catch the ball before I run with it."

Motz has two full-time employees - his deputy director, Michele Bracy, and their office manager, Mary

Wludyka. The team works out of Youth Assistance offices behind the Westland Police Department, and they depend on mentors and other volunteers to help the program succeed.

Youth Assistance has had nearly 3,000 youth referrals since it was started, and eight youngsters are on a waiting list for mentors.

Mentors have to go through an interview, a background check and a 12-to-16-hour training program.

"They should have a commitment to young people and be non-judgmental and sensitive to their needs," Motz said.

"They should be willing to give one or two hours of their time a week."

When he's not working, Motz cherishes time he spends with his wife, Carrie, and their 16-year-old daughter, Kaylei.

"My wife is the strongest person I know, and she has made me a better man," Motz said. "Being a parent has made me a better person as well, and being a better person is something we all have to work at."

Ultimately, that is the goal of Youth Assistance. Anyone who is willing to help by volunteering as a mentor is urged to call (734) 467-7904.

Pops Singers organize 3 youth choruses

It's not quite American Idol, but the American Liberty Pops Singers Inc. are looking for some young voices for two new choruses.

The organization will be holding auditions Saturday, Feb. 11 and 18, at Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Dearborn Height for youth interested in being in its middle school- and high school-aged choruses to augment the adult Liberty Pops Singers and the elementary school-aged Children of Liberty chorus.

The choruses offer the developing singers the opportunity

to supplement their school experience in terms of continued instruction in vocal technique and performance experiences.

The auditions will be 10 am to 1 p.m. at the church on the south side of Ford between Beech and Guley roads.

Students should bring a prepared vocal selection and carry a grade point average of 2.0 or better.

There will be a \$10 registration fee, refundable if it is found that the student is not yet ready for this musical experience.

The American Liberty Pops Singers hope to provide instruction, direction and performance opportunities to the students and the community in an effort to augment the education they are receiving in school, and provide another outlet for their musical expression.

Plans are to present a concert this spring to showcase the youth choruses' talents.

For more information about the auditions, call Rick Shaw, president of the American Liberty Pops Singers Inc., at (734) 355-8813.

AWARDS

FROM PAGE A1

a better person," Sterling said, accepting her Spirit of Giving Award during a ceremony at DeLuca's restaurant in Westland.

She was only one big winner:

■ Theodore Jodway, 16, received honors for Most Improved Youth after he started earning "A" grades at school and planning a possible career helping autistic children.

■ Helen Bell, a Canton resident, poet and substitute teacher, won the Youth Assistance award for Mentor of the Year after she helped a 17-year-old boy improve his behavior.

■ Wayne-Westland Community Schools earned the award for Agency of the Year. District officials and employees work closely with Youth Assistance and also provide places for youth classes and parenting groups to meet. Deputy Superintendent Charlotte Sherman accepted the award.

Youth Assistance has had nearly 3,000 youngsters referred for help since the early 1990s, and it has had a 90 percent success rate among youths.

Director Paul Motz attributed that success to mentors, other volunteers and agencies like Wayne-Westland schools.

"The Westland Youth Assistance Program is blessed with so many friends," he said Monday.

Sterling's supporters described how she has become more respectful not only of herself, but others, too.

"She has a sense of respect for adults that's not found in many youth today," said former Youth Assistance Director Ronaele Bowman, who returned for Monday's ceremony after retiring from that job in December.

Sterling attends the alternative education Tinkham Center in the Wayne-Westland district. Her grade point average has climbed from 0.8 to 3.6.

Jodway, who attends the Cambridge Alternative High School in Garden City, has fared well in Youth Assistance after earning perfect grades and improving his behavior.

When he was having problems, Motz said, "his biggest concern was losing his mother's trust."

Now, he has earned it back.

Bell, married for 32 years and with three adult children, was brave enough to engage in such activities as basketball with the 17-year-old boy she was mentoring.

"I am a firm believer that you cannot teach without learning," she said. "I am grateful for what I have learned (from Youth Assistance)."

Bell also has had her poetry published, and Motz noted that Bell won a Writer's Choice Award from the International Society of Poetry.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, an early supporter of Youth Assistance, addressed the crowd Monday and lauded a program that she said has made a difference.

"This is a fantastic program," she said.

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Volunteers make holiday meal delivery overwhelming success

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Two months ago, Lori Vail was looking for a few good people willing to commit two hours to helping make Christmas Day brighter for homebound senior citizens in southern and western Wayne County.

She got her wish and then some.

"The response was so overwhelming, I couldn't keep up with the calls," said Vail, holiday meals coordinator for The Senior Alliance. "I got 150-175 calls easily. I had to have my colleagues help with returning phone calls."

"It got to the point where we had to let the phone go and deal with the logistics of delivering 800 meals."

Now she's hoping for the same kind of response for Easter. Granted, it's almost three months off, but work has already started.

She's in need of volunteers to once again deliver the dinners on Easter to homebound seniors and volunteers to help prepare the mailings that will go out to seniors receiving Meals on Wheels.

The meals cost The Senior Alliance \$5 each and the non-profit conducts Bank Day fundraisers where volunteers man posts in participating banks, selling holiday cards for \$5 each.

When a person buys the card, they're asked to sign it and include a holiday greeting. The card is delivered with the meal to a senior.

"We can't have delivery of meals if we don't have the money to pay for them," she said. "That's why we have Bank Day, but it's hard to get people to volunteer for that."

The next Bank Day will be Friday, March 31, and volunteers will be at participating



Joanne Inglis and her children - Kevin, Michael and Lauren - used to part of the holiday to deliver dinner to Westland resident Barbara Bloom, wearing the black checked scarf.

banks from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. If Vail gets enough people to help, there will be two shifts - 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 1:30-5 p.m.

"If I get half as good of response for Bank Day as I got for the meals, I'll be set for the year," she said.

Vail also is looking to expand the number of banks participating. For the recent Christmas collection there were banks in Canton, Dearborn Heights, Melvindale, Taylor, Southgate, Riverview, Brownstown Township and Wayne where The Senior Alliance is based.

"I want to expand into all the communities we service, especially Downriver where we have a high concentration of seniors," she said.

THOUSANDS OF MEALS

The Senior Alliance delivers nearly 2,200 holiday meals annually on the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays. Nearly 200 volunteers from across western and southern

Wayne county helped with the Christmas Day deliveries.

"We knew that we might be among the only people that person would see on the holiday, and if there is any way that we could make the day more special for them, then we wanted to do it," said Joanne Inglis who made the deliveries to homebound seniors in Westland a family affair.

This past year The Senior Alliance had many volunteers who contributed not only financially but purchased holiday gifts for the seniors. Among the many financial contributors were the employees of Home Instead Senior Care.

Home Instead came up with the idea to purchase 250 meals and match every meal they purchased with a scarf that would be given as a gift along with the dinner.

"For years we've worked on a program we've called 'Santa for a Senior,'" said Jean Borin, Home Instead community service representative. "This year we thought, 'Why don't we

work with The Senior Alliance and the Holiday Meals program?' We are thrilled to be able to make this donation."

GOAL OF EXPANDING

This year Vail is exploring ways to expand the Holiday Meals program to include additional holidays. One way of accomplishing that is more Bank Day locations to bring in more money. Another way is through more donations.

"If you find yourself wondering how you may help, please know that for only \$5 you can purchase a holiday meal for a homebound senior," Vail said.

People who would like to volunteer with Bank Day or make a contribution can call Senior Alliance Resource Development Manager Bill Campbell, at (734) 727-2050. For a donation, make checks payable to Senior Alliance Holiday Meals and send them to The Senior Alliance, 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne, MI 48185.

Seniors who are homebound

The Senior Alliance
Easter Dinner

Please check the box if you wish to receive a meal on the Easter Holiday.

I/We will be home alone on Easter and would enjoy a hot meal.

Number of meals needed for Easter (one meal per eligible person)

Name: _____

Name of Apartment Complex: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Apt. Number: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Nearest cross streets: _____

List any conditions driver should know: _____

Emergency Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

and alone on the Easter holiday also can start signing up. A hot, festive meal will be delivered by volunteer drivers to eligible seniors on the holiday.

To be eligible for a holiday meal, a senior must be:

- Homebound, aged 60 years or older. (Current recipients of home-delivered meals are eligible.)
- Home alone and without a meal on the holiday.

Meal requests must be received no later than March 1.

And seniors have until April 10 to call (734) 727-2017 and cancel delivery, if they receive an unexpected dinner invitation for the Easter holiday, Vail said.

"This program simply would not exist if it were not for the financial support of the community," Campbell said. "There is no state or federal funding for Holiday Meals, and so its existence is entirely dependent upon the generosity of individual donors."

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Blues Cruiser Exhibit visits Westland Meijer

Senior citizens needing answers about the Medicare Part D enrollment and other Medicare options can get them when the Blues Medicare & More Blues Cruiser Exhibit visits the Westland Meijer store Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 27-28.

The stop is part of a statewide campaign by Meijer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to educate thousands of Medicare-eligible individuals and their families on the new Medicare programs - the Medicare

Part D prescription drug benefit and Medicare Advantage plans.

An extra-wide semi-truck, called The Blues CruiserSM and equipped with a presentation area, information center and workstations for meeting one-on-one, will be located in front of the Meijer store, 37201 Warren, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. both days.

The service is free of charge and no reservations are required.

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PURE ENTERTAINMENT

Are you ready for some (everything but) football?

Being a longtime (and long-suffering, thanks to the Lions) football fan, I've been looking forward to Detroit hosting next Sunday's Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl represents the latest pearl in a string of big-time sporting events that have landed here in the past couple of years.

As a journalist, you get the full brunt of the sporting event's impact on the community, and quickly understand that there is much more to the occasion than the competition itself.

The Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills and last summer's Major League Baseball All-Star Game came with the appropriate amount of pre-event hype. Both events showcased the best of our state, were

successful in every aspect and left a good feeling — and lots of cash — throughout our communities.

I didn't participate in our All-Star coverage and, not being much of a baseball fan, didn't pay too much attention to "All-Star week."

When the Ryder Cup came to town, it was a dream come true to help coordinate our newspaper's efforts to explain to our readers that the event was much more than just a golf tournament.

I know journalists are supposed to be jaded about everything, but as a golfer it was hard not to be in awe of the greatest talents in the world of a sport you enjoy playing. Plus, I got to see how the sponsors, the golfers and a flood of volunteers worked together to ensure a successful event.

But neither the All-Star Game nor the Ryder Cup comes close to the sheer magnitude of Super Bowl week. And while much of the media spotlight has been trained on the game, the parties, related events and guessing which celebrities will or won't show, what stunned me was how many community groups and "ordinary" people are going to benefit directly from the big game.

The "SBXL Community Impact Schedule" totals a whopping 21 pages of activities and events specifically geared toward supporting myriad local charities and institutions. The breadth of activities being done this week in the name of Super Bowl XL is staggering in its diversity, from planting trees in Southfield to combating carbon dioxide generated during the week, to a reception with Miss America to benefit the local Make-A-Wish chapter.

Throughout the week, NFL players, league officials and other celebrities will criss-cross southeast Michigan visiting children's wings of area hospitals, conducting youth sports and fitness clinics, building "home kits" for Habitat for Humanity and bestowing large grants to construct a new youth center in the city and

As a journalist, you get the full brunt of the sporting event's impact on the community, and quickly understand that there is much more to the occasion than the competition itself.

refurbish the Cass Activity Center.

The only chance a Lions player has of seeing the Vince Lombardi Trophy is if he scores a seat in the owner's box, but that hasn't stopped several players from volunteering their time to help those less fortunate.

This town has had to endure plenty of bad news lately, and more bad days appear on the horizon. The domestic auto industry is in the tank, people are scrambling to keep their homes heated and their gas tanks full, and all signs point to a nasty governor's race which is sure to fill our television screens with attack ads for weeks on end.

It is easy to become cynical in this town. Easy to say, "It's just a game," or "The media can't wait to slam Detroit," or "They're just putting a pretty dress on a pig."

But we should all be glad the Super Bowl is coming. Because all of the good that comes with us will remain for a lot longer than memories of what took place on the football field.

■ You can't make this stuff up:

It never ceases to amaze me the lengths some will go to find a news angle to exploit.

Earlier this week, I received an e-mail press release titled, "Why Super Bowl Fans Stink."

The release was hyping one Bill Downs, described as one of the "foremost experts on dieting and digestion."

Mr. Downs, according to the release, was making himself available for interviews to discuss how Super Bowl partygoers could avoid "gassing out their guests at this year's party."

The culprit? "Super Bowl party foods have an unspoken dark side that's among society's last taboos: The unsportsmanlike flatulence that results from gastrointestinal distress," the release warned. "Indeed, football fans around the country will be joining the inactive list as their bodies fail to digest a perfect storm of spicy, saucy, salty and fatty foods."

I passed on an offer to interview Mr. Downs. And I passed on a chance to contact the PR firm representing him to ask how it could send out such a ridiculous release.

And if I watch what I eat Super Bowl Sunday, I won't be passing anything else.

Joe Bauman is managing editor for the *Eccentric Newspapers*. He welcomes feedback at jbauman@hometownlife.com.



Joe Bauman

Time for us to pull together, face new economic reality

For those who had not heard the warning bells that we are confronting a rapidly changing, disruptive, informational and technologically driven global economy that will defy predictability, the sobering news from Bill Ford Jr. on "black and blue Monday" was a jolt of reality that hit many right between the eyes.

To put it simply:

What we once had is now gone.

Gone are the days where the "Big Three" dominated the auto industry. Japan and Korea are gulping huge portions of the auto market pie and China and India are licking their lips.

Gone are the days when one could drop out of school and enter the factory and a middle-class lifestyle.

This is our new reality. As was stated repeatedly during Ford's "Way Forward" press conference: If we do not change, we will not exist.

This statement also rings true for local governments, schools and students. Whether you are a private or public enterprise, you cannot survive let alone thrive without casting off the anchor, negative attitudes, gotcha politics, archaic laws and public policies that bind us to yesterday's 20th century moorings.

What we make of this new reality is up to us.

How can we benefit from this new reality? While we implore our elected leaders to see the urgency and take action for the plight of the throngs of people having their lives torn apart by the global tide, we need to individually take responsibility for this transformational global tsunami that has hit us.

What we can and should do.

1) Talk to your children and reinforce the need for education beyond high school. Clearly a child without a solid education today is an adult without much hope for a productive future.

2) Realize that change is inevitable, but progress is optional. Lifelong learning from the cradle to the grave must be a goal for all. Do not wait for your layoff notice; take advantage of our great community colleges, apprenticeship programs or universities to advance your knowledge and skills.

3) Legislators: Embrace the state Board of Education's call to enhance the rigor and curricula offering that all high school students must master. The quality of our system of public education and our economic prosperity are inextricably linked. The children of Detroit, Grand Rapids and Novi are not com-

peting with the kids from the school district or state next door. They will be competing with the children of the world.

Having traveled to China numerous times, I assure you their system of education is on steroids and their desire for quality education unmatched. When the Chinese are producing 10 times the number of engineers that we do in the United States, you know we have a problem.

4) Educators: Take note, like the auto industry you are going to have to make significant improvements in enhancing quality and accountability, controlling health care and pension costs and consolidating, merging and, in some cases, eliminating school districts.

5) Mr. President and Congress: Realize that our manufacturers, especially our auto industry, are at risk of imploding. We need national policies that help and a bare minimum do not hinder or exacerbate industry weaknesses.

Issues that deserve our immediate attention include:

■ National health care reform (the health care burden adds an extra \$1,500 to each domestic auto maker's cost of producing a car). This provides an unfair cost advantage to our foreign competitors.

■ Protect Americans from intellectual property piracy that is allowing our foreign competitors to steal our ideas and financially benefit from our creativity.

■ Provide a significant investment in math, science and technology. We need this investment to maintain America as the center of innovation.

■ Invest significant new resources in research and development

■ Develop training and retraining program that rivals the GI Bill, the Marshall Plan and the Civilian Conservation Corps that will provide every willing person the means to obtain the skills, education and experience to prosper in this great country of ours.

To paraphrase former President Bill Clinton: There is nothing so wrong with American workers that cannot be fixed by American investment in its people.

From my days as a boxer, I learned that it is not the number of times you are knocked down, but the number of times you get back up that counts. The Ford announcements Monday may have left us black and blue, but if we pull together, no one can count us out.

Tom Watkins is an education and economic consultant. He is a former Michigan state superintendent of schools and president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm, Fla. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.



Tom Watkins

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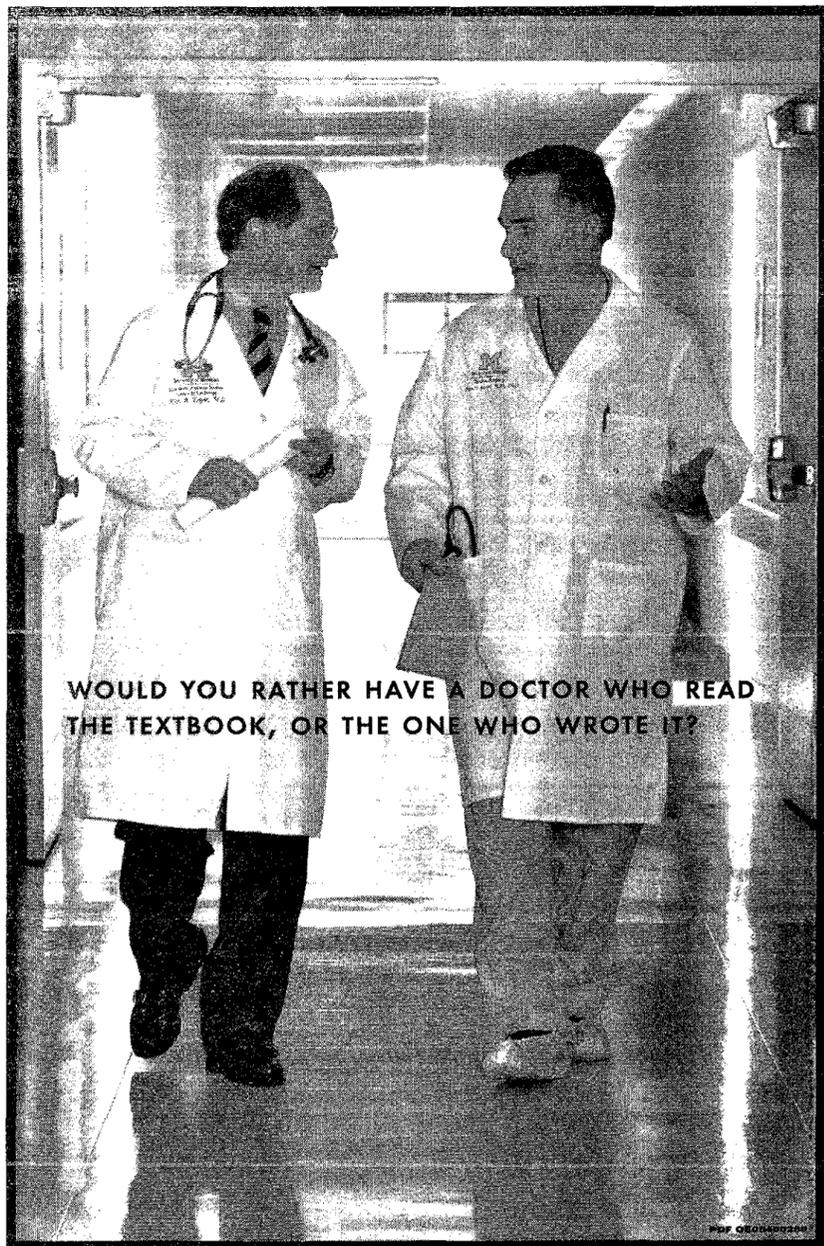
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Gov. Granholm comes out swinging in annual address

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

You might say Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm came out swinging during her fourth State of the State address at the state Capitol Wednesday night. Granholm's willingness to fight — for Michigan's families, the automobile industry, "the middle-class way of life" — was a common theme throughout her speech.

She also took a few jabs at the Republican-dominated state Legislature for dragging its feet on a few of her proposals, particularly those concerning education and the state's minimum wage, which hasn't been raised in nearly a decade. Not surprisingly, the Republicans in attendance were cold to many of her comments, while Democrats cheered wildly, including Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and former Attorney General Frank Kelley, who has been attending State of the State addresses for more than four decades.

But it wasn't the people in attendance Wednesday that Granholm was speaking to. She made it clear from the beginning that she was "speaking directly to the people of Michigan." Thus, she focused on issues impacting working families, including access to health care, work training programs for unemployed workers, education and especially the economy, which dominated the governor's comments.

Granholm said her administration has worked with the Legislature to create a plan that has helped create and retain 327,000 jobs "that would have gone to some other state or, more likely, some other country." Despite the fact that Republicans passed out leaflets that suggested the state was hemorrhaging jobs under Granholm's leadership,



Gov. Jennifer Granholm makes a point during her State of the State address Wednesday.

she said 99,000 more people were working now than when she first took office.

Still, Granholm admitted the state has challenges when it comes to the economy. With frequent discouraging announcements coming from the auto industry, including Ford Motor Co.'s decision this week to close its Wixom plant and lay off more than 1,500 employees, she said the state needs to diversify its economy away from its complete dependence on the automobile.

One area where Michigan could do this, according to Granholm, is to encourage investment in alternative energy sources, including hydrogen, solar, wind and even utilizing waste from landfills. In fact, she said many Michigan companies are already working on such technology, and to emphasize her point, she held up a hydrogen fuel cell that was developed

by a firm in Ann Arbor.

"The Great Lakes State will be the alternative energy epicenter of America. Since we are the home of the automobile, it is our proud, patriotic duty to be the state that ends our nation's dependence on foreign oil," said Granholm, who added

that Michigan would never abandon the auto industry.

EDUCATION A PRIORITY

The need to improve the state's education system also played a huge role in Granholm's address. She called for quick action on her propos-

al for a tougher core curriculum for state schools and more investments in education. She also challenged the Legislature to pass her new \$4,000 Merit Award scholarship proposal, which will help students pay for college.

In addition, the governor called for measures to protect children from bullying, engage parents in the education process and ensure that teachers receive training in maintaining discipline in the classroom.

Perhaps the most contentious proposal of the evening was Granholm's call for raising the state's minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour, which she said hasn't been changed in nine years. She suggested if the Legislature refused to do it, the voters would do it by referendum.

"If this Legislature is not willing to raise the minimum wage in this state, I assure you the people of Michigan will," she said.

Canton resident Mark Slavens, who is also the president of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education, attended the speech and agreed with much of what the governor said, and was especially happy to hear her proposals on education.

"I thought it was inspiring and optimistic. I was glad she concentrated on the three big E's — the economy, energy and education," he said. "What she said about education excites me because she is challenging our curriculum. We have to set a tough curriculum and start challenging people in our schools."

Republicans had mixed feelings about Granholm's plans.

"I agree with the governor that despite all of the gloom and doom there really are some very positive things going on in our state," state Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia, said.

"While our transition into a new global marketplace has and continues to take its toll on Michigan's economy, we have all been working very hard to protect and create jobs in our state."

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, who chairs the Senate's Technology and Energy Committee, said he was pleased to hear the governor's call for more investment in alternative energy sources.

"I was the first person on my feet when she called for alternative energy. I've been working on this for three years," he said.

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