

3/9



**Fine dining,
fine fund-raiser**

TASTE - PAGE B5



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AT HOME - PAGE B1

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March 9, 2006

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David and Joyce Sass help their children, Jenna and Dawson, around the Big Wheel Grande Prix racetrack at Saturday's Nursery School Olympics.

Pint-sized athletes go for gold at Olympics

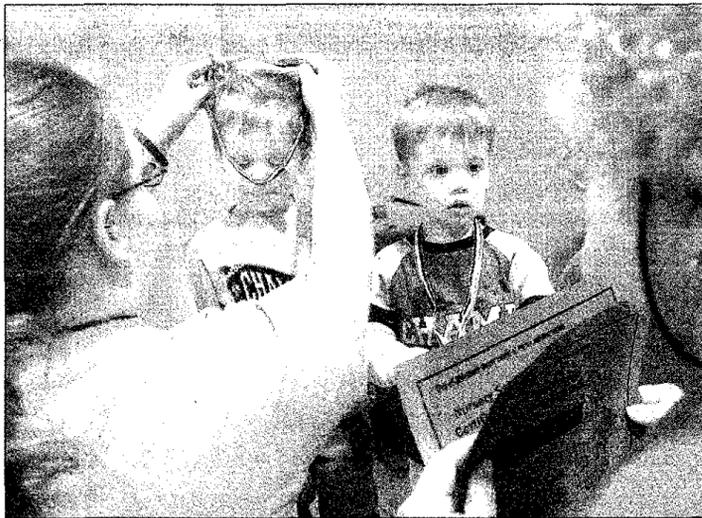
BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Pat McRannolds isn't sure who had more fun - the 80 or so athletes who hunted for buried treasure, competed in a marshmallow shot put and wished for a fish at the wishing well or herself, the unofficial, official "Olympic" president for the day.

McRannolds, co-president of the Westland Civitans, was tapped for the job of bestowing gold medals on the preschool athletes who participated in the 2006 installment of the Nursery School Olympics at the Bailey Recreation Center Saturday.

"That was such a joy-filled experience," said McRannolds who personalized the award ceremony by telling each and every athlete how well they had done. "To see their eyes light up and the grins on their faces, I think I got more out of it than they did."

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department has been staging the



Adam and Brendan Heard receive their medals from Brittany Stoliker and Westland Civitans co-president Pat McRannolds as part of the Nursery School Olympics at the Bailey Recreation Center.

PLEASE SEE OLYMPICS, A3



Gunman takes cash, cigarettes in holdup

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A lone gunman robbed a Westland tobacco shop and bound the clerk's wrists and ankles with plastic ties before escaping Wednesday afternoon, police said.

The incident happened just before 1:30 p.m. at Tobacco Road, on Wayne Road north of Palmer, police Sgt. James Dexter said.

A lone bandit, carrying a box, walked to the counter and talked to a female

clerk about bottle returns before revealing a handgun and ordering her to lie on the floor, Dexter said.

"He took money from the cash register, tied her up with plastic ties and put some cigarettes in the box," the detective said.

No shots were fired, and the robber fled east through the parking lot.

The employee wasn't seriously hurt, and she was able to free her wrists by breaking the plastic ties, Dexter said. With her ankles still bound, she hopped next door to another business.

"They called for help," Dexter said. The suspect was described as a thin man, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10, with long dark hair.

According to the worker, Dexter said, the gunman was possibly Asian or Hispanic, and he wore a black coat and jeans.

Anyone who has information about the robbery is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

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Citizens group revives push for new park

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland citizens group has revived its push for a sprawling recreation complex near Central City Park, in hopes that local voters will approve a tax increase to build it.

Citizens for Frontier Park still envisions a multi-million-dollar project including such amenities as eight baseball fields, three soccer fields, a two-sheet ice arena, two basketball courts, walking trails and a special-needs playing field. The project would be built west of Central City Park, stretching west to Newburgh, south to Marquette and north to near Ford Road.

On Tuesday, CFP Chairman Mark Rodriguez said it's too early to say whether the group could get a tax proposal on the November ballot, either by

getting city officials to support it or by initiating a petition drive.

"I don't have any doubt that we'd be able to get the millage approved," Rodriguez said.

CFP leaders earlier suggested a possible 1-mill tax proposal to build Frontier Park and user fees to operate it.

City officials are being more cautious, however.

"I still think it's way too preliminary to think about asking for a millage increase at this point," said Westland City Council President William Wild, one of the city representatives on a Frontier Park committee.

On Wednesday, Wild said Frontier Park leaders still need a feasibility study to show public demand for the project and to determine costs.

"Until that's in place, I think

PLEASE SEE PARK, A4

City gets \$160,000 to help pay retirees' prescription costs

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With health care costs still soaring, Westland city leaders will receive federal dollars to help pay for prescription drugs for city retirees over age 65.

The city will get an estimated \$160,000 a year in new Medicare D dollars to help cover retiree prescription costs, Personnel Director Keith Madden said.

The money will cover 20-25 percent of prescription drug costs for some 160 city retirees, easing any current fears that officials might try to reduce their coverage, he said.

Like other cities, Westland has been socked with soaring health care costs amid tough economic times.

The federal money means that the city's share of prescription costs will be reduced by a projected \$160,000 a year.

"That's a nice reduction," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said.

Federal officials decided to provide the money to municipalities as an incentive for them to abandon any plans for reducing prescription coverage for retirees, Madden said.

"The retirees will notice nothing. They will continue to be covered under their present plan, and we don't have to consider trying to reduce their coverage," he said. "Everybody makes out on it."

To combat budget problems, the city already has made some adjustments to prescription plans for current employees and future hires.

The new Medicare D dollars will be a first for the city.

"This is new money for us," Madden said.

Financial help for retiree health care costs will become increasingly important as more employees become eligible to retire, officials have said.

"The approval of this federal money will lessen our retiree health care costs," Cicirelli said. "We're very pleased."

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INDEX	
APARTMENTS	F8
BELIEFS & VALUES	C6
AUTOMOTIVE	G6
CROSSWORD	F9
JOBS	G2
MOVIES	D14
OBITUARIES	C6
REAL ESTATE	F1
SERVICE GUIDE	F9
SPORTS	C1
TASTE	B5

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Trustees answer residents' questions about 'Legacy' plan

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Citizens for Livonia's Future again publicly asked the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education to slow down and wait a year before implementing its Legacy plan to close and reconfigure district schools.

"Please take one year to work through our concerns," asked Ann Rae, a Livonia parent and educator in nearby South Redford Schools. She opposes the Legacy Initiative and is a member of CFLF.

Another member, Jody Hamilton said Monday: "We've tried very hard to work with the board and administration. The board is not willing to work with us. I don't believe we've had hardly any two-way communication."

Hamilton said all the group wants is equal representation in a plan that will impact so many families.

"We would gladly accept change and school closings if we had been involved."

Some residents who oppose the plan continue to speak out and use terms like "deliberately withheld information" and "felt left-out" and "critical mistake" in reference to the Legacy Initiative.

The CFLF has recently filed a lawsuit against the board and district for its conduct in passing the plan, and is seeking to recall five of the seven board members who supported it.

Steve Futrell, president of the CFLF, reiterated that such legal action "is not a path we want to go down." A hearing regarding the plan is set for 9 a.m. Friday, March 10, in Wayne County Circuit Court.

"You have the opportunity to slow this process down," he told the board Monday. "You have the opportunity to work with us, to educate us."

OFFERING ANSWERS

Trustees responded to these pleas Monday night.

Members addressed many of the concerns raised by residents throughout the night - and over the past few months.

Rob Freeman, trustee, spoke up to explain the estimated \$1 to \$2 million per year the plan aims to save, which has come under attack as not being enough. He said that the Legacy Initiative could have accounted for more savings - approximately \$1 million more. It could have put a four-tiered busing system in place to save \$500,000, he said. And the district could have chosen not to add in physical education, art and music at the upper elementary schools for a savings of another \$450,000 in staffing costs.

"In the 5-6 configuration, I see better opportunity for teacher collaboration," said Freeman, "and a better opportu-

nity for being stronger in the programs we teach at that level."

Trustee Joanne Morgan explained the financial state of the district, which inspired the Legacy plan.

Though some residents, and the CFLF, question why the district is choosing to drastically close and reconfigure schools with a budget that's "in the black," Morgan said that isn't the reality of their budget.

Though the district has \$7.5 million in fund equity, a sort of savings account, Morgan said that amount is "terribly low" by accounting standards.

She said \$2 million of that money is already reserved, leaving \$5.5 million in savings.

That's not enough to cover the operating costs of the district at the beginning of the coming school year, she explained.

"To think we would use a third of the unreserved funds to keep schools open another year and not have anything to show

for student achievement... is not good stewardship," Morgan said.

She said a decision like that could land the district in receivership.

MANY CUTS MADE

Kevin Whitehead, trustee, agreed.

He said that the district must adopt its budget in the summer without knowing what amount it will receive from the state's School Aid Fund - because the state won't adopt its own budget until October.

As a result, he said, the district misses a September payment. "Every year we discuss 'How do we float the month we're not being compensated?'" said Whitehead.

In the past the district has spent fund equity to cover these discrepancies.

Morgan assured the standing-room-only crowd filling the board room Monday that they

have made cuts everywhere possible over the years. Central office staff has been cut in half, she said, and custodial staff cuts made in the 1990s were never restored. Music programs were re-introduced only to be cut from the budget again two years later.

In recent years the district has sliced more than \$19 million from its budget. The district has worked to keep cuts away from students, and as Morgan said "children have been coming first all along."

When it comes to the budget process, Whitehead added, he loses sleep.

"I go home and I lay awake thinking about 18,000 students," he said. "We have to think about every child in this district, not just getting by, but making sure the educational programs we put in place meet the high standards we need to"

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NEIGHBORS

Planned school start times fuel debate

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools announced tentative school start times for the coming year, sparking a debate with some parents who fear the youngest students will barely make it home by dinnertime.

"Elementary kids get out of school at 3:40," said Diane Behrendt, a Taylor Elementary parent. "They're (dropped off) at the bus stop at 4:20. It's currently a 40-minute bus ride. My lower elementary child won't be home before 5 p.m. next year."

She said the later schedule will impact family time in her household.

Donna McDowell, coordinator of community and business partnerships for the district, said the District Transition Team aimed to maintain similar start and end times as they have this year. The biggest change involves staggered start times between the upper and lower elementary schools, which remain within 15 minutes of the current schedule.

This year elementary start/end times range from 8:40 a.m. to 3:42 p.m. to 8:35 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. for kindergarten through sixth grade.

Beginning next year, lower elementary schools for grades K-4 will attend school from 8:55 a.m. to 3:57 p.m. Upper elementary schools with grades 5-6 will attend school from 8:35 a.m. to 3:37 p.m. McDowell said the transition team took into consideration parents' requests to be able to drive their children to both upper and lower buildings, should they choose.

Under the plan, middle school hours would shift about five minutes later, from the current 8:05 a.m. to 2:53 p.m. to 8 a.m. to 2:48 p.m. And high school schedules should remain the same, operating from 7:25 a.m. to 2:19 p.m.

Parents and school officials disagreed Monday night on the terms of this tentative schedule. The district refers to it as a three-tiered busing plan with staggered elementary pickup times.

Parents, like Holly Burr, con-

sider it to be the four-tiered system she dreaded would be put in place. Burr estimated if the buses depart school after 4 p.m., some students won't be home until 5 p.m. - which will disrupt after-school activities.

Trustee Joanne Morgan said the system is indeed three-tiered, and that tiers refer to the number of times a bus goes out to collect students. Because the district recently approved the purchase of 20 new buses and replacement of seven others, those vehicles will be used to complete the third run, transporting elementary students.

"There is no fourth tier busing," said Morgan. "If there has to be a reason to oppose this, that can't continue to be one of the reasons."

School start times are not usually announced until summer, when the Livonia Education Association contracts are set and signed. But McDowell said the district released these approximate times early to allow parents more time to prepare for the coming school year.

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OLYMPICS

FROM PAGE A1

Olympics for some 10 years and while there was no Bode Miller or Emily Hughes on the team roster, there were plenty of youngsters willing to give the contests their all in return for prizes and the highly sought after gold medal.

"All of the kids seemed to enjoy it," said recreation supervisor Margaret Martin. "We hoped for 100 athletes and got 80 and they all had a good time."

The Olympics featured 18 events, with the athletes throwing the foam discus, scaling the I-Did-A-Rod hurdles, catching balloon butterflies at the Butterfly Safari and rolling giant dice to get their age at the Westland Jaycees' "On a Roll," to name a few.

McDonald's provided ice cream coupons and State Farm Insurance provided goodie bags filled with coupons and information to give to the athletes. The Westland UPS Store also donated and filled the hurdles with plastic foam popcorn for the event.

The Nursery School Olympics calls for lot of volunteers and that's what Martin got. Eight members of the Westland Youth Assistance Program joined 20 John Glenn High School National Honor Society members and two Wayne Memorial High School-Outward Bound students to help.

Volunteers also came from the Westland Dads' Athletic Club and Westland Civitans Club, both of which helped sponsor the event, and two members of the Friends of Nankin Mills organization.

"Each location requires one to two volunteers to run them, some require more, and with 18 locations, I instantly needed 36 volunteers," said Martin. "In addition to that, there was registration and the medal stand."



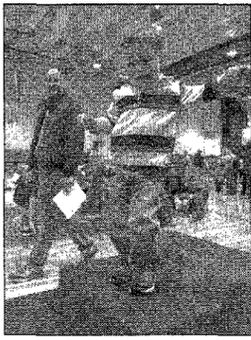
Kyla Hotton, 4, catches balloon "butterflies" with her net at the Olympics' Butterfly Safari station.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Visually impaired, McRannolds had called Martin to see what she could do to help. Martin gave her the medal presentation job.

"Margaret said that because I was president of the Civitans, I could do the medals, so it was only because I happened to be president of the club that I had the honor of doing it, but I'll never forget it," said McRannolds. "My 4-year-old niece was there and she had a good time, and I had a good time, too."

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(734) 953-2112



Maxwell Murphy and his "coaches" - parents Mark and Dara - work their way through the Dad's Club obstacle course.

Officials begin planning city's 40th anniversary celebration

With Westland celebrating its 40th anniversary in May, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli has begun announcing preliminary plans for festivities, with final details still to come for some events.

■ On May 16 — the day the city was incorporated — a prayer breakfast will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center.

■ A dance with music from the '50s and '60s is being planned for the month of May, with more details to come.

■ An ice cream social has been scheduled 1-4 p.m. Sunday, July 2, in Central City Park — an event that will coincide with the Westland Summer Festival.

"This is a very exciting time for us as we celebrate the vision of our founding citizens and prepare to carry on the traditions that have become established in our years of being a city," Cicirelli said in a prepared statement.

The city is seeking people who may have lived in the former Nankin Township and who signed a petition to put the issue of incorporation on the ballot. Anyone who can help is urged to call the mayor's office at (734) 467-3200.

Cicirelli has predicted a festive mood as Westland — the state's 10th largest city — celebrates its 40th anniversary. The original Nankin

Township was split four times, spinning off the then-villages of Livonia in 1853, Wayne in 1869 and Garden City in 1927.

According to a press release from the mayor's office, by 1960, Nankin's population had increased to 70,000, giving the area the distinction of being the world's largest township. During the early 1960s, Livonia wanted to annex the part of Nankin Township where Westland Shopping Center was to be built.

Reacting to Livonia's move, Nankin residents voted to incorporate as a city in 1966 — one year after the mall opened. The city was named after the mall.

Teen fends off purse snatcher

Robbery try

A Westland girl told police that another girl tried to rob her of her purse while she was walking near Dorsey and Montcalm about 12:50 p.m. Sunday.

The 17-year-old victim told police she was walking west on Dorsey when the other girl, walking east, called her by name and then tried to grab her purse.

The girls struggled and the victim managed to keep her purse, according to a police report. However, she fell and sustained scrapes on her hands and knees.

The suspect fled east on Dorsey. The victim, a Wayne

COP CALLS

Memorial High School student, said she believes that her assailant also may attend the school.

The suspect was described as a 5-foot-7 black girl, 120-140 pounds, wearing a red coat with a hood and black or blue jeans.

Building struck

An employee of Westland Auto, 1555 N. Wayne Road, told police that someone apparently backed into the east bay door of the building and drove off sometime

between 1:30 and 10:50 a.m. Sunday.

A police report also indicated that a small window had been shattered from the impact, but nothing appeared to have been stolen from the building.

Break-in

A resident of Gumdrop, in the Westland Meadows mobile home park on the city's southeast side, told police that someone broke into his house between 5 a.m. and 4:20 p.m. Thursday, March 2.

The man told police that the intruder took \$1,000 in items, including two women's rings and a carton of cigarettes.

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PARK

FROM PAGE A1

everything else is a preliminary discussion," Wild said.

CFP officials in February had preliminary talks with some Wayne County officials about Frontier Park, which would be partially built on county-owned land. Rodriguez seemed hopeful following the discussions.

Now, CFP officials are working with the Westland Youth Athletic Association to try to expedite land-acquisition issues for Frontier Park. According to Rodriguez, here's how the latest plan could possibly work:

■ The WYAA would sell 5.6 acres of land it owns on Farmington Road, north of Ford, to the city for a minimal price. WYAA officials will meet at the Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road, at 8 p.m.

March 16 to discuss the possible sale.

■ The city, in turn, could swap that land with the county to acquire property needed for Frontier Park.

■ Once Frontier Park is built, the city would sell its Mike Modano Ice Arena - again, for a minimal price - to the WYAA, which would move its headquarters from the Farmington Road property. Wild and other city officials have commended Frontier Park leaders for their enthusiasm and for their vision of building a state-of-the-art sports complex. They remain worried, however, about the feasibility of such a project, particularly during challenging economic times.

As of this week, city officials hadn't committed to placing any tax increase on the November ballot.

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Reflections winners ready for state recognition

The Livonia PTSA Reflections program, held on Nov. 15, brought 600 participants to Stevenson High School - from all levels of the district. This year's theme is "I Wonder Why." Students completed artistic works following that theme in the categories of literature, music, photography and visual art.

The following students will be recognized at the Michigan PTSA Youth Arts Celebration & Reflections Awards Presentation on March 25 in Lansing:

Literature

■ Award of Merit winner Rishabh Arvikar from Webster Elementary.

Music

■ Award of Excellence winners were: Mary Crombez - Primary from Grant Elementary; Sheryl Ann Crespo from Webster Elementary; Alwin Davi from Webster Elementary; Blake Morgan from Stevenson High School; and Vincent Van Oast from Franklin High School.

■ Award of Merit winner Graham Liddell from Stevenson High School.

Photography

■ Award of Merit winner Taylor A. Peterson attends Tyler Elementary.

■ Award of Excellence winners were: Timothy Gault and Rebecca Davis, both of Franklin High School.

Visual Art

■ Award of Excellence winners were: Daniel Fairbanks and Maddie Dudas, both from Holmes Middle School, and Nicole Butler of Franklin High School.

■ Award of Merit winners were: Alexandria Herrera of McKinley Elementary and Hannah Dunbar from Franklin High School.

■ Sheryl Ann Crespo will be recognized with the Best of Theme award.

She will compete at the national level, as will Blake Morgan, Daniel Fairbanks and Nicole Butler.

Food distribution is set

Westland city officials have announced the distribution of surplus federal food for March.

Residents north of Michigan Avenue will pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey east of Venoy.

Residents south of the avenue will pick up theirs on Monday, March 20, at St.

James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt roads.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers should call their building manager for their day of distribution.

Food for March includes frozen ham, cranberry juice and noodles. For more information, call (734) 595-0366.

It's that time of year again! Time to eat a nice boiled dinner and drink some green beer. St. Patrick's Day! The day when everyone claims to be Irish.

St. Patrick is among the most beloved saints of all time. He was born in the fourth century in Britain near the Irish Sea to a well-to-do family of landowners.

In his early life he was not very religious and he was not a very good student. When he was 16, his life changed dramatically. He was captured by pirates and carried across the Irish Sea, where he was sold into slavery.

He was sold to one of Ireland's many chieftains, where he was put to work tending sheep. Just like David, while tending the sheep, St. Patrick

had a lot of time to think and pray. After six years of this life, he escaped onto a ship in the Irish Sea only to be lost in the woods of Britain, starving with pagan shipmates.

St. Patrick turned to his faith in God during this time and plentiful food appeared. He never stopped thinking of the Irish people though and believed that his mission was to convert them from paganism to Christianity.

He then spent the next several years preparing for his mission by becoming a priest and then bishop in the country of Gaul (France). Eventually, he returned to Ireland and led the country to Christianity, confirming thousands and training many priests. This is the beginning of the Roman Catholic tradition in Ireland.

St. Patrick is known for explaining the Holy Trinity with a three-leaved shamrock. One of his other well-known legends recounts how St. Patrick rid Ireland of snakes by driving them into the Irish Sea. To this day, there are no snakes in Ireland!

You can read more about St. Patrick and Ireland at the library. Check the biography section under Patrick for more information on this saint. If you have ever thought of traveling to Ireland check in the non-fiction section under 941.4 for information on the country and 914.15 to plan your trip.

We have a number of videos and DVDs on traveling to the country that are full of breathtaking scenery. Please stop in the library soon, books and videos on this subject don't last

long this time of year!

Landscape Design for Gardeners:

2 p.m. March 11. Join Michigan Nurserywoman Sandra Healey of Earthenjoy Flowerscaping to learn the basic principles of landscape design, from testing the soil to choosing plants.

French/English Bilingual Storytime:

7-7:30 p.m. March 14. Enjoy stories, rhymes and songs in both French and English. For children of all ages, with an adult. Nous presentons les histoires, les chansons, et les rimes en Francais et Anglais. Bienvenue a tous!

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

INFORMATION CENTRAL

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
ORDINANCE # 06-006

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54, SOLID WASTE, OF TITLE V, PUBLIC WORKS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY, SECTION 54.04, DEFINITIONS.

THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY HEREBY REPEALS THE EXISTING SECTION 54.01, DEFINITIONS, AND HEREBY ORDAINS:

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL ENACT AN ORDINANCE, AS FOLLOWS:

§ 54.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

ASHES. The residue of combustion of any fuel such as wood, coal, coke, charcoal, or any like substance.

COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT. For purposes of this section, "commercial establishment" includes, but is not limited to, businesses, rental residential units (in excess of two units), cooperatives, apartment-style condominiums (in excess of two units), row houses, apartments, churches, etc.

CONSTRUCTION RUBBISH. All rubbish and debris resulting from excavation, construction, remodeling, or altering of buildings or structures of any kind.

DIRECTOR. The Director of Public Services.

GARBAGE. All waste animal, fish, fowl, fruit, or vegetable matter incident to the use and storage of foods for human consumption, including spoiled food found within the limits of the city, but excluding food containers.

REFUSE. Any of the foregoing items of waste herein defined.

RUBBISH. All miscellaneous waste material resulting from housekeeping and ordinary mercantile enterprises. Rubbish is further classified as domestic rubbish or commercial rubbish, depending upon its source.

YARD WASTES. General yard and garden waste materials, including branches, twigs, shrub clippings, weeds, and leaves.

JAYLEE LYNCH
Mayor

ALLYSON BETTIS
City Clerk-Treasurer

Resolution # 06-02-038
Adopted: February 27, 2006

Publish: March 9, 2006

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
ORDINANCE # 06-007

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54, SOLID WASTE, OF TITLE V, PUBLIC WORKS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY, SECTION 54.1, OWNER RESPONSIBILITY.

THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY HEREBY REPEALS THE EXISTING SECTION 54.04 OWNER RESPONSIBILITY, AND HEREBY ORDAINS:

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL ENACT AN ORDINANCE, AS FOLLOWS:

§ 54.04 OWNER RESPONSIBILITY.

(A) It shall be the duty of the owner, occupant, or person in charge of any dwelling, house, store, or other business establishment, manufacturing company, or other building where refuse accumulates to provide suitable receptacles, and to cause to be placed therein refuse or other waste materials created or accumulated on the premises owned or controlled by him. It shall be the further duty of the owner, occupant, or other person to locate any garbage or rubbish receptacles within the property lines in the back or side yard so located as to not adversely affect adjoining properties. It shall be the further duty of the owner, occupant, or other person in charge to place or cause to be placed, on the days scheduled for the collection of refuse from the premises, the receptacles containing refuse at the curb line in front of the building. Refuse containers shall not be set out for collection prior to 5:00 p.m. preceding the day of collection, and after the receptacles are emptied they shall be removed from the street by 12:00 noon the next day. In case an alley is located at the rear or side of developed property in a business or manufacturing zone, refuse receptacles shall be placed in the alley or at such other location as may be designated by the Director. ('83 Code, § 53.04)

(B) It shall be the duty of the owner, occupant, or person in charge of any apartment buildings or multiple dwellings where refuse accumulates, to provide dumpster-type receptacles, as provided below, and cause to be placed therein refuse or other waste materials created or accumulated on the premises owned or controlled by him.

1 - 4 apartment unit	One 2 yard dumpster
5 - 8 apartment unit	One 4 yard dumpster
For each additional 4 apartment units	2-yards of additional dumpster capacity

JAYLEE LYNCH
Mayor

ALLYSON BETTIS
City Clerk-Treasurer

Adopted: February 27, 2006
Resolution # 06-02-039

Publish: March 9, 2006

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
ORDINANCE #06-008

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54, SOLID WASTE, OF TITLE V, PUBLIC WORKS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY, SECTION 54.09, COLLECTION RATES.

§ 54.09 COLLECTION RATES.

Services for city pick up of rubbish and garbage are to be charged at the following rates.

(A) Residential and commercial curb-side or alley pick-up, one time per week, not to exceed five 20-gallon containers per week other than grass and leaves separated for composting. No charge.

(B) Commercial container service: one two-yard dumpster will be provided, and collected one time per week. No charge.

Commercial or industrial establishments that generate more than two cubic yards of refuse per week shall be responsible for arranging private disposal of anything in excess of the two cubic yards per week disposed of by the City contractor. If such arrangements are with the City's contracted service provider, the cost of service provided in subsection (B) shall be deducted by the provider from any charges to the establishment. If any other provider is arranged, all costs (including those provided in subsection (B)) shall be borne by the establishment. The selection of the City's contracted service provider shall be at the City's sole discretion.

JAYLEE LYNCH
Mayor

ALLYSON BETTIS
City Clerk-Treasurer

Adopted: February 27, 2006
Resolution # 06-02-040

Publish: March 9, 2006

CLUBS IN ACTION

Listings for Clubs in Action should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.homecomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

Mustang Owners Club
The Mustang Owners Club of Southeastern Michigan meets the second Tuesday of the month at Angelo Brothers Restaurant, 33550 Ford.

Westland. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., with dinner and socializing before the meeting. Call the MOCSEM hotline at (313) 438-4174.

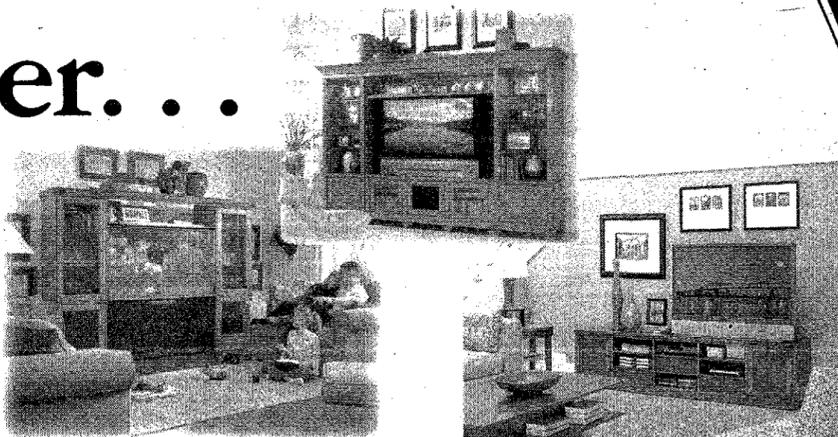
Toastmasters
The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club No. 6694 (formerly Holy Smokemasters) teaches public speaking at the club's weekly meetings 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 N. Wayne Road, next to Westland Center. Call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 noon to 8 p.m.

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Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-9 • Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 1-5 *With credit approval • See store for details • Sale ends 3/19/06

AROUND WESTLAND

'Historic' dining

Max & Erma's in Westland will sponsor a fund-raiser to help with the restoration of the historic Octagon House - located on Westland Historical Museum property on Wayne Road north of Cherry Hill.

The restaurant, on the southwest corner of Warren and Newburgh roads, will donate 20 percent of its proceeds from lunch and dinner sales on Wednesday, March 22.

A Max & Erma's manager said Wednesday that anyone wanting to help may tell the server that they are there to support the fund-raiser. Those who want to get a discount coupon before March 22 may go to City Hall, the senior citizen Friendship Center, the Bailey Recreation Center or the senior Dyer Center, or call local historians Georgia Becker at (734) 728-1605 or Jo Johnson at (734) 522-3918.

WYAA meeting set

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will hold a special general membership meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at the Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road, in Westland. The purpose will be to discuss the possible sale of the WYAA property. All lifetime and current members in good standing are encouraged to attend. For more information call Mark Rodriguez at (734) 276-1979.

Spring bazaar

Edison Elementary is holding a Spring Bazaar and Art Show 6-9 p.m. Thursday, April 6. There will be 25 vendors, a bake sale with eating area, baby-sitting with crafts for the kids and an art show featuring students' artwork throughout the halls.

AMVETS events

AMVETS 171 Ladies Auxiliary will have a fund-raising breakfast 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at the AMVETS hall, 1217 Merriman. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children.

The auxiliary also will sponsor a dinner to help Paws With A Cause at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at the hall. Cost is \$5 and there will be a cash bar. Paws With A Cause provides trained dogs for people with disabilities.

Also, the AMVETS hall will host a psychic fair noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 26. Admission is \$2; readings will cost extra.

Membership month

If you're interested in community citizenship, the opportunity to serve, growth and development, cultural awareness and nice people, then the Wayne Rotary Club wants to hear from you. The club is extending an invitation to people who live or work within the community to join the club as part of its Membership Month. People interested in joining can call Art Quintal at (734) 722-8925.

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.

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.

Habitat for Humanity conducts orientation session

Interested in home ownership, but need help in making it happen?

Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County has scheduled an application orientation for 7 p.m. Monday, March 13, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon Road, north of Ford, in Canton.

The session will last about one hour and will include a video presentation, history of Habitat, question-and-answer segment and distribution of

applications.

Applicants will be given the option to complete and submit the application with required documentation at the session or return the completed application within two weeks with requested documentation.

Required documentation includes copy of driver's license, W-2 forms or pay stubs (at least three months), federal tax returns from previous year, current utility statements (water, gas, elec-

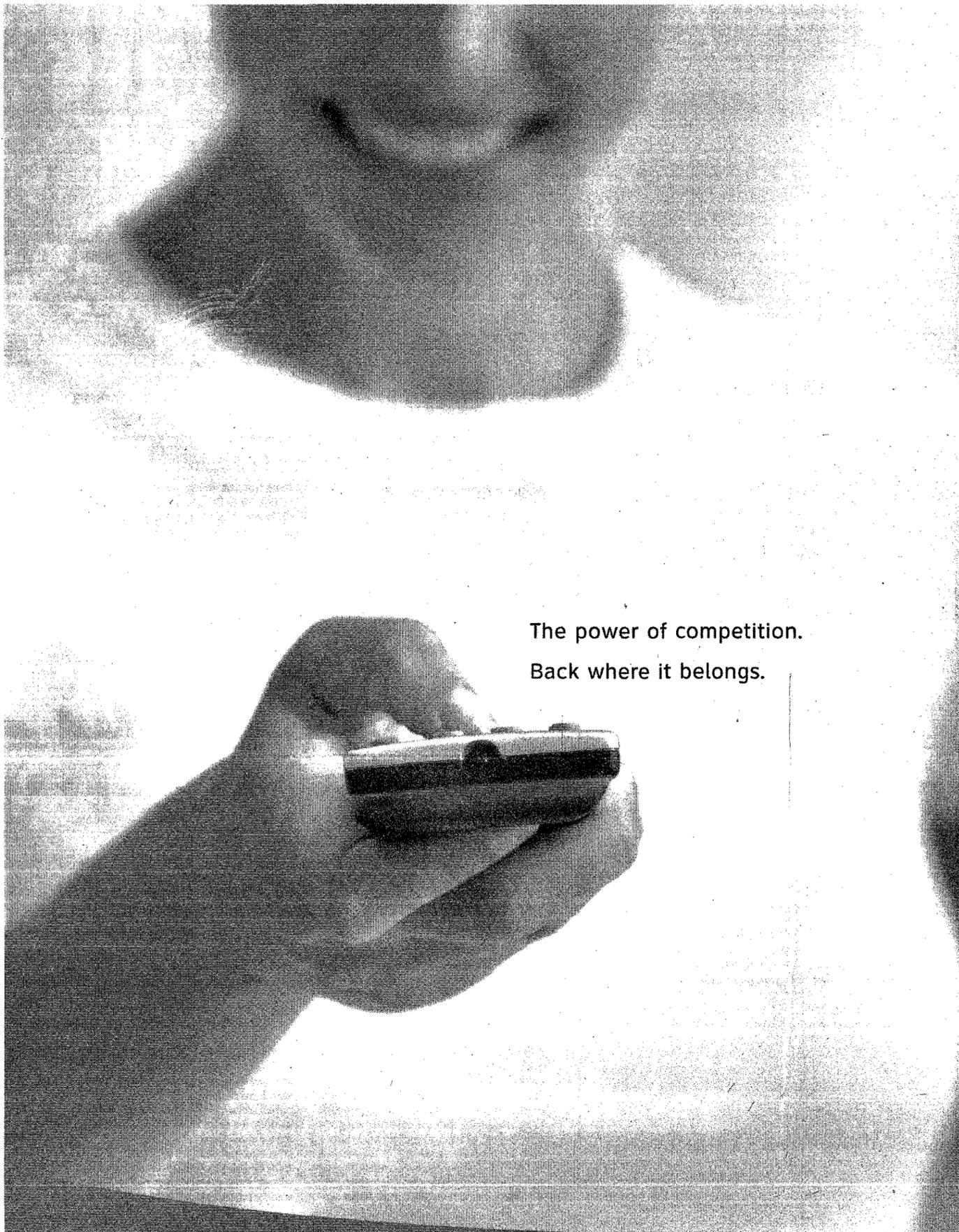
tric and telephone), Social Security cards of all family members and a \$10 application fee (money order or check made payable to Habitat Western Wayne County). Habitat will conduct employment references, credit checks and all necessary procedures to confirm the ability to pay.

The organization has the three criteria - demonstration of need, the ability to pay and the applicant's willingness to partner (attend required classes and

completion of sweat equity).

Habitat for Humanity works with families to acquire housing. It's a hand-up not a hand-out for low-income families who have little money beyond what's needed for basic necessities like food, clothing or health care.

Among the western Wayne County communities where Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne County builds homes are Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Wayne and Westland.



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OUR VIEWS

Tougher standards make perfect sense

It is hard to argue against strengthening high school graduation requirements. Southeast Michigan — and, indeed, the world — is becoming an increasingly competitive environment where post-secondary education is no longer seen as an option, but rather a requirement for success.

As Michigan's manufacturing base continues to erode, the dream of transitioning from high school into a good-paying factory job is fast becoming a pipe dream.

Many of the emerging sector careers in information services, computer technology and the medical field will demand an education grounded in math, science and — thanks to an ever-shrinking planet thanks to technology — foreign language.

A pair of bills currently working their way through the state Legislature would set uniform, minimum graduation requirements for all Michigan high school students. If approved, students would have to have four credits in math and English, three in science and social studies and one each in arts and physical education.

Still being debated is a requirement for two credits of foreign language. Regardless of what is eventually adopted, foreign language is an entrance requirement of many universities and is a must for any college-bound student's transcript.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm is hoping the new measures are approved in time to implement them next fall. That may be an overly aggressive plan, but the new mandates will help assure that all students in Michigan have equal access to a quality education, and help boost the governor's vision of doubling the number of students receiving some sort of post-secondary education.

The majority of school districts in Oakland and western Wayne counties already have their own strict graduation requirements that either meet or come close to meeting the new state mandates. It makes perfect sense to spread that good fortune to students throughout the state.

Model reading for learning, enjoyment

Why can't Johnny read? That question has been debated for decades in schools, legislatures and courtrooms.

No one seems to have come up with the answer, despite a lot of speculation and finger-pointing in all directions.

As recently as 2004, only 30 percent of eighth-graders read at or above grade level, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Now there's a newer question: Why doesn't Johnny want to read?

Even students who can read — and that's probably most young people in our circulation area — don't seem to want to read. How many teenagers would rather shop at the mall, play computer games or chat with their friends online than read a novel for pleasure?

We know of college students who purchase textbooks, but rarely open them. Reading the assigned texts is seen as a last resort to passing a class.

Reading a newspaper is even more out of the question. An Oakland University journalism instructor polls her introductory news writing students on the first day of every class. Almost without exception, they get their news in sound bytes from the radio or TV. We wonder how they can make informed decisions in the voting booth.

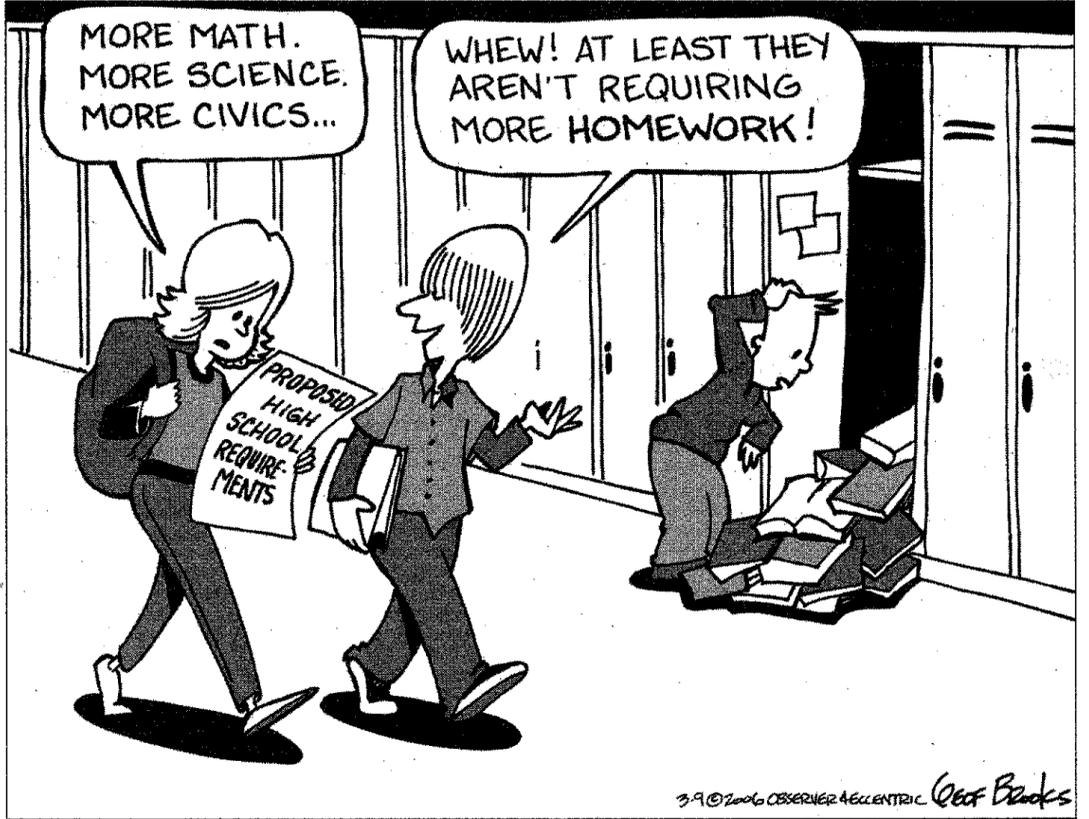
Schools and libraries will host special activities and events this month to celebrate March 15 Reading Month — and for good reason.

Reading is tied to success in school and later life. Students who struggle with reading — or who simply don't read — have more difficulty in school because all subjects require some reading. Those who barely pass or drop out of high school and don't further their education suffer economically. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, college graduates earn almost double what high school graduates earn over the course of their lifetimes — \$2.1 million compared with \$1.2 million.

The reason Johnny doesn't want to read may be as difficult to answer as why some kids can't read. More than likely, it's not one but many factors, including the number of modern-day distractions competing for their attention.

But parents can make a difference. They can set a good example by reading themselves — to be informed and to be entertained.

Children have a way of modeling their parents' behavior when they grow up. Let's hope when they do, they discover that reading is one of the joys of life.



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LETTERS

Misleading Americans

The Republican Party has been misleading the American public for much too long. Republicans have long touted privatization of functions within the government. It is supposed to be a monetary savings. The justification used by Republicans then is competition reduces the cost of services. But in reality, Americans have been footing the bill for privatization and its inherent corruption.

The U.S. military has been privatizing soldiers, or better known, mercenaries. The Republican speak for these soldiers are security forces, but they are soldiers for hire. The inexpensive cost for these mercenaries is \$10,000 to \$20,000 per month, fighting along side our own U.S. military for \$1,000 to \$2,000 per month. Though they may do the jobs American military soldiers don't want to do (Republican-speak for torture and other crimes of the Geneva Convention), they are not prosecuted by any country. America is paying 10 times more for irresponsible, corrupt, inefficient private contractors.

The war in Iraq has been spending unspeakable amounts of money rebuilding Iraq. But these have all been unbud contracts to Republican-supporting companies. There has not been a discount of services, due to volume or just because they are good friends of the Republican administration. In fact, we have been paying perhaps 10 to 20 times more for services rendered and what is even worse, many of them are not needed.

Hurricane Katrina also revealed the true cost of "benefits of privatization." The failure to respond by our federal government was due to the unqualified personnel running FEMA and then trying to find Republican supporter corporations to take federal funds for little to no work. Why would the federal government contract a fleet of tractor trailers and then have them sit in a parking lot for weeks? This is only one of the hundreds of colossal screw-ups by this administration.

Misleading the public is one of the Republican Party's strategies of governing. They have created a propaganda media, Fox and AM talk radio, and continue to mislead through these channels. Speak to one who follows these networks and they still believe Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. The truth is there is only one driving force in the Republican Party, even those Christian worshippers of Bush. Money, just follow the money.

Allan Biber
Westland

Crime and punishment

Most of us are aware that last Christmas Eve some "sweethearts" thought it would be a good idea to celebrate the holiday by desecrating graves and markers at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. This single act of blatant disrespect outraged veterans, their families and civilians.

The perpetrators blame this binge of destruction on drugs and alcohol. Is this all they had to do on Christmas Eve? Where were their parents, what part did they play in all of this? Your kid is out on this special night and you don't know where they are,

what they are doing and who they are with?

The State Police have been working on this case since it happened and according to a recent news article, one of the people (Jonathon Egerton, 18) walked into the police station and gave himself up. Another arrest (James Thommen, 17) was made March 2 and a third is expected.

This crime is a felony that carries a five-year maximum prison sentence. Even though their actions were very disrespectful to our veterans and hurtful to their families, this time the punishment doesn't seem to fit the crime. In reality they would probably serve 50 months of the five years and come away from this episode with a criminal record that would follow them for life. This wasn't a violent crime on an individual.

It would be fitting if the judge came up with some innovative ideas for punishment that wouldn't cost the taxpayers a nickel and at the same time send a message that this type of behavior will not be tolerated by anyone. I think the following suggestions would be "real attention grabbers."

When of age, the judge could order them to join and serve in a branch of the military; this would definitely give them an appreciation of what our troops go through on a daily basis to protect their freedoms. This was done during Vietnam. Many were given the option of jail or the military for crimes they committed. At the end of their journey, they would be veterans. How ironic!

Or, the judge could order two years probation to include costs, fines and the following conditions — weekly random drug and alcohol testing, pay restitution for the physical damage they caused, contact the family of each grave they damaged and apologize (face-to-face) and include one of the two following options: order them to stand guard over this cemetery on foot patrol from grave-to-grave from dusk until dawn in all types of weather seven days a week for a month, or order them to trim and maintain by hand each grave in this cemetery, to include washing and polishing of the grave stones/markers on a weekly basis for three months.

If they go to jail, all they lose is their "freedom" for a period of time and gain a "black mark" for life. I do not condone their actions and, if permitted, I would enjoy a five-minute conversation with each of them in a private room. I know they would come away from our little talk with a different perspective on life and understanding that what they did was very disrespectful, hurtful and regardless, if they were drunk or high, this is no excuse.

I don't think prison in this case is the correct punishment for stupidity. Their parents should pick up the tab for damages to the grave stones/markers that had to be replaced. Let them share the responsibility for their children's behavior. Drunk drivers are more dangerous and get better plea bargain deals in court after numerous offenses.

It's apparent these kids don't respect themselves, so how can they have respect for anyone else, this must be taught in the home, not on the streets. Obviously, this was a serious, costly prank, but why ruin their young lives before they begin, doesn't make sense.

Vince Berna
Vietnam '69-70

Thanks for the support

I would like to say thank you for the donations and support shown for the day of pampering fund-raiser for the Rosemary Hockney Memorial Foundation. Thank you to the Sports Rehab Center of Garden City Hospital which donated the facility and a massage therapist. Also, Studio One Salon and Day Spa, Westland, which provided gift bags for each attendee and donated services of manicurists, estheticians, massage therapist.

Marvaso's Italian Restaurant, Westland, donated wonderful food. Applebee's of Westland donated gift certificates as door prizes. Dr. Brent Carey and Dr. Dennis Aylward of Westland donated a tooth whitening system as a door prize. American Laser Centers, Dearborn, and Velania Micallef, esthetician, donated a laser treatment as a door prize.

Also, Carrie Bartus of Allen May Salon of Canton and Dayna Mackey, massage therapists, Rachel Delacruz, Mary Masierak, Lindsey Johnson, Kelly Salter, Angie Rowe, esthetician, Iulia Fetelia, esthetician of Tricho Spa, Novi, and Mary McCormick's Chocolates.

And most importantly, all the lovely ladies who showed they cared by getting pampered for a day!

It took a small village, but together we raised \$1,200! We are making a difference every day in the lives of people touched by cancer. Your contribution help fund the programs and services, which lead to the ultimate goal of the foundation, that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be cured.

I invite you to also be a part of a wonderful evening of hope, the annual fund-raiser gala event. Dancing, dinner, music, open bar, raffle, auctions and door prizes — 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 1, at Zuccaro's Banquet Hall in Chesterfield Township. All this for a donation at the door! RSVP at rksanderson@comcast.net or by calling (586) 226-3146.

Wendi Sparks
area manager
Arbonne International

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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QUOTABLE

"Our public safety employees are the very best, and they see the need for blood donations every day in the course of their jobs."

— Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, about an award from the American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Chapter for organizing the most successful Battle of the Badges blood drive

WESTLAND
Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

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Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor	Peter Neill General Manager
Susan Rosiek Executive Editor	Richard Aginian President/Publisher

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.

Raising taxes isn't anathema, but pols need to show courage

Ah, conventional wisdom. The great thing about it is that it provides an easy guide on how to behave without really having to think very hard about what you're doing. Endlessly reminding your kids to "eat your vegetables" is one example. "Don't go out without putting on a coat; you'll catch cold," is another.

Those are harmless enough. But the risk of applying conventional wisdom to important public policy matters is our politicians' well-developed and cowardly tendency to allow conventional wisdom to harden into dangerous dogma.

Take taxes, for example. The conventional wisdom is that voters don't like increasing taxes.

True enough. But the dogma in Lansing is that any politician who advocates any increase in any tax, even for a compellingly good purpose, is dead meat.

The dogma stems from 1983, when Jim Blanchard had just taken over as governor. The state was in deep recession and the state's budget deficit was at an all-time high. Blanchard proposed a temporary increase in the state income tax.

Two Democratic state senators, Phil Mastin from Oakland County and David Serotkin from Macomb, provided the necessary votes to adopt the tax hike. Both were recalled, resulting in a Republican domination of the state Senate that has lasted to this day. (The tax hike, incidentally, worked perfectly, wiped out the deficit and then was soon rolled back to the original levels.)

But the legend of that recall explains in large part why our political masters in Lansing continually shy away from considering any increase in state revenues for any purpose, good or bad. "We couldn't possibly do that," legislators squeal. "We'd be killed in the next election." Sadly, that passes for leadership in Michigan today.

But are the voters really that mindless?

Two recent polls cast doubt on the total acceptance of the anti-tax dogma that has paralyzed so much of our political life.

A recent national *New York Times/CBS* poll asked whether people would favor increasing the gasoline tax; 85 percent said no, 12 percent said yes. Big surprise! But when the question was framed to indicate an increased gas tax was a way to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, 55 percent agreed. And when asked whether they would support a tax gas that would help reduce global warming, 59 percent agreed.

Here's a case where a politician's terror at being smeared as a tax lover overcomes rational discourse. Our present national gas tax is 18.3 cents per gallon, unchanged since 1993. But gas prices do affect consumer behavior. The slide in demand for big SUVs that has helped tear up our automobile industry was provoked by \$3 gas.

A recent national *New York Times/CBS* poll asked whether people would favor increasing the gasoline tax; 85 percent said no, 12 percent said yes. Big surprise! But when the question was framed to indicate an increased gas tax was a way to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, 55 percent agreed. And when asked whether they would support a tax gas that would help reduce global warming, 59 percent agreed.

Only when the price of gasoline reaches the \$3.50- \$4 range will large numbers of Americans demand cars that run on ethanol or offer hybrid power trains. And when demand shifts like that, our auto industry will quickly offer all kinds of innovative ways to cut imports of foreign oil, reduce global warming and (aha!) sell more cars.

In Michigan, a recent survey by Public Sector Consultants makes the same point. Eighty-one percent of state residents would favor a tax increase to maintain or improve school programs, while 76 percent would favor a tax hike to fund early childhood education.

The conclusion? That the public "will support increased taxes" and that "Michigan residents believe that tax dollars spent on local schools represents a good buy and they reject the contention that lower taxes are more important than maintaining educational services and programs."

The key point coming out of both surveys is that people do not reject higher taxes out of hand. They are willing to consider raising taxes if the purposes for them are worthwhile. Amazing!

The politicians, for their part, are living in an ossified world of political dogma, scared of how their opponents might smear them if they ever displayed leadership and contemptuous of the intelligence of the public whose votes they covet.

With Michigan headed into an election this November, you can bet your bottom dollar the politicians of neither party are going to talk about what long-term benefits increasing taxes might bring.

Sadly, all that does is postpone until next year a real discussion of how we are going to avoid becoming a terminally damaged state depending on a floundering and declining rust-belt economy. With each passing month without action, it seems less and less likely that we'll find a plausible way of getting out of the jam we're in.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

Our country is long overdue for a debate on port security

The Bush administration's recent agreement to the sale of operations at six American ports to a company controlled by the Dubai government in the United Arab Emirates has rightfully caused a bipartisan uproar across the country.

Before Sept. 11, the United Arab Emirates was one of only three countries in the world that recognized the brutally repressive Taliban government in Afghanistan, which harbored the terrorists who masterminded the 9/11 attacks.

As detailed by the 9/11 Commission, President Clinton personally asked the Emirates to cut their ties to the Taliban, but they refused. The Commander of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet alleged after 9/11, and before the Iraq war, that a Dubai-based company shipped industrial materials from Dubai to Iraq that could be used for constructing high-grade explosives, according to press reports.

The United Arab Emirates may have since had a change in heart. It certainly has become a useful strategic ally for military operations, and the political pressures that caused it to recognize the Taliban regime may have disappeared. But on an issue as critical as port security, we must be sure there is a permanent commitment to combating terrorism, not just a recent conversion.

At a minimum, the Dubai Ports World transaction should have triggered the 45-day review period that is required by law when there is a national security risk. We know from an internal Coast Guard memorandum that there are security concerns regarding this transfer.

The law requires that an investigation be made into those concerns and that a report be given to the President. The President must then notify the Congress about his decision on whether to allow the transfer to proceed.

The Bush administration's decision to short-circuit that process and ignore the law is deeply troublesome. The Administration now says it is initiating a 45-day review, but the sale is going ahead in the meantime. By putting the cart before the horse and closing the deal before the review, the outcome of the Administration's review looks like a pre-judgment of the outcome. The reality is that it is far more difficult to undo a sale than to stop one.

If there is any silver lining to this debacle,

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it is the renewed and overdue interest in port security. One of America's greatest vulnerabilities in defending against terrorist attacks is our ports.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, only \$630 million has been spent on port security since 9/11, while \$18 billion has been spent on airport security.

Eleven million containers come into our ports every year, but 95 percent of them are never opened or inspected. We can and should screen 100 percent of cargo for nuclear materials, but the administration thinks we can wait years to achieve that goal instead of getting it done now. Perhaps the greatest threat we face today is that a terrorist will exploit these weaknesses to smuggle nuclear weapons into the United States.

As we in Michigan know, this vulnerability exists not just at our ports. We also face a threat from shipments that arrive at our land borders, including trash shipments transported by hundreds of trucks every day across our northern border. These shipments arrive in containers, nearly all of which are neither opened nor effectively screened.

A recent Department of Homeland Security study, completed in response to a request I made two years ago, finally acknowledges the security risk, but the Administration has not yet addressed it.

The stakes could not be higher, and we must respond with an effort equal to the threat. To salvage some good from this Dubai ports deal, the bipartisan outrage over the proposed sale must become a bipartisan demand for adequate port security funding.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.



Carl Levin

Newspaper-in-Education

Activity Column

NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION WEEK

This week the Observer & Eccentric will deliver newspapers to schools that requested to participate in the NIE program. Schools will distribute newspapers to local classrooms and students read our newspaper to continue developing their reading skills and to learn about their community in which they live. Sponsorship of this program is needed not just this week, but every publication.

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Madonna nursing students win 7 state awards

Madonna University undergraduate nursing students outshined other participants at the Michigan Nursing Students Association 2006 Convention held in mid-February as they received seven out of eight awards. With 52 participating chapters, Madonna University beat out stiff competition at the event, which was held at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids.

"These students were devoted in providing service to those in need and set about it in a variety of ways," said Fran Jurcak, the nursing students' adviser and the Faculty Award recipient. "Areas of service included food banks, fund-raising efforts for hurricane victims and community service organizations. We even had several students who volunteered to rebuild homes in Florida during winter break. Their awards were well-deserved."

The Madonna University Nursing Students Association (MUNSA) Board of Directors for the Winter 2006 Term are Josette Sanow, president; Heather Teschendorf, first vice-president; Kyle Farr, second-vice president; Kristina Cunningham, secretary; Maryann Abughannam, treasurer; Christina Hood and Sara Schmid, community co-chairs; Morgan Wall, legislative chair; Stephanie Gage and Pam Zywiol, image and breakthrough; Molly Teschendorf and Ashley Honkanen, fund-raising; Kristy Bock, membership; and Morgan Wall, liaison to MUNSA. Jurcak, a nursing professor, served as the faculty advisor. All board members are elected and volunteer their time.

"I really enjoyed sponsoring and assisting with the Christmas for Kids each year," said Josette Sanow, the MUNSA president. Sanow, a Canton resident, was responsible for leading monthly meetings, updating members and assisting with planned events and projects.

Following is the list of awards received: the Community Health Award, the Hurricane



Madonna University undergraduate nursing students took home seven awards from the Michigan Nursing Students Association 2006 Convention. Pictured, (back row, left to right) are Kristy Bock, Stephanie Gage, Maryann Abughannam, Josette Sanow, Kristina Cunningham, and Sara Schmid. Front row are Ashley Honkanen, Christine Hood, Fran Jurcak, Heather Teschendorf, Lindsey Cecil, Morgan Wall. Not pictured are Kyle Farr and Kim Holda.

Relief Award, the Poster Award, the Chapter Achievement Award, the Chapter President Award and the Faculty Adviser Award. Ashley Honkanen also won a \$500 scholarship for most individual points in the "Be Healthy, Live Fit" campaign.

Jurcak says that being recognized for the president's award, the chapter award and the faculty adviser's award was most significant to the University due to the time and effort that went into the community service projects. Several projects included fund raising, which were redirected funds back into local communities. "I think volunteering in a community

makes a difference," commented Christine Hood, co-chair. "My greatest success is being able to interact with people in the community and experience the joy in having done something for them."

Hood has worked in her own community delivering meals in the Detroit area as part of Focus:HOPE. A Farmington resident, Hood also organized a Habitat for Humanity group that went down to Martin County, Fla., to rebuild an area devastated by the hurricane.

For more information on the Madonna University's College of Nursing and Health, call (734) 432-5717.

Commissioner challenges county's role in SBT effort

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

While Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is going ahead with a petition drive to repeal the state's Single Business Tax, a political opponent has accused him of improperly using county resources to advance the effort.

County Commissioner David Woodward (D-18) has filed a complaint with the Michigan Department of State alleging that county assets, including the executive's staff's time, have been used to promote the ballot drive in violation of state campaign finance laws.

At a press conference Tuesday morning, Patterson said the accusation that his campaign to repeal the SBT misused county resources was frivolous and without merit — the kind of partisan politics to be expected in connection with a politically charged effort like his ballot drive.

"There is no factual basis for Woodward's complaint," he said. "It shouldn't surprise people that a tax-and-spend liberal like Woodward would file a specious complaint. He is a paid mouth-

piece for the Democratic Party."

Woodward is the chair of the Oakland Democratic Party. Patterson called him "a coward" for leveling the charges while Woodward was out of town.

To illustrate his point, he presented Deputy County Executives Gerald Poisson and Phil Bertolini to refute the claim that county resources were used in the ballot drive.

Poisson said section 57 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act has provisions allowing for the free expression of elected officials and the dissemination of factual information and operations performed on an elected or appointed official's personal time.

Bertolini pointed out the creation of the Web site and his paying to set up the site prove the county's involvement in the repeal the SBT drive was nonexistent.

"All of the work was done on my own time. I did that because I believe in the project itself," he said. "We took great lengths to ensure all resources that were used were private."

In general, Patterson said the drive to repeal the SBT would go on as planned.

Bear Hug charity holds fund-raiser

The Bear Hug Foundation's signature fund-raising event, The Hibernation Celebration will take place on Saturday, March 25, at the Masonic Temple's Crystal Ballroom in Detroit. The event includes dinner, dancing, casino games and a silent auction. Tickets are \$125 per person and proceeds benefit the Bear Hug Foundation.

The Bear Hug Foundation, a non-profit children's charity, provides at-risk, underprivileged and special needs children the opportunity to engage in outdoor-based experiential learning and adventure-focused activities. More than 1,500 children between the ages of 6 and 16 from primarily low income areas of metropolitan Detroit have participated in Bear Hug Foundation's three day, two-night residential summer camp program in Northern Michigan since the formation of Bear Hug Foundation in 2000.

Each group's experience is custom designed to deliver basic components of life-skills training, feature positive peer interaction and to encourage individual self-growth, communication, cooperation and trust.

The Hibernation Celebration's Silent Auction will offer an opportunity to bid on prizes, including: admission for two to the Saab Aero Performance Driving Academy at Road Atlanta, Red Wings Hockey Tickets, Private Pilates Sessions, Spa Treatments, and much more.

To learn more about the Bear Hug Foundation, please visit www.thebearhugfoundation.org.

To purchase tickets to the Fourth Annual Hibernation Celebration, contact Jennifer Kellman Fritz at (248) 594-7000.

Schoolcraft hosts an evening with NASA

Get an insider's look into how the national space agency uses today's computer and photographic technologies to increase the safety of space travel on Tuesday, March 14, at Schoolcraft College.

Brad Lawrence, computer science lead for the United Space Alliance, NASA Kennedy Space Center, will speak about how NASA integrates high definition film and cutting-edge film analysis to study shuttle launches and spot problems. These technologies were keys to localizing the cause of the 2003 crash of the space shuttle Columbia.

The presentation begins at 7 p.m. in the VisiTech Center on the Livonia campus, and is free and open to the public.

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