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March 2, 2006

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State probes construction worker's death

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

State authorities are investigating the death of a 27-year-old construction worker who was killed when he grabbed a power line as he started falling from a metal scaffold.
Sheldon Schooler, 27, of Ypsilanti died when thousands of volts of electricity surged through his body shortly before 5 p.m. last Friday, police Sgt. David Heater said.
Schooler and another worker were installing vinyl siding near the peak of a two-story house being built at 128 N. Hix, north of Cherry Hill, Heater said.

"He apparently lost his balance, and to keep himself from falling he apparently instinctively reached back and grabbed onto the wires," Heater said.
Schooler's body plunged to the ground after he grabbed the wire with his bare hands, and authorities said he was dead when paramedics arrived.
Schooler was described as a father of two who was estranged from his wife, who was living with the children in North Carolina. He was working on a house for builder Michael Petryczkiewicz.
State officials are investigating the work site, including whether the house was being built too

close to power lines, said Anthony Allam, safety section supervisor for the Michigan Occupational and Health Administration.
"We are investigating, and it's too soon to say," Allam said Monday. "No determination has been made. It could take weeks."
Under further questioning, Allam estimated that the investigation will take at least four weeks. He confirmed that, in general, a house shouldn't be built within 10 feet of a power line.
Criminal charges - if any - would come from the Michigan Attorney General's Office, said Westland police Sgt. Michael Harhold.
Harhold was told by DTE Energy that Schooler's body was hit by at least 7,000 volts of

electricity.
"He apparently lost his balance, and, had the wires not been there, he might have fallen to the ground," Heater said.
Such power lines may or may not be insulated, Allam said, and their condition may be affected by age, weather and other factors.
Schooler's co-worker told police that he tried to shove the victim free of the power line. Schooler suffered third-degree burns.
The accident also was seen by a woman who was driving and who had stopped near the construction site to wait for a train to pass, police said.
dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Karri and Matt Beebe and their son, John Kent, will take their 1968 Chevy Chevelle to the Detroit Autorama. They also plan to race it this spring at Milan Dragway.

Couple rev up purple Chevelle for Autorama

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Matt and Karri Anne Beebe of Westland are ready to roll their 1968 Chevy Chevelle into this weekend's Detroit Autorama.
With help from their friends their 15-year-old son, John Kent, the couple worked tirelessly to get their purple race car ready for America's greatest hot rod show.
"We started it up at midnight last night for the first time," Karri Beebe said Monday afternoon.
They bought the car 15 months ago for

\$1,800. It didn't even have a motor or a transmission.
"It was pretty much in pieces," said Matt Beebe, a 38-year-old Garden City native who admitted, "I live, sleep, eat and breathe cars."
Lately, he has worked in the garage of the couple's home on Beechnut until 3 a.m., stealing four hours of sleep before rising for his job as a maintenance technician.
Matt Beebe entered a dune buggy in the 1997 Autorama, but this will be the first time he and his wife have placed a car in the competition.
They will face competition in a class

called "bracket racer." Officials say that, in all, more than 1,000 hot rods, custom cars, trucks, vans and motorcycles will enter Autorama.
The 54th annual show, sponsored by Murray's Discount Auto Stores, will rev up at Cobo Center in Detroit on Friday through Sunday.
Matt Beebe has a simple reason for choosing to buy a 1968 Chevelle. "That's the wife's favorite car."
Karri Beebe, a 35-year-old accountant, recalls riding in one when she was 16 years old. She grew up in West

PLEASE SEE AUTORAMA, A5

Man arraigned in salon shooting

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A shooting suspect, angry that his estranged wife wouldn't quit her job at a Westland nail salon, had threatened her long before he opened fire Tuesday in her workplace, police said.
"She hadn't talked to him in over a month, but the last time he talked to her, he told her that she wouldn't live past February," police Sgt. James Ridener said Wednesday.
Tuesday was the last day of the month.
But, when 32-year-old Andy Nguyen took a .40-caliber handgun into Golden Nails - a busy salon near Merriman and Cherry Hill - it was owner Dung Hoang that he is accused of confronting and wounding for refusing to fire his wife, Dexter said.
Nguyen of Dearborn Heights was arraigned Wednesday afternoon by Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos on charges of assault with intent to murder, felonious assault and felony firearms.
Bokos denied bond and ordered Nguyen jailed until he returns to court March 9 for a preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial. The defendant could face life in prison if convicted.
Hoang had refused to fire Nguyen's wife, police Lt. James Ridener said. "He wouldn't fire her because she was a good employee."
Nguyen is accused of going into the nail salon at 1:23 p.m. Tuesday, pointing a .40-caliber Smith & Wesson at Hoang's face and pulling the trigger.
It didn't initially fire, Ridener said. "It just went click."
The incident unfolded near the back of the salon as Hoang was eating his lunch, Ridener said. Nguyen's wife and others fled the business.
Police say Nguyen racked the gun to load bullets into the gun's chamber, and the two men started fighting as Hoang tried to get control of the gun, Dexter said.
Hoang was hit on the head with the gun, Dexter said, and Nguyen is accused of firing four shots.
"They were fighting when the shots went off," Dexter said.
Three shots missed Hoang, hitting the ceiling and wall, but Dexter said it is believed that a fourth bullet grazed the victim's right ear. Hoang also had a cut on his head and gun powder burns on his face.
"He's very lucky to be alive," Dexter said.
As the two men struggled, Hoang managed to get the upper hand, Ridener said.
"Ultimately, he did take the gun away from the suspect," Ridener said.
Nguyen fled through a rear door of the salon and then ran around to the front parking lot, just as police arrived at the strip mall where the incident happened, Dexter said.
Nguyen's wife and others pointed to the suspect, who was taken into custody.
The handgun still had eight rounds in the clip when police recovered it, Dexter said. "He had another clip with 13 bullets in his pocket."

Andy Nguyen of Dearborn Heights was arraigned Wednesday.

PLEASE SEE UNIFORMS, A5

With Meijer's help, Glenn gets new band uniforms

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Band uniforms worn by John Glenn High School's marching band have become so worn and torn, it's enough to leave these young musicians playing "rag-time."
"They're in pretty poor condition - the seams are pulling out, the material is worn thin,"

band Director Scott Cramer said.
That will change this spring when the Rocket Marching Band receives 150 new uniforms sporting the school's patriotic colors - red, white and blue.
"We're expecting delivery by the end of April or the beginning of May," Glenn Principal Joan Sedik said Monday.

With financial support from the Westland Meijer, the marching band is expected to don its new uniforms in time for a Memorial Day parade organized by Wayne-Westland area war veterans.
"We're going to march in the Memorial Day parade even if it's 110 degrees," said Eric Fahlgren, president of a band boosters organization.

Band members will unveil their new uniforms for their first school-based event in August during a football game.
"We'll be showing off the new uniforms during our first home football game against Canton," Sedik said.
It'll be a long-awaited moment for the Rocket

PLEASE SEE UNIFORMS, A5

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Coming Sunday on the PINK page

Vintage jewelry designer creates Treasures of Time

'Athletes' compete in Nursery Olympics

It's a toddler's dream come true. They can ride their Big Wheels indoors, throw food on the floor and basically just have a grand old time at the annual Nursery School Olympics.

Sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, Westland Civitan Club, Westland Junior Civitans, Dads Athletic Club of Westland and the Westland Jaycees, youngsters ages 18 months to 5 years can go for the gold, so to speak, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 4, at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Some of the activities include the Big Wheel Grande Prix, the Marshmallow Shot Put and the I-Did-A-Rod Hurdles.

Volunteers from a variety of organizations help youngsters work their way through the Olympic course. The activities are noncompetitive and each child receives a certificate of

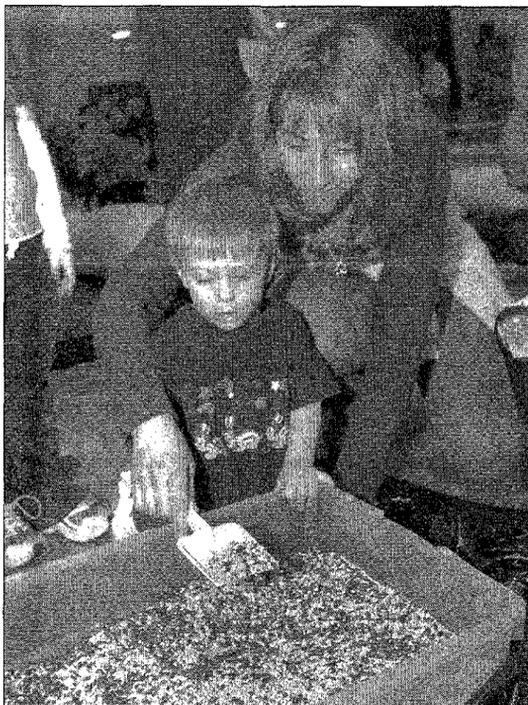
They can ride their Big Wheels indoors, throw food on the floor and basically just have a grand old time at the annual Nursery School Olympics.

participation, according to recreation Supervisor Margaret Martin who is hoping for a good turnout.

"We had 93 kids last year, I aiming for 100 this year," she said.

Registration can be completed in advance at the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall. The cost is \$4 per athlete, parents and spectators are free of charge.

Athletes also can sign up to compete up to 11:30 a.m. the day of the event. For more information, call the recreation department at (734) 722-7620.



FILE PHOTO
Colleen Harding of Westland helps her son Tommy hunt for dinosaur eggs and other things in the Dino Dig at the Nursery School Olympics.

Dr. Seuss focus of library's readathon

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Today is Dr. Seuss' birthday — he would have been 102 — so a celebration's in order at the Westland library.

At 2:30 p.m. today, there will be a 102-minute readathon at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, on Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford.

Advance registration isn't required and birthday cake will be served.

"Everyone's welcome to attend," children's librarian Lisa Hausman said of the all-ages program.

"We're breaking all the rules of the library," she said, referring to the eating and noise that is being allowed at the library during midwinter break.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, percussionist Kevin Collins visited the library for a fun-filled session. "We had Kevin Collins and he did African

drumming and dancing," Hausman said.

Families practiced on the drums, and learned a little Swahili.

"It was loud in the library," she said. "We had the beat going."

Wayne-Westland schools are out this week and the library's a popular gathering spot for kids and families. There was a family storytime Monday evening and a Tuesday craft activity.

Stephanie Condron of Westland visited Monday afternoon with 6-year-old son Garrett, who is home-schooled. "Normally, he used to always come with his aunt, but his aunt moved away," she said. They like to check out books and save money not buying them.

"And he likes their games," Condron said. Her son confirmed that by exclaiming "I'm doing good" while playing on the computer.

For information on library activities, call (734) 326-6123.

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6 p.m., Tuesday, April 11 • HENRY FORD WYANDOTTE HOSPITAL
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CORRECTION

A story in last week's sports section should have noted that Livonia Franklin earned Class A team wrestling titles in the 1990, 1991 and 1992 seasons. The 2006 title was the Patriots' fourth in school history.

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Croquet, anyone? AAUW presents 'Alice'

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER



Plymouth's Sharon Belobraidich enjoys yelling "off with their heads" as the Red Queen in *Alice in Wonderland*.



The Mad Hatter is played AAUW member Melissa Uhl of Plymouth.



Tweedle Dum Helene Lusa of Livonia and Tweedle Dee Trisha Carney of Plymouth rehearse their lines from the AAUW's production of *Alice in Wonderland*.

"I'm not a witch, I'm a queen," said Sharon Belobraidich, tapping the gold crown on her head for emphasis. "That's what the kids called me today."

It's an easy mistake to make since she has made a name for herself playing the villain — or "a stupid fellow" — in the annual Plymouth-Canton Branch of the American Association of University Women children's play.

This year is no different. She may be decked out as a queen, but she's the Red Queen who is forever yelling "off with their heads" in the group's presentation of *Alice in Wonderland*.

For 47 years, the organization has been presenting children's theater productions taking classics like *Pinocchio*, *Snow White* and *Alice in Wonderland* and crafting hour-long "AAUW versions."

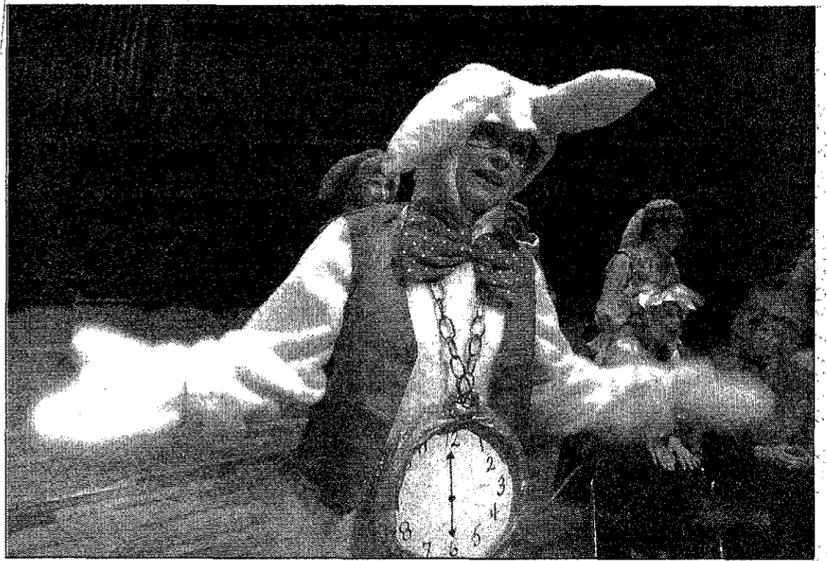
This year's installment will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, March 9-10, and 10 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium.

"We tried to lengthen and add to Alice, we have additional commentary from the storyteller and added three flowers who sing," said Mieke Edell, who is sharing directing duties with Pam Dean. "We've added more audience participation because the adults as well as the kids enjoy it."

Preparation for this year's production began last summer when the script was updated. Tryouts were held in October. The twice-a-week rehearsals began last month.

"We try to get as many members involved as possible," said Dean. "Some make all the costumes, others take care of the house and providing lunch. There are some members who don't like to be on stage, but we need them for their expertise."

"We yank in everybody we



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Becky Copenhaver of Canton will play the White Rabbit in the Plymouth-Canton AAUW's version of *Alice in*

can to help," added Edell. Belobraidich can relate. While keeping her crown in place, she was bending over the piano, coaching Jan Branton with the music.

She started out doing that 35 years ago, but five years in found her niche on stage, playing such dastardly roles as Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, the Queen in *Cinderella* and the Giant in *Jack and the Beanstalk* or as the brainless Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*.

"I couldn't be Alice, I have to be someone who's stupid with no brains or mean," said the retired first-grade teacher. "I don't know how to be nice."

Members all say that it's the camaraderie that makes doing the play so much fun, but it's the reaction of the kids that makes it extra special. Scenes are written to put the characters in the audience, and when the play is over, they're in the lobby to meet and greet the audience.

"We have a lot of members of the audience who come back every year," said Edell. "They'll go through the line and tell you you did this last year, you did this in this play. It's a combination of doing something for the community and celebrating the arts."

The oldest member of the cast is Sylvia Rozian, who is doing a reprise of her very first role. She's the caterpillar. Melissa Uhl is the youngest member and has been involved in AAUW plays for 35 years plus.

"I was here in womb," said Uhl, who is following in her mother's footsteps.

Another mother-daughter pairing is stage manager Jan Carney and daughter Trisha, who plays Tweedle Dee.

"I'm so glad to see mothers passing the commitment to AAUW on to their daughters," Edell said.

For a second year, the AAUW is offering a program

after the 10 a.m. show Saturday with activities to help Girl Scouts and Brownies earn their theater badges. Last year, 45 Scouts turned out to try out make-up and get on stage.

"We have a whole plan we follow," said Edell. "There's only two activities they need to do to complete it."

Tickets are priced at \$6 and are available at The Book Cellar & Cafe, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth, and at Fanatic U at 30409 Ford in Garden City. They're also available at the door.

"It's amazing how it comes together," said Edell, watching a rehearsal that was minus an ailing Alice. "As a director, you get nervous the week of the play because it's chaotic."

"But after the first performance you say who are these people and where did they come from?" added Dean. "It all comes together perfectly."

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Lutheran High hosts arts and craft show

There may be a winter chill in the air, but it will be a Spring Celebration at Lutheran High School Westland Saturday, March 4, when the Boosters Association host arts and crafts show.

The juried show will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school at 33300 Cowan Road east of Wayne Road in Westland.

The Spring Celebration arts and craft show will feature quality hand-crafted items and feature such artists as Jim Williams of Highland.

Williams does oil paintings of area landmarks. A self-taught impressionist realist painter whose work depicts a style that is partly derived from the study of classical 19th and 20th century American and European artists, he currently is the 2006 featured artist at Parkside Gallery in Plymouth.

The show also will feature a kid's craft corner, face painting, hourly door prize drawings, entertainment by Lutheran High Chamber Singers and small group of student performers.

Lunch also will be available and will feature a "Maurice" salad like J.L. Hudson's used to serve and homemade rolls from the Cozy Café in Plymouth. Admission is \$2.

For more information, call (734) 422-2090.

Bunny bowl

Children will have a chance to bowl with the Easter Bunny 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at Town & Country Bowling Alley, at Wayne and Avondale.

Cost is \$7, and children must have adult supervision. The cost includes one game of bowling and shoes, one slice of pizza or one hot dog, and pop. Tickets may be purchased by calling (734) 722-6478.

The event is being sponsored by junior and youth members of Grange No. 389. Part of the proceeds will go to AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Senior dinners

The Wayne Ford Civic League is offering a dinner for seniors noon to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5 and 19, at the league hall, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The price is \$8 for members and \$10 for

nonmembers for a buffet dinner with beer, wine, pop, and dancing to live entertainment. The event is for people age 60 and older. Call (734) 728-5010 for more information.

Pancake Breakfast

The Westland Senior Resources Department will have an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, March 9, at the senior Friendship Center on Newburgh Road south of Ford.

The cost will be \$4 for buttermilk pancakes, multigrain pancakes, bacon, sausage and beverage. The public is invited to attend.

Author speaks

The Education Commission at St. Simon and Jude Catholic Church in Westland will host a presentation by nationally known author Angela Bonavoglia at 7 p.m. Friday, March 17, at the church, 32500 Palmer. Bonavoglia wrote *Good Catholic Girls*, a book about how women are leading the fight to change the Catholic Church. Her talk is open to the public.

Dancing classes

Dancing Singles in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department is offering beginner square dance class plus workshop Monday, March 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. The class will be at 7 p.m., followed by the workshop at 8:15 p.m. Cost is \$30 for six weeks. For more information, call Ray Wiles at (313) 383-2783.

AROUND WESTLAND

Round dance classes, covering a variety of dance rhythms and choreographed step routines, are available Wednesday evenings at the Bailey Center. The cost is \$12 per month.

Round dances also are being held 6-9 p.m. Sunday, March 5, May 7, July 9 and Sept. 10, and cost \$3 per person. Phase 2 and 3 and some easy Phase 4 dances will be featured. For more information, call Judy at (734) 422-8738.

Quilt Show

The Plymouth/Westland Grange 389 is holding its fourth annual spring quilt show, workshop and classes 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

There will be classes in hand appliqué (cost is \$25) and techniques for a peony and vine wall hanging (cost is \$55), as well as a special quilt project for children (cost is \$6). Pre-register by April 19.

There will be a demonstration of yarns and new products by Hancock Fabrics and a display of quilts. Velda Kirby of Make It Sew will speak at a quilt luncheon that costs \$10.

For \$1, people can enter quilts to be judged in such categories as antique, mixed technique, mixed medium, single technique, group quilting, quilted clothing, wall hanging and unfinished top.

Admission is \$1 in advance and \$2 at the door.

For more information, call Sharon Strebbing at (734) 722-4857 after 6 p.m.

Art Auction

The Wayne Rotary Club and Wayne Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring an Art Auction, featuring art in all media and price ranges. It will be Friday, March 24, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne. There will be a preview at

6:30 p.m., followed by the auction at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person which includes door prizes, silent auction, wine and cheese, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and coffee and cash bar.

Proceeds will benefit the Playscape for Rotary Park No. 1. For tickets or for more information, call (734) 721-7400.

Open houses

St. Damian School will host its annual open house from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 12. An accredited Catholic school, St. Damian is accepting enrollment for all classes at the school at 29891 Joy between Middlebelt and Merriman. It offers 3- and 4-year-old preschool, full-day kindergarten and grades one-eight. For more information, call (734) 427-1680.

Willow Creek Co-Op Preschool will have an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the preschool in Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

Free seminar

Vickey Foley, marketing director and development, and Penny Thomas, director of social service, both with Community Hospice, will explain advanced directives, at a free seminar at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 25, in Meeting Room A/B of the Westland public library, 6123 Central City Parkway.

Sometimes called living wills, advanced directives are documents which state a person's wishes on such things as extreme measures, feeding tubes and ventilators.

Bonnie Hilberer, an advanced planning funeral professional with Vermeulen Funeral Homes, also will be there to explain options for funeral preplanning. Call (734) 326-6123.

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY 2006 BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday	March 7, 2006	9:00 a.m.
---------	---------------	-----------

The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the 2006 assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 13, 2006	9:00am -5:00pm
Tuesday	March 14, 2006	1:00pm -9:00pm
Wednesday	March 15, 2006	1:00pm -9:00pm
Thursday	March 16, 2006	9:00am -5:00pm
Friday	March 17, 2006	9:00am -5:00pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 13, 2006.

Tentative ratios and factors for the 2006 tax year are:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO	PROJECTED EQUALIZATION FACTOR
Commercial	45.10 %	1.1086
Industrial	47.41 %	1.0546
Residential	49.21 %	1.0000
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE** value, which is the lower assessed value or capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which will increase 3.3% for 2006. As a result, all Taxable Values will increase 3.3% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2006 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 7, 2006 through March 10, 2006 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m..

ALLYSON BETTIS
TEASURER-CLERK

Publish: February 26, March 2, and 5, 2006

GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 6000 MIDDLEBELT GARDEN CITY, MI 48185

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at Public Auction on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 9:00 A.M. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

Please Note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

YEAR & MAKE	STYLE	VIN#
1979 Chevrolet	4 Dr	1N69G9S174093
1995 Dodge Neon	2 Dr	1B3ES42C8SD211099
1995 Ford Taurus	4 Dr	1FALP52U1SG120427
1989 Mercury	4 Dr	2MEBM75F8KX725660
1989 Pontiac	SW	1G2AF81W8K6222956

Publish: March 2, 2006

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **March 16, 2006, at 10:45 a.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):

Software for Recreation Department

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Robert Kosowski, Parks & Recreation Director at 734-467-3255. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Dwayne R. Harrigan
Controller

Publish: March 2, 2006

CITY OF WESTLAND 2006 BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

RESIDENTIAL
Tuesday, March 7 & Thursday, March 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 8 & Friday, March 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL
Friday, March 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Appointments can be made beginning February 27, 2006 by calling (734) 467-3160 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Written appeals must be received by 2 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2006. Meetings are held at Westland City Hall, 2nd Floor - Council Chambers at 36601 Ford Rd.

Publish: February 26 & March 2, 2006

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **March 16, 2006, at 10:30 a.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):

Picnic Shelter

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Robert Kosowski, Parks & Recreation Director at 734-467-3255. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Dwayne R. Harrigan
Controller

Publish: March 2, 2006

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\$100,000 and up	4.60%

*Annual Percentage Yield



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AQUAMARINE (PG)
12:30, 1:50, 2:50, 4:10, 5:10, 6:30, 7:30, 8:50, 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 11:10

DAVE CHAPPELLE'S BLOCK PARTY (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

TRANSAMERICA (R) 7:20, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

EIGHT BELOW (PG)
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS (R) 12:10, 7:40

GAPOTE (R)
12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

THE WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN (PG-13) 2:20, 5:00, 9:55

NANNY MCPHEE (PG)
12:50, 3:00, 5:10

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AUTORAMA

FROM PAGE A1
Bloomfield and attended North Farmington High. "My friend's brother owned one, and we used to take it out for a ride," she said. "It's always been a favorite of mine."

Friends have helped them fix up the car. Otherwise, they estimate the work would have cost \$10,000 to \$15,000.

They also plan to drive the Chevelle on the street and to race it at places like the Milan Dragway. They've raced other cars before, as far away as Florida and Indianapolis.

Matt Beebe estimated that the car, with a small block engine that is the equivalent of about 750 horsepower, can reach speeds of 130-140 in a quarter-mile.

The Chevelle has a roll cage, a parachute, big tires and race-car seats.

"It's a full-blown race car," Karri Beebe said, "but we can drive it on the street."

"Everything is pretty much customized," Matt Beebe said. "It's got new technology in it. It's fuel-injected, and



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Karri Beebe says she was excited to start the 1968 Chevy Chevelle on Sunday, for the first time.

you can tune it with a laptop computer. It's state of the art technology in a 1968 car."

According to Autorama officials, at least four other Westland residents will enter Autorama:

■ John Lahone will roll in with a silver-green, 1972 Chevy SS Chevelle.

■ Tim Skardoutos will bring his yellow, 1971 Dodge Dart Swinger.

■ Kevin Watson plans to compete with a viper blue,

1972 Panthera.

■ Gregory Zahodne will show his yellow, 1969 Chevy Camaro.

The Beebes hope to come home with a winning plaque in a contest that they concede doesn't come with any money.

Other than showing off their Chevelle, Matt Beebe said, "We'd get bragging rights if we win."

dclm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Detroit Autorama returns for its 54th year, March 3-5

The 54th Annual Murray's Discount Auto Stores Detroit Autorama will roar into Cobo Center Friday through Sunday, March 3-5.

Billed as America's greatest hot rod show, this annual winter ritual brings the most devout gearheads and just plain curious folks up close and personal with more than 1,000 exhibits of chopped, channeled, dumped and decked hot rods, custom cars, trucks, vans and motorcycles of the past and present.

This year's show will feature award-winning customs from across the country including the wild cartoon hot rod Defibrillator, Troy Trepanier's Chocolate Thunder and the original Batmobile and the Munster Koach - voted America's No. 1 and No. 2 most popular TV cars.

Autorama also will pay tribute to the legendary car customizer and creator of the character Rat Fink, Ed Roth. The Ed Roth exhibit will feature 15 of his most famous creations, including Beatnik Bandit I and II, Stealth, Rotar and Tweety Pie.

Autorama will bring back its Detroit Autorama Extreme. A show within a show, the lower level of Cobo Center's Michigan Hall will feature more than 200 extreme Tuners and Traditional rods, the latest craze in hot rodding among the young set.

At the heart of Autorama are hundreds of siz-

zling striped and souped up masterpieces of backyard car jockeys from across the country who flock to the Motor City to show off their originals for the first time.

These auto gems compete in the GM Performance Parts Show Car Series and for the prestigious Ridler Award for the best vehicle first-time shown. The winner will receive \$10,000 in cash plus a new GM Performance Parts engine, a custom trophy and a jacket.

In addition to the Ridler Award, Autorama presents the Grand Master Award to the best two-wheel motorcycle. The motorcycle also must make its first public showing ever at Autorama and the winner will receive \$3,000 and a custom award.

The special guests who will meet and greet visitors and sign autographs include Ben Jones, Cooter from the *Dukes of Hazzard*, NASCAR's Ricky Rudd, WWE Superstar Batista and Q from *Pimp My Ride*.

Autorama will be open noon to 10 p.m. tomorrow, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12 years. Children age 5 and under are free.

Discount advance tickets - \$13 and \$4 - are available at all Murray's Discount Auto Stores. For information, call (248) 373-1700.

UNIFORMS

FROM PAGE A1

Marching Band.

Uniforms currently used by the band are nearly a decade old, Sedik said. Band supporters started raising money to replace them a few years ago, but Meijer put the project on the fast-forward.

Meijer gave nearly \$35,000 in cash, donated food for fund-raising dinners and sponsored a special event last summer, bringing an inflatable "moon walk," a dunk tank and other games to its parking lot at Warren and Newburgh, Sedik said.

In all, Meijer has tabulated its contributions - cash and

otherwise - at \$77,168.

"When Meijer stepped in, it really moved things along and helped," Sedik said.

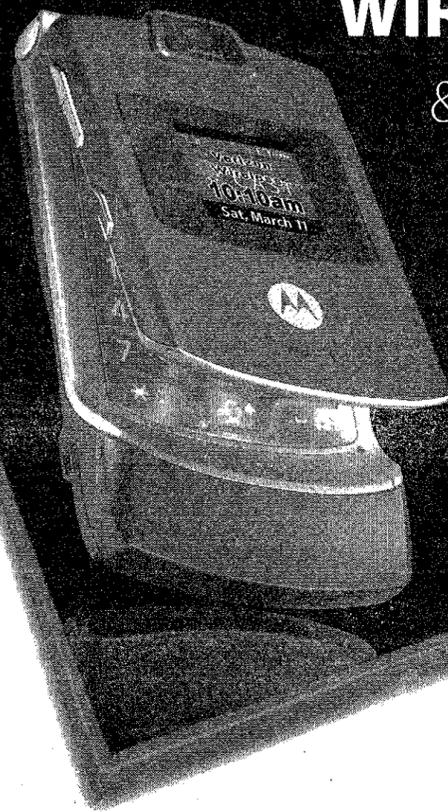
Although the Rocket Marching Band now has 71 members, it ordered 150 uniforms to accommodate the students of all shapes and sizes who will be using them in coming years.

"We also ordered raincoats," Sedik said.

It isn't the first time that Meijer has become involved in a community project. Last Christmas, the store teamed with the Westland Police Department to provide Christmas presents for chil-

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313-441-0168
- DETROIT**
14126 Woodward
(Model T Plaza)
313-869-7392
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734-779-0148
- NOVI**
43025 12 Mile Rd.
(Twelve Oaks Service Dr., North of Sears)
248-305-6600
- Twelve Oaks Mall**
(lower level play area)

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454 Telegraph Rd.
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- ROYAL OAK**
31921 Woodward Ave.
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23000 Eureka Rd.
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- TROY**
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(Troy Sports Center)
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- Oakland Mall**
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See store for Return/Exchange Policy.

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- ROSEVILLE**
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Fusion Communications
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- SOUTHFIELD**
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- STERLING HEIGHTS**
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Wireless Link
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- TAYLOR**
Cell Phone Warehouse
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OUR VIEWS

All will play role in finding better way

President George W. Bush told area residents last week that there really is something new under the sun. That ought to be good news to both residents and automakers.

The news was delivered during visits to energy- and auto-related facilities in the tri-county area. They were wakeup calls for the public, shedding light on the need for new sources of energy and how to develop them.

The president pushed his plan to reduce dependence on foreign oil by 75 percent. He stopped at United Solar Ovonic in Auburn Hills, while transportation Secretary Norman Mineta stopped at TRW Automotive in Livonia.

Those destinations aided Bush's drive challenging automakers to build vehicles that are more fuel efficient. Gov. Jennifer Granholm was at United Solar Ovonic, too, but Bush met her plea for the ailing auto industry by calling for "a better way." That will come in the form of incentives for business, largely to develop hydrogen fuels.

Granholm should be credited with creating an Emerging Sectors initiative that is expected to produce new forms of energy, as well as job growth.

The most important aspects of visits by Bush and Mineta came in their message: It is possible to do something about the energy shortage — let's start now.

Both United and TRW are setting good examples. United builds solar panels and batteries, while TRW builds steering and braking systems that promise to increase fuel mileage.

But trained workers need to provide the impetus and hands-on skills to develop new sources of energy. Granholm, in her State of the State address, saluted Michigan State and Wayne State universities for their research in the energy field.

Residents need to focus on an attitude that encourages interest in the sciences, such as a Sundaes and Science event for girls Thursday at Avondale High School. Energy self-sufficiency will come from a public that supports education financially. That may not be new, but it is sometimes forgotten.

Education, after all, is the sub-atomic particle that is the building block of the future.

Focus on issue, not people, in zoo crisis

At the core of the debacle over the Detroit Zoo is the lack of a common purpose, namely, keeping that outstanding regional facility open.

Reports early this week indicated the crisis may be resolved Wednesday, with the zoo remaining open. But it will take a change in attitude for that to happen.

While everyone from the state Legislature to the Detroit City Council says they want it to remain open, stakeholders are bringing so much baggage with them, they're about to miss the bus.

Central to the dispute is the radically and racially divided nature of southeast Michigan. Never mind the conundrum of having the Detroit Zoo located in Oakland, a different county. The real problem is that the Legislature and some Oakland officials are reacting to the reputation of Detroit as a can't-do community. And Detroit council members are reaching angrily into their historical background in response.

One councilwoman has said those outside of Detroit were treating the city as if it were a plantation.

Complicating the issue were comments by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. Those comments can be described only in one word — stupid.

As if that weren't bad enough, Patterson went on at least one radio talk show saying he talks that way about lots of people.

To which we can only say: Cut it out, Brooks!

By his comments, Patterson makes himself the issue, not the zoo. And it's too bad, because Patterson is a leader. He knows how to get things done and his rhetoric isn't helping to solve the problem.

The city of Detroit is close to receivership and some officials have said that the city can no longer afford to operate the zoo. The city needs to turn over operations and financing to the Zoological Society. But breaking up is hard to do, and the council wants to retain oversight.

That's a formula for disaster. It's one thing to set policy, it's quite another to micromanage operations.

The Legislature is arching its back over financing the transition, ignoring that the focus needs to be on this jewel, which draws from the largest concentration of people in the state.

That being said, no amount of state aid and no regional attraction will ever build Michigan's future unless we can all get along.

It is said that, during a storm, many different animals will gather together under shelter, putting aside their natural animosity.

We need to not only admire the animal world, but learn from it.



Eeww, a Republican

Americans were treated to another lackluster State of the Union address again this year.

One remark, though, was even extraordinary for Mr. Bush. He stated: "In a system of two parties, two chambers and two elected branches, there will always be differences and debate. But even tough debates can be conducted in a civil tone, and our differences cannot be allowed to harden into anger. To confront the great issues before us, we must act in a spirit of goodwill and respect for one another — and I will do my part."

The name-calling efforts by the Republicans to any opposition and to denote some improper characteristic to the name has been a hallmark of the party. They resort to verbal insults to distract from their agenda and lack of credible American ideals. This emerged with "new conservatism" and Newt Gingrich. He tried to characterize liberals as being un-American and anti-democratic.

Liberals are the foundations for democracy and freedom from tyranny. They speak out and fight for true freedom, American freedom, not the freedom of Mr. Bush's party.

A liberal is one marked by generosity, open-mindedness and not bound by authoritarianism. Liberals are the patriot citizens that formed this country. They were in opposition to the conservatives of Britain, which tried to rule this land and extort its abundance.

When asked if I am a democrat by a low-minded Republican, there is always the eeww factor, which has been hammered into the little minds of Republicans through the right wing propaganda network.

Not being a Bush Republican, I always define someone by their actions instead of their opposition. From the leader of the Republican Party to our Republican representatives in this state, we have many examples of behavior that will define the party. Conservatives and Republicans are corrupt, filthy and immoral anti-Americans.

Eeww! Who would want to be a Republican?

Frances Meese
Westland

Detroit water a real deal

Come on, suburbanites, is it going to take a Katrina-level disaster — something the size of the New Orleans levees breach — to make us appreciate what Victor Mercado, director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, is trying to accomplish by improving our regional water system?

Forget about who owns what. The fact is, we depend on Detroit to provide us with the highest-quality drinking water in the nation, but the infrastructure is aging and in need of capital improvements. Spending money in this area may not be as glamorous as renovating historic theaters or building new stadiums, but our quality of life — and life itself — depends on this precious resource.

Being curious, I compared last year's bills for essential services to this year's charges, keeping in mind that Detroit

LETTERS

City Council is proposing a 5.4-percent rate increase for suburban residents' water. Waste disposal, up 9 percent. Electricity, up 25 percent. Natural gas, up 52 percent. Health insurance, through the roof. Water? Not only priceless, but a real deal.

Thank you, Mr. Mercado, for trying to be a good steward of our region's water supply despite the challenges you face from government officials outside of Detroit.

Amy Marcaccio Keyzer
Lake Orion

Network can help beneficiaries

Recent news coverage has shown that more than 2.6 million people nationwide have already signed up for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit plan.

However, some Medicare beneficiaries have said that they have been confused by the multiplicity of drug plans, with different premiums, deductibles, co-payments and covered drugs. This process can be quite confusing for seniors, the disabled and their caregivers.

To help relieve the stress of choosing which plan will work best our association, American Cancer Society — Great Lakes Division, is involved in the Medicare Rx Access Network of Michigan.

This network is here to provide people with information and assistance with outreach and enrollment for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit plan. If you would like to learn more about the Medicare Rx Access Network or find out how to contact someone visit www.medicarerxeducation.org Web site.

In addition, the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program of Michigan is also another great resource. MMAP is a free service with trained counselors in communities throughout the state. They can be reached at (800) 803-7174.

The new Medicare prescription plan took effect Jan. 1, but people have until May 15 to sign up for a program without facing a financial penalty. Please reach out for help, if you need it.

Judy Stewart
government relations manager
American Cancer Society,
Great Lakes Division

Lost a loyal friend

During Super Bowl Week, or in interviews with Bill Ford, Jennifer Granholm, Kwame Kilpatrick or anyone else, the name of "McNamara" was never mentioned, even once. Bill Ford knows he would never have built in Detroit without government-sponsored bonds. Neither would Mike Ilitch build Comerica Park without the same. Detroit's credit rating "sucked." The county (Ed McNamara/Mike Duggan) stepped up, in the face of public criticism. The Super Bowl spokesman's silence was deafening. They should be ashamed of their behavior. Without McNamara, NO Super Bowl 2006 and NO All-Star Baseball Game 2005.

In addition to Ed and Lucille's accomplished family, Ed McNamara's remarkable 40-year legacy of public service is

evident in Michigan, Wayne County, Livonia and Detroit. His vision of two first class airports in Michigan was realized with Metro and Willow Run. His administration solved the puzzle of Wayne County health care, solved the county's financial deficit, and he used Wayne County bonding to facilitate Ford Field and Tiger Stadium in Detroit. His parks department restored safety and family use of Hines Park through Wayne County.

Livonia's greatest growth and development was the direct result of the outstanding and imaginative McNamara leadership as councilman, then mayor from 1962 to 1987. Along with these momentous accomplishments, countless numbers of individuals owe their successful careers to Ed's stewardship. I and many others owe a lot to Ed McNamara, as do the citizens of Livonia, Detroit and Wayne County. We who were especially close have lost a loyal friend, who we loved like family.

Ron Mardiros
Livonia

The right to know

The American public has a right to know if our government is spying on us without following proper legal and constitutional process. If this is happening, there is no justification. If this is happening, it must be stopped until or unless it can be done while protecting our liberties as Americans.

I am willing to undergo all the inconveniences necessary for our safety and protection such as experienced at the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel or in the airport. But I am not willing to give away my Constitutionally guaranteed rights without proper process or required checks and balances. We shouldn't wait until our own personal rights are violated to stand up. Please join me in writing our Michigan senators and representatives to ask that they protect our Constitutional rights and that they conduct a bipartisan investigation to uncover the truth.

Martin C. Brook
Bloomfield Township

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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Letters to the editor
Westland Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"If everything works out as planned, it would be like walking into a time warp. You would not just enter the (historical museum), but would enter the year 1966, as well."

— David Carrick, of Friends of the Westland Historical Museum, about the museum display planned for the city's 40th anniversary

WESTLAND
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Sue Mason
Community Editor

Marty Carry
Advertising Director

Hugh Gallagher
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Peter Neill
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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.

Community college is best value in higher ed today

If you seek great opportunities, look about you. One tremendous academic and economic asset Michigan has is its system of community colleges. Yes, we have great universities across our state, but community colleges are the unsung heroes, providing a stepping stone to excellent careers, continuing education and the first boost up the post-secondary education ladder leading to greater earning power and often advanced degrees.

From Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, to the far reaches of the western U.P., our 28 community colleges are touching the lives of countless students and workers returning to school to upgrade their skills



Tom Watkins

to compete in this fast-paced, global economy and are serving as incubators for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Community colleges provide the setting for investment in human capital and the fuel for the economic engine of our state to help make us globally competitive. If they did not exist, there would be a rush to create them.

Our community colleges are making a difference in a number of ways:

- Training and retraining of Michigan's workforce.

There are jobs today that did not exist a few short years ago. For Michigan to remain competitive, it is critical that our workforce continually upgrade knowledge and skills. Community colleges across the state are helping in this effort by providing on-demand training; working with business, health care and industry to provide adaptable and industry-specific worker training, hence making our workforce agile and ready to perform at top efficiency.

- Michigan Technical Education Centers

These education and training centers take the concept of school to work to a new level, bringing workforce preparedness skills to the employers across the state. Having M-Tec Centers located close to major employers where they can best meet specific needs and have local business people serve on M-Tec advisory councils ensures that the training provided has both academic rigor and real world applicability. Through M-Tec Centers, our community colleges are educating students in fields that need quality workers today and tomorrow.

- Michigan Virtual Learning Opportunities

In the fast-paced lives that many students lead, it is critical that education and training be available to them at any time, any place and at any pace. Michigan's community colleges offer virtual classes to students from any community college across the state, while students receive important support services from their "home" campus. This innovation allows students to access e-learning

courses and complete certificate and degree programs entirely online from the comfort of their homes.

- Provide fast track to careers.

Through certification and associate's degrees, our community colleges can place students on an accelerated pace to obtain the skills they need, close to home, and move them quickly into fields that are clamoring for quality workers such as health care, homeland security, auto mechanics and information technology.

- Stepping stone for an advanced degree.

Not only do our community colleges provide on-the-job-training, certificate programs and associate's degrees, they also provide foundational liberal arts courses at much lower cost. This provides greater access to the first rung of the academic ladder that is often elusive to many first-generation college attendees.

By living at home, working and attending classes, community college becomes affordable to many students who may not have prepared adequately in high school for the rigors of a four-year institution. Yet once success is reached in community college, this next rung of the ladder is more accessible.

Our community colleges, along with our public schools, are the true statues of liberty in this great country of ours. They take the tired, the hungry, the poor and huddled masses and give them hope and opportunity. I know, because like many first-generation college graduates toiling on the assembly line at the Ford Rouge Plant, if it were not for Henry Ford Community College, I would have not had the opportunity to attend college.

Former President Clinton once described our community colleges as "the most open, democratic and opportunity-filled institutions in the United States today."

Advantages of community colleges are many, and include highly qualified instructors focused on teaching and learning; enhanced lifetime earning potential; smaller class sizes; lower cost than traditional four-year institutions without lowering quality instruction; convenient and accessible; immediate skill building that transfers into economic benefit for working students; and college credits easily transferred to universities.

As Michigan prepares for the 21st century knowledge economy, where an educated work force is vital to our very survival, our community colleges should be viewed as a linchpin in our strategy to compete on the global stage.

Tom Watkins is an education and economic consultant. He was state superintendent of schools from 2001-05. See his report, *The New Education (R)evolution*, at www.coe.wayne.edu. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

There's no better vigilance than protecting our kids

Vigilance. It's a buzzword of the times. Its meaning is to be alert, watchful, to avoid danger. It's a word that came to the forefront of our minds after the unthinkable attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

Since then, most of us have no problem removing our shoes at airport security. We think nothing of presenting a passport or birth certificate just to cross the border into Windsor. We now look at people differently; with caution and scrutiny.

The recent criminal background checks for public educators and the ensuing list, though flawed, presented yet another shade of vigilance. The hotly debated secret wiretapping by the president is another.

For me, the most pungent reminder came last week, in the form of a disturbing police investigation which resulted in the arrest of a 36-year-old Livonia man who is a well-known and respected figure skating coach. He was arrested and charged by Farmington Hills police with two counts of criminal sexual conduct involving a 15-year-old student of his.

There is no better vigilance than that which protects our children. Some argue that private citizens should not be subjected to criminal background checks. Some think it's absurd that teachers are also being screened.

It's called vigilance. And when it comes to being in contact with or being responsible for children, those background checks are not an invasion of privacy.

As a parent, I am forced to trust various adults who have my children in their care for portions of the day. They're teachers, day care employees, custodial staff at the schools, bus drivers and parent volunteers in the school lunchroom and playground.

While the list of school employees who were found to have criminal records contained serious errors, I believe the intention of the list is good.

I personally know a teacher who was interviewed by police and school administration because her name appeared on the list. It claimed she was ticketed for contributing alcohol to minors. She was appalled that her name appeared on the list — because it was not true. She has never even had a traffic ticket. So I understand her outrage after

I personally know a teacher who was interviewed by police and school administration because her name appeared on the list. It claimed she was ticketed for contributing alcohol to minors. She was appalled that her name appeared on the list — because it was not true. She has never even had a traffic ticket. So I understand her outrage after being accused of a crime and having her name on a public list.

being accused of a crime and having her name on a public list.

I hope all of those errors can be resolved so we can see a report that is accurate and helpful to school districts in identifying employees who may be a risk to our kids.

The figure skater trusted her coach. Her parents probably trusted him, too. I'm not saying whatever happened between them could have been prevented, because no one can know that for sure. But it should serve as a reminder for all parents to make every effort to know those people who are with our kids. Encourage, even demand, that our kids talk to us about the adults in their lives. Be watchful and alert to signs of a problem.

It's sad that today, we have to expect trouble in order to avoid it. That doesn't do much for the human experience, but it does a lot for the protection of our kids in a scary world.

For me, it's all the more reason to celebrate the innocent; praise the good in people; and take comfort in knowing that we're there to protect our kids in every way. It's a big job, but I believe in striking a balance between being vigilant and being compassionate. It causes me to value relationships even more.

Like taking off our shoes at the airport and leaving those nail clippers at home are now considered normal, being alert and watchful to avoid danger must also become normal.

Stacy Jenkins is the editor of the *Farmington Observer*. She can be reached at (734) 953-2131 or via email at sjenkins@hometownlife.com.

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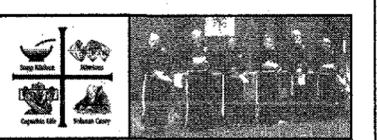
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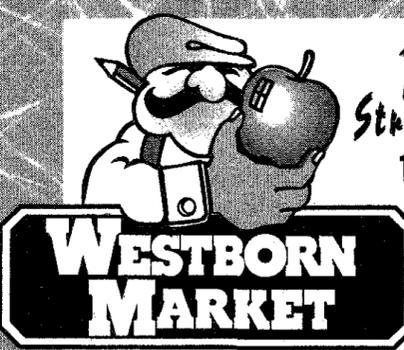
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Speakers say high school requirements threaten career ed

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Speaker after speaker told a state Senate committee hearing Monday that they were concerned that a proposal to mandate 18 high school credits would harm or eliminate career education programs.

Three members of the Senate Education Committee chaired by Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, heard from constituents at a special hearing at Brownstown



Kuipers

Middle School, one in a series of hearings across the state on a proposal by the state Department of Education to mandate minimum instruction hours in

key academic areas.

The proposal first presented by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Michael Flanagan and endorsed by the state Board of Education calls for four years of English, four years of math including algebra II and geometry, three years of science, three years of social science, two years of a world language, one year of health or physical education and one year of visual or performing arts. The requirements would be phased in over four years, beginning with the freshman class.

The state legislature is currently considering bills that would implement these changes with some variations. Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, introduced the committee members for their only scheduled meeting in Wayne County.

Jeremy Hughes, deputy state superintendent, and state school board member Nancy Danhof did brief presentations outlining the reasons for the curriculum proposal. Each emphasized that the proposed credit requirements do not specify particular courses and allow for each district to design its own curriculum to reach the credit requirements.

"The reality of today's world is that all students need to prepare regardless of their postgraduate occupations," said Danhof.

RIGOR, RELEVANCE

Hughes said the state in emphasizing "rigor, relevance and relationships."

"Rigor without relevance will fail," Hughes said. "We see career tech education as a big answer as to how we make this relevant."

Hughes said many credits can be earned within the context of career education programs. But many of those in the audience of more than 200 at the Downriver middle school questioned whether career tech programs could even continue under the demands of the new curriculum and how relevant the requirements are for many students.

"Adopting these standards will cause untold numbers of already struggling students, the so-called low achievers, to drop out," said Malin Wagner, director of the Downriver Career Technical Consortium. "Students learn in different ways. While some students excel at book learning in the traditional classroom setting, many students are struggling and do better in applied and hands-on classes. Students with both high and low GPAs are successful in career and technical education programs."

DCTC is a consortium of 10 school districts which allows students to travel to different districts for programs they're interested in pursuing. Wagner said most DCTC programs require a two- to three-hour block which wouldn't be possible with the requirements of the proposed curriculum.

Jeff Goulasarian, an industrial technology teacher at Allen Park schools and president-elect of the Industrial Technology Education Society, said he is concerned students whether will be able to earn math credits in his industrial education classes

because under No Child Left Behind standards he wouldn't be "highly qualified" to teach math.

"I am interested to hear how this will play out in future years for students who choose to take math credits in my classes," he said. "I'm concerned as vocational classes continue to be depleted."

STUDENTS SPEAK

Two Woodhaven High School

students offered their concerns about the curriculum and its impact on career education.

Jake Taylor, a senior, is learning welding to become a boiler maker.

"I feel my choice in what I want to do is as important as someone who wants to be a doctor or a lawyer or a scientist," he said. "It used to be in the good old days a source of pride to be a tradesman or a

craftsman but in today's society some might label you a loser because you don't want to go to college. I hope that clear heads will prevail in Lansing and please don't take away the opportunities for me and others to take CTE classes."

Katie Williams, a senior studying dental education and a student athlete, said she was concerned about the impact of the proposal on sports.

"If you raise the high school qualifications, sports programs will drop because no one will have time to participate in sports if they have four or five hours of homework every night," she said.

Other speakers supported the need for higher educational standards and required credits. Currently Michigan only requires a semester of civics. But some raised other

concerns about the proposals before the legislature.

Barbara Lott, superintendent of Woodhaven-Brownstown Public Schools, urged the senators to allow school districts the time to develop curriculums to meet the credit requirements.

More hearings are scheduled for Clinton Township, Port Huron and Milan.

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