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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Grace Judd, who for 20 years was known as Dilly the clown, goes nose-to-nose with Clowns Around Redford cohort Wink during a retirement party Thursday at the American House facility on Hunter.

**Bring in the clowns**

Friends gather to celebrate Dilly's retirement at age 92



Toodles the Clown decides that Edwin Taylor needs a dusting.

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

They crossed the parking lot, looking a lot like the photograph that graced the cover of The Beatles' *Abbey Road* album. But instead of John, Paul, George and Ringo, it was Wink, Toodles, Genie Beanie, Smiggins and Speedy.

And waiting for them at the door to the American House on Hunter in Westland was Dilly - AKA Grace Judd.

Members of Clowns Around Redford, they were there to celebrate Dilly's retirement. At the age of 92, she is putting aside the red nose she has worn for 20 years.

"It's a nice opportunity to see Dilly, the members haven't seen her since she moved here," said Smiggins, the Clowns Around Redford president. "She's

a special person."

"They spoil me rotten," countered Dilly with a laugh, the sparkle in her eye showing her delight with the special attention.

Residents of the senior housing munched on ice cream cone cupcakes decorated with clown faces and sipped lemonade or coffee while Dilly walked around showing off a photograph of herself with her fellow clowns taken during one of the many parades and events she participated in.

In the photograph, she wore light blue clown hair, a sharp contrast to her red face and the white that encircled her eyes and mouth. For her retirement party, she wore a simple purple hat, her signature red nose and red spots on her cheeks.

"Ever since she moved here, she's had to sell a lot of the

PLEASE SEE DILLY, A5

**Attorney seeks delay in child abuse hearing**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A brutal child abuse case involving boys who were blindfolded, tied up and burned with a heated screwdriver and a hot glue gun was delayed Thursday in court.

A defense attorney for 37-year-old Vincent Garrison Grant told a Westland judge that he needed more time to prepare for a preliminary hearing.

Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos adjourned the case until Aug. 17, at which time attorneys will proceed with testimony unless Grant decides to waive his hearing.

The three boys, ages 12, 11 and 9, will be called to testify against Grant, if the hearing is held, said Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Lora Weingarden.

Grant showed no emotion Thursday as he appeared in court in a dark green jail uniform. He remains jailed in lieu of a \$100,000 cash bond.

Grant is accused of what police Sgt. Steve Borisch called "borderline torture" involving his wife's 9-year-old son and her two nephews, who were placed in her care by state officials for problems at their mother's home.

Authorities believe the abuse may have started as early as 2003 and continued through this year on Barchester, near

John Hix and Cherry Hill roads, Borisch has said.

Grant could face four years in prison if convicted of three counts of second-degree child abuse and three counts of felonious assault.

Weingarden said the prosecutor's office charged Grant with second-degree child abuse because the boys' injuries - even the burns - weren't serious enough to meet the criteria for first-degree charges.

Westland police learned of the allegations in May when one of the boys didn't want to go home from Stevenson Middle School, Borisch said.

Police have photographs of the boys and the scars on their arms and legs, he said, and "they say he burned their private parts, too."

Grant admitted he blindfolded the boys and tied them to a basement pole to punish them for bad behavior, but he denied intentionally burning them with a hot glue gun or a screwdriver that he allegedly heated with a propane torch, Borisch said.

Grant admitted that he "may have accidentally burned one of them with a glue gun," Borisch said.

Police searched Grant's home and found a screwdriver with a scorched tip, a propane torch and a glue gun, the detective said.

Grant's wife won't face any charges, Weingarden said, but she said she couldn't elaborate until the preliminary hearing.

The wife's son has been placed with another relative, Borisch said, while the nephews have been placed in a foster home.

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**Judge orders trial in child porn case**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court for allegations he downloaded hundreds of images of child pornography on his home computer.

Danny Rudolph Schultz, 36, could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison, if he's convicted of child sexually abusive activity and possession of child pornography.

Schultz was ordered to stand trial after he waived his right to a prelimi-

nary hearing Thursday in front of Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

Westland police last month seized more than 200 CDs containing child porn that Schultz is accused of downloading at his home on Barchester, police Sgt. Jeff Trzybinski has said.

Authorities also seized computers from Schultz's home.

His arrest occurred after his former girlfriend, who lived with him, told police that she found child pornographic materials that belonged to him, Trzybinski has said.

Schultz, dressed in blue jeans and a white T-shirt, showed no emotion Thursday as he appeared in front of Bokos and waived his right to a preliminary hearing.

His decision to waive the hearing averted testimony and prompted Bokos to send the case to circuit court for disposition.

A not-guilty plea has been entered in Schultz's court file as he awaits trial. He remains jailed in lieu of a \$100,000 cash bond.

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**Judge won't halt Legacy Initiative**

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

When the first school bell rings on Sept. 6, in Livonia Public Schools, the district will begin operating under its new Legacy Initiative.

On Friday, Wayne Circuit Judge John A. Murphy refused, for a second time, to grant a preliminary injunction which would have halted activities related to the plan, which closes seven schools and reorganizes the district's buildings in an effort to save \$1.8 million per

year. For Jo Vizzaccaro, the news came as a relief. Her son will attend seventh grade at Emerson Middle School, rather than Riley - which will open as an upper elementary school next month.

"He now knows for sure," she said. Vizzaccaro said her son is prepared for the start of school. He's got his class schedule, is excited about the Jazz program, and has already met the principal and assistant principal.

PLEASE SEE LEGACY, A4

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Number 21



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INDEX

- APARTMENTS E7
- AUTOMOTIVE F1
- HOMETOWNLIFE C1
- CROSSWORD E7
- CLASSIFIEDS D2-F4
- JOBS D1
- NEW HOMES E1
- OBITUARIES C4
- PERSPECTIVES A7
- REAL ESTATE D6
- SERVICE GUIDE D5
- SPORTS B1

Coming Thursday in Filter

Cruisin' Woodward

It's almost time for car buffs to make their way to Dream Cruise. Read about what's on tap in Filter.



# Exchange students cross borders, cultures on stays with local families

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Jose Mangune gives new meaning to the idea of an extended family. As an area representative for ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, the Livonia man's family now extends across the globe. Like the host families he finds across Michigan, Mangune opens his own home to exchange students from all over the world.

"That is really part of the program," he said. "Not only do the students become part of your family, their family (does too)."

Mangune said ASSE was created as an exchange program between the United States and Sweden, but it has grown into a nonprofit organization that includes 40 countries. Mangune is always seeking host families to participate in the year-long exchange, as well as shorter-term programs through ASSE. Repeat participation is high, he said, once people understand the value in hosting.

For families like the Iadipaolos of Livonia, it's already a rewarding experience.

Patrick Iadipaolo signed his family up to host for the first time this year. They have welcomed a Japanese student



Patrick Iadipaolo of Livonia and his family are hosting Mayumi Uesawa, 18, of Japan.

named Mayumi Uesawa into their home. "We thought this was a great way to introduce a global society to our children," he said.

Iadipaolo, a father of two teenagers, said the exchange program would be a good way to teach his own children about the similarities and differences of other cultures. The language barrier was among the first obstacles they experienced, but like the other ASSE students, Mayumi is enrolled in an intensive four-week program to improve her English skills.

"I'm hooked," said Iadipaolo last week. "One day I hope my kids will get involved."

Mangune said Michigan provides a great location for the program.

"It's one of the best places for students to come," he said. "There is diversity, the setting, all four seasons, the beauty of the north, the hustle and bustle of (Detroit)."

George Yang, a student from Taiwan, said he enjoyed a recent trip to a car factory in "Motown." He said he saw Ford Field, the Detroit River and Canada. For Yosuke Kunimune of Japan, the program offers a chance to "discover another country."

Carolyne Bernard, who traveled from France, added to that sentiment. She said she's learn-



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jose Mangune of Livonia (left) is seeking host families for exchange students through the ASSE program. Some students currently residing in Western Wayne County include: Carolyne Bernard, 18, of France; Yosuke Kunimune, 17, of Japan; George Yang, 16, of Taiwan; and Santos DeLuna, 17, of Mexico.

ing "a new way of life." Having visited the United States before, she called it "awesome" and she was eager to return.

The first difference Carolyne noted in comparison to her hometown, was how big everything looked.

"We are happy to be here," she said.

Like Carolyne, Santos DeLuna of Mexico is staying in Pontiac with a host family. "I'm very happy," he said. "It's very good weather."

Santos said he hopes to learn all about American traditions. When it comes to their

American hosts, the students quickly become a new member of the family.

David and Virginia Wasson of Garden City have hosted teens from places like Spain and Japan, as have Rob and Kathy Bartshe of Livonia and Nina Harris and her mother, Sally, who live in Garden City.

Kathy Bartshe said they got involved to "expose our family to different cultures."

Mangune said he's hoping to find more families willing to participate. He currently has students in need of host families for a Cultural Enrichment

Program, which involves a four to 10-week stay.

All it takes is enough money and space in your home to accommodate a student, and an interest in learning more about another culture. Host families can meet with an ASSE representative and will be asked for character references from employers, clergy or social or civic organizations.

Students interested in participating must be 15 to 18 years old and show high academic standing and good citizenship. For more information on the program, call (734) 522-5273.

# Fun walk/run benefits U-M transplant center

If you're a walker or a runner, you may want to check out the sixth annual Second Chance at Life Fun Walk/5K Run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Hines Park in Westland.

The University of Michigan Transplant Center will host the event, sponsored by Gibson Broach and Tool Company. It will raise funds to support various programs at the U-M Transplant Center, including

those aimed at raising organ and tissue donation awareness, research and financial assistance for patients.

Second Chance At Life participants can choose to take

part in the new 5K (3.1 mile) run, the two-mile walk, the four-mile inline skate or the 10-mile bike ride. Dogs are welcome during the walk, so no one has to be left at home.

Geared toward families, the event also will feature snow cones, moonwalk and police and fire truck tours by the Westland Police and Fire departments.

In addition, a crew and helicopter from Survival Flight, the U-M Health System's medical transport service, will be at the event.

Pre-registration for runners is \$18 and \$24 on the day of the event.

Pre-registration for walkers, skaters and bikers is \$10 or \$15 on the day of the event. A T-shirt and lunch is included in registration fees.

Participants also are encouraged to get individual sponsors.

Registration for the run starts at 7:45 a.m., the run begins at 9 a.m. Awards will be given to runners at 10 a.m. Bikers and skaters begin at 10:15 a.m. and walkers will follow. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m., following the events.

About 200 people attended last year's walk, which raised \$30,000 for the U-M Transplant Center. During the past five years, the Second Chance at Life Walk-a-Thon has raised more than \$100,000 for the U-M Transplant Center, in addition to educating people about organ donation.

For more information on the Second Chance at Life Fun Walk/5K Run or to register, go online to [www.secondchanceatlife.org/](http://www.secondchanceatlife.org/). For more information on the U-M Transplant Center, visit the Web site. [www.michigantransplant.org/](http://www.michigantransplant.org/).

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# Trio to stand trial for theft involving fire department car

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

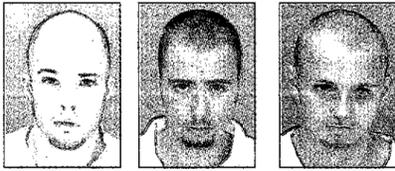
A Westland district judge has ordered three Belleville men to stand trial for allegations they stole computers from two police cars and fled the city's public services yard in a stolen fire department vehicle.

In court Thursday, Judge C. Charles Bokos ordered trials for Michael Gary Dunstan, 19, Ricky Edward Hilton, 18, and Scott David Matthews, 23.

The trio is charged in an incident that a city employee discovered when he showed up for work July 19 at the Westland Public Services Department, on Marquette east of Newburgh.

Dunstan, Hilton and Matthews are accused of breaking into two police cars, stealing computers and driving off in a 1994 Crown Victoria used by a fire department official. Dunstan is accused of driving the car and crashing it through a gate.

The three cars had been left at the public services yard for repairs, authorities have said. The case against the three men unfolded after Dunstan tried to sell the stolen vehicle in a Pittsfield Township parking lot, police Sgt. Steve Borisch has said.



Matthews Dunstan Hilton

In court Thursday, Dunstan, Hilton and Matthews walked from a courtroom lockup, appeared separately in front of Bokos and gave up their right to a preliminary hearing.

Their decisions prompted Bokos to order them to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on two counts of breaking into police cars and one count of stealing the Crown Victoria.

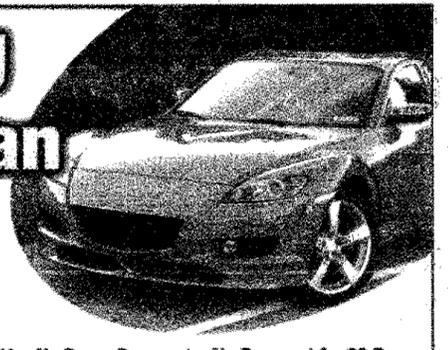
Not-guilty pleas have been entered in their court files as they await their trial. For now, Dunstan and Matthews remain jailed in lieu of a \$100,000/10 percent bond, and Hilton is being held on a \$50,000/10 percent bond.

Dunstan and Matthews received a higher bond because they have a criminal history, Borisch has said.

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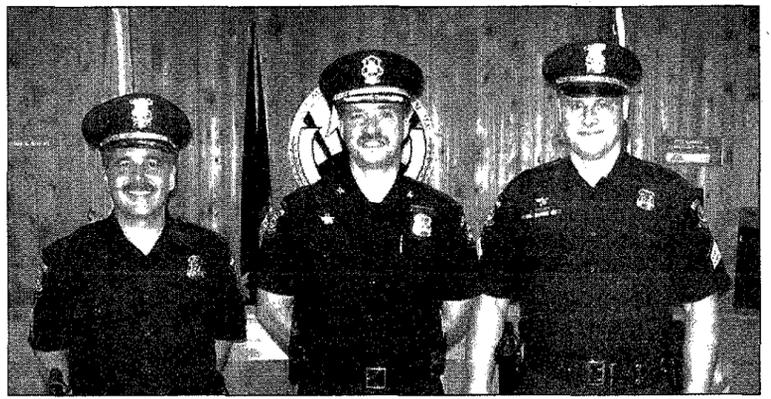
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**New sergeants**

Police Chief Daniel Pfannes (center) is flanked by his department's two newest sergeants, Tim Pennington (left) and Ed Price. The picture was taken at Westland City Hall, where the two sergeants were recently sworn in for their new assignments. They will be assigned as sergeants of the road patrols. Two other sergeants, Michael Matich and Dan O'Connell, have been promoted to the detective bureau.

**LEGACY**

FROM PAGE A1

Supt. Randy Liepa said that's where his focus remains as well. "We're going to get ready for school," he said. "That's what was important about (the decision) today."

Not all district residents feel that way.

The Citizens for Livonia's Future, a grassroots group opposed to the plan, will continue to move forward with legal action. They contend the plan won't save enough money for all the disruption and negative impact involved. It requires 20 additional buses and leaves students to attend buildings not centrally located throughout the district - at a savings of about 1 percent of the annual budget.

In February, the group hired Attorney Mayer Morganroth and filed a lawsuit charging the Board of Education and Liepa acted in an "arbitrary and capricious" manner by passing the plan despite the community outcry against it. On March 10 and again Friday, Murphy denied an injunction. He said in light of Tuesday's recall election "the court will let the

political process run its course."

"We'll know soon enough," added Murphy. "They will cast their votes on Tuesday. We will find out where they stand."

Murphy has not yet tackled the question of whether board members violated the Open Meetings Act by allowing a quorum to attend meetings of the Demographics Committee, as the CFLF contends.

Murphy said he will wait "until the close of discovery" to hear any additional information relating to that issue.

Morganroth said five of seven trustees served on the committee, which created the Legacy proposal. No minutes were taken to prove whether more than three trustees were present at a time, which would have constituted a quorum and required an open meeting. In depositions, Morganroth said, the trustees could not specify which meetings they attended.

Gary King, an attorney representing the board members and Liepa, said "discovery has revealed absolutely nothing to suggest a violation" to the Open Meetings Act. He said one trustee attended half of

one meeting, and another attended two pre-meeting dinners.

"At most, only two board members served on any sub-committee," King said.

Brad Wolkan, chairman of the CFLF Political Action Committee, said he was disappointed in Murphy's overall finding on Friday. "The decision only serves to provide further proof that the judge clearly understands that the decisions within this community are going to be made at the polls," he said.

In the meantime, the district is preparing for a new school year. King said that more than 10,000 students have been assigned to new schools, closed buildings have been leased, and renovations are being completed. He argued that an injunction at this time would not be in the best interest of students, parents, teachers and the public.

Following the decision, Morganroth said: "This case is not over yet." If the case did not have merit, he said, Murphy would not allow it to continue as he has.

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- ✓ A former union member of 11 years, with a proud, on-going family heritage of union membership.
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**Mr. Fayad retiree, Ford Motor Company and 40 year resident**

Dear Residents,  
In these difficult times of economic uncertainty and global instability, your vote is more important than ever.  
You can make a difference by voting for Joseph Campbell on Tuesday, August 8th. Joseph Campbell understands the issues affecting our community. He is a man of honesty and integrity and will be a strong advocate for residents in our district.  
On Tuesday, August 8th, please urge family and friends to vote for Joseph Campbell.

Sincerely,  
**Jay Amada**  
Business owner & community volunteer

Paid for by Joseph Campbell for County Commissioner, 5843 Rosetta, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127, 313-244-7870

**DILLY**

FROM PAGE A1

things," said Smiggins. "She goes to our meetings, if she has a ride or a couple of friends will bring her. She's our oldest member."

Dilly has been a clown since age 72. It was a conversation with a friend that led her to take lessons and eventually join the clown club.

"I was talking to a friend one day, she was so close she could have been a daughter," she said. "She talked about her family and I talked about mine, then she asked if there was anything I ever wanted to do. I didn't have to think twice, I said 'a clown.'"

According to Dilly, her friend called the next day with a telephone number and told her to call. The number was for clown classes. Dilly called and the rest, as they say, is history.

Smiggins said the club has an award named after the Westland resident, to recognize that she attended the most events in a year. But walking has become difficult for Dilly who now walks with a cane after suffering several strokes. She said she finally gave up her condominium and moved into American House after a fall.

While Smiggins did facepainting, Wink, Toodles and Speedy created balloon hats, wrist bands and flowers to augment the sackful brought by the late-arriving Professor Butterfly. Wink and Genie Beanie also worked the crowd, doing tricks and telling jokes as well as passing out and accepting any and all hugs.

"Do you know what this means," Wink said pointing to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jenny Benson waits for Smiggins to finish painting a second rose on her cheeks.

a pin on her left shoulder that contained nine letters - IITYY-OMAH. "If I tell you, you owe me a hug, that's what it means," she said reaching for her hug.

"The clowns are very funny," said Ollie Phillips watching the festivities. "It's nice of them to come around and see the people."

Nina D'Onofrio, American House manager, also thought it was nice when Dilly asked if a few of her friends could stop by.

"We've never had a professional clown as a resident," she said. "It's great to have someone who does that."

Jenny Benson gladly sat for the facepainting - a rose on each cheek and a lovely clown smile on her chin - and by the time the party had broken up 1 1/2 hours later, she was wearing a balloon hat, carrying two balloon flowers and a blue balloon poodle.

"She wants to come with us because she's having a ball," said Wink.

"I'm having so much fun, I can't believe it," Benson said.

Sitting in the crowd was Dilly's sister Helen Krause, also an American House resident.

Krause said her sister was "very quiet" and that being a clown gave her a chance to be outgoing.

"If I'd stayed in Detroit, I was going to join her as a clown, but I moved to Cheboygan," she added.

Her clown friends chose last week to be with Dilly because it was National Clown Week.

"We decided to come around and do what we can to make people happy," said Smiggins.

"Dilly was my mentor, she helped me get into clowning and taught me a lot. I've been a clown since 1994 and I even made my mom into a clown."

Admittedly, Dilly will miss her clowning time. It's been a big part of her life's journey.

"That was my first journey and this is my second journey," she added.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Surplus food**

The city of Westland will distribute surplus federal food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey east of Venoy and south of Palmer.

That distribution will be for residents who live north of Michigan Avenue.

Residents south of the avenue should pick up their commodities on July 17 at St. James United Methodist Church, located at 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt roads.

Senior citizens in Taylor Towers should call their manager about their distribution.

For August, surplus federal food will include dry split peas, spaghetti pasta, spaghetti sauce and sweet potatoes.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

**Aloha!**

Put on your grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts and head for the Westland senior Friendship

Center where it will be luau time, Friday, Aug. 18.

The fun gets underway at noon and includes entertainment by the Hartland Seniors, with the "Living Dolls," tropical island food and prizes.

The cost is \$8 for center members and \$12 for non-members. Tickets are available through Friday, Aug. 11 and are available at the Friendship center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

**Business Expo**

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will have its annual Health & Business Expo 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at Westland Shopping Center.

The mall, as the major sponsor, will offer health and business representatives an opportunity to display their goods and services in a high-traffic environment, chamber President Lori Brist said.

Participants are being sought for the event; tables are \$125 for members, \$175 for non-members, and \$75 for nonprofit groups. Call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

**Craft show tables**

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women Craft Show on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail No. 10) to reserve a table.

Table rental also is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women craft show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) to reserve a table.

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**FOOT PAIN**

If you experience pain in your foot, the most likely response from your neighbors is: "you have gout." If your pain is at the base of your great toe, that diagnosis will be correct. However, it is equally true that most pain in the foot is not from gout.

One reason is because other conditions can look and act like gout but have a different cause. It is important to identify these other causes as they respond to treatments that differ from what works for gout. The other conditions are pseudogout which results from precipitation of a crystal composed of calcium pyrophosphate and calcium tendinitis which comes from accumulation of hydroxyapatite crystals. Gout reflects the effect of calcium urate crystals.

Another reason for foot pain is because the foot can swell from standing, and is at risk for irritation because of being confined by shoes. This combination of swelling and confinement leads to pain in the back of the heel, the side of the great toe, the side of the fifth toe, and the top of the foot. These areas are where the swollen foot will rub against the tight shoe.

The treatment for foot pain from crystals such as gout and pseudogout is either medication, steroid injection or both. Therapy for hydroxyapatite crystals usually requires a steroid injection. In cases where foot swelling is precipitating pain and swelling, the best treatment approach is a combination of steroid injection and the purchase of a better fitting shoe.

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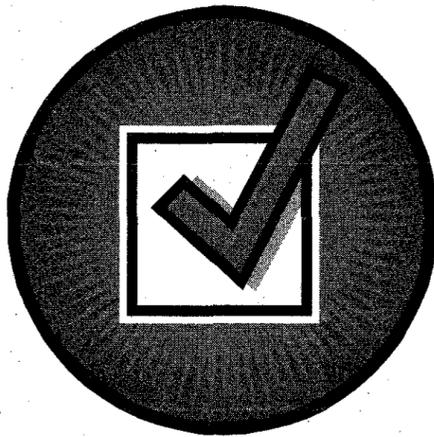
*& Future*

*LPS students*

\* We are strongly opposed to the recall efforts

\* We believe Livonia Public Schools is the cornerstone of our strong & stable community. A recall would bring chaos to our community and unnecessary disruption to the children & schools we serve.

We ask you to support our schools  
& support our students...



VOTE NO ON  
AUGUST 8<sup>th</sup>

## OUR VIEWS

## How we stand on the candidates, issues

Voters will trim down the list of hopefuls for a variety of positions in Tuesday's primary election. While they can vote for whomever they please in the general election, Tuesday's voting will be strictly along party lines.

### U.S. Senate

In the Republican primary for the United States Senate, we endorse the nomination of Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard to challenge incumbent Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow in November.

Bouchard offers a broad range of experience as a police officer, council member, state legislator and, since 1999, sheriff of Michigan's second largest county. He has been emphasizing his expertise on homeland security issues. He has a strong conservative background balanced with a reputation as a state legislator who was able to work Democrats across on the aisle.

We believe **Michael Bouchard** will offer voters a strong, thoughtful contest between two seasoned legislators with definite but not acrimonious differences on the important issues facing the U.S. Senate.

### 18th State House District

In the 18th District, which takes in the city of Westland, Democratic will select from three candidates — former state Rep. Vincent Petitpren and Westland Councilmen James Godbout and Richard LeBlanc.

All have the experience to replace Glenn Anderson, who is term limited, but it is our belief that **Richard LeBlanc** possesses the skills, knowledge and ability to represent Westland in Lansing.

He is a realist who understands the difficulties Democratic lawmakers face in a Republican-dominated Legislature. He is not one to shy away from thorny situations and believes in calling it as he sees it.

As a city council member, he has shown that he can ask the difficult questions and make the hard decisions. He is organized and thorough and fully investigates issues before making a decision.

It is those latter qualities that he brings to this race that sets him apart from his challengers. He does his homework and, as a result, is well-versed on the issues facing the state as a whole and Westland specifically.

We believe he has the integrity and commitment to residents that is needed to represent Westland in Lansing.

### Wayne County Executive

In contested county races, both Republican and Democratic voters will pare down the list of candidates hoping to unseat incumbent Robert Ficano in the Wayne County Executive's race.

On the Democratic side, Ficano's opponents are Marion Ector of Detroit and former Detroit police Lt. Ricardo Rodge Moore of Detroit, both of whom do not have the experience or support that Ficano enjoys.

Two Republicans are seeking their party's nomination, Ramon T. Patrick of Detroit and Deborah West of Inkster. But in the heavily Democratic Wayne County, they are not expected to give Ficano any serious competition.

We believe **Robert Ficano** will be nominated in the August primary and then re-elected in November. He needs to spend his political capital to move Wayne County forward. We would like to see him use his obvious political gifts to move boldly ahead on the initiatives he's begun. The airport can be the center of a

strong economic revival — now is the time to bring the elements together to make it happen.

### 12th Commission District

In County Commission race, it will be Democratic voters who will select the commissioner for the 12th District, which includes Westland, Inkster and a portion of southern Livonia.

Incumbent Kay Beard of Westland, the longest-serving member of the commission, is being challenged by Vernell Massey of Inkster in a race that has no Republican challengers.

We recommend voters go with experience in this race at this time and support **Kay Beard** for the Wayne County Commission's 12th District. She has done a good job as a county commissioner, tackling issues that affect Wayne County as a whole. She is accessible to residents, has an impressive list of community involvement and makes sure she is present for most, if not all, events in her district.

### SMART transit millage

The Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is seeking a renewal of 0.59 mills (a slight reduction of the current .6 mills) to support continued operation of the regional bus system.

We believe SMART makes a good case for renewal. The system serves a niche market that desperately needs mass transit — the elderly, disabled and entry-level employees. SMART has been working more effectively with local communities to tailor its routes and services to the needs of those communities. It has also worked hard to maintain fiscal credibility.

We urge a **YES** vote on the SMART millage.

### LPS Recall Election

Residents of the Livonia Public Schools, which includes the north end of Westland, also will decide the fate of five school board members.

We certainly acknowledge that there have been mistakes made by board members in setting up the process and then approving the controversial Legacy Initiative last winter. Communication was, and continues to be, a shortcoming for this district and the board. And we're not even convinced that this plan is the best solution to handle the district's dwindling revenue and enrollment.

However, this decision by these board members, no matter how unpopular it seems to be among many vocal parents and others, was made in an above-board manner and with the specific intention of both saving money and improving the educational offerings of the district. And it may yet be successful.

Count this newspaper among those willing to wait to see if this plan will actually contribute to the long-term fiscal stability of the district and improve student learning.

Count this newspaper also among those who believe that these board members — Lynda Scheel, Kevin Whitehead, Cynthia Markarian, Robert Freeman and Daniel Lessard — did what they were elected to do: Make a difficult decision honestly and after considering the recommendation of their administrators and others.

We believe it's in the best interest of the Livonia Public Schools and this community to let the plan go forward. Voters should vote **NO** on the recall of each of the five school board members on the ballot.

We also urge residents to take the time to go to the polls on Tuesday. They'll be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## LETTERS

### LeBlanc: People's candidate

With the primary voting fast approaching, we wanted to ask your readers to please vote for Richard LeBlanc, candidate for state representative for the state of Michigan.

This is why:

Mr. LeBlanc has a proven track record as a council member of the city of Westland as one who is indeed independent and one who truly represents the voice of the people. "People" in this case represents private citizens as well as business.

As you probably recall, that as recently as the June 19 council meeting, many private citizens as well as rental property owners pleaded their case against instituting a new rental property inspection ordinance. Because of some new suggestions that surfaced during this meeting, Mr. LeBlanc proposed that the vote be postponed for a period of four weeks.

He suggested having yet another study session during this time period as was requested by some property owners and citizens in order to revisit some of their concerns.

Mr. LeBlanc who was willing to negotiate was voted down. Five of the council members were unwilling to negotiate any further, one of the five is Mr. LeBlanc's opponent.

Now, who do you want representing you as your state representative? Do you want someone who is willing to negotiate or someone who refused to negotiate again? Isn't diplomacy part of statesmanship? Yes, to us this type of openness, willingness to negotiate, independence and true representation of all concerns, is very vital to anyone seeking a political office. Many of us who have regularly followed the council meetings for years have seen and have heard how Mr. LeBlanc has asked the hard questions, has had the best interests of the city and its people at heart, and has displayed his independence and integrity. Unlike the majority of his colleagues, which includes his opponent, we feel that Mr. LeBlanc displays greater statesmanship that is vital to our state. Mr. LeBlanc's candidacy is dependent on the primary election. We are asking you to please make sure that you vote and cast your important vote for a real people's candidate, Richard LeBlanc.

Jim and Mary Murphy  
Westland

### Recall would pop the bubble

I was sorry to see that the editors at the Observer oppose the recall of the five Board of Education members. This board was faced with the difficult task of reducing costs in the Livonia school system. Unfortunately, they chose a radical restructuring that is forecasted to yield a cost savings of only about 1 percent. This group has shown that they don't listen to the voters in Livonia. They did not reveal the details of their Legacy Initiative until it was too late to change the plan. Repeated requests for postponing this radical restructuring of our school system were ignored. This board has shown repeatedly that they do not care what the voters want.

The Legacy Initiative closes too many local schools and buses kids to mega-schools. If this grand experiment with our kids' education fails, this school board's devotion to their plan will not allow them to make the changes needed to fix the flawed design. With the current school board members, we will be stuck with this plan regardless of the outcome. Livonia needs a school board that listens to the voters and will have an open mind regarding how to provide our children with a quality education in these cost-constrained times. This school board is living in a bubble and needs to be recalled.

Bruce Bacon  
Livonia

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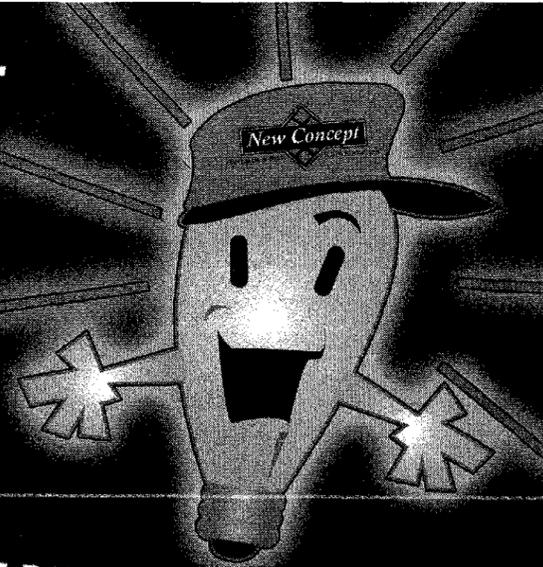
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# Tigers Trivia: Area woman put the growl in 1968 radio commercial

BY NORMAN PRADY  
CORRESPONDENT

Like hundreds or a thousand or more times before, she walked into the recording studio and took her place at the microphone.

It was a morning in 1968 on a day and date she can't recall. To her, just another workday. A producer had called her to perform on a radio commercial for a local advertiser. He told her that he liked her voice, calling it warm and intimate, sultry and legally seductive.

She looked at the script, saying the words quietly to herself, and then asked the producer what kind of reading he was looking for.

*Gates Brown.*

"I had started out in acting in junior high," Paula Tucker said. "I tried out for the juvenile lead on the television show *General Electric Theater* but I lost out to a girl named Helene. I ended up as her understudy.

"I was a better actress but she was thin. I was a little on the chunky side."

Born Paula Jackson in Detroit, in a year she refuses to reveal, Tucker said she began acting in local professional theaters while still a teenager. But she was torn between the doggedly demanding life of an actress and the gratifying service work of a dog doctor.

*Mickey Lolich, Norm Cash.*

"I tried out for plays and television shows and did some acting and also worked for a veterinarian after school. I cleaned kennels and assisted with operations, but when I got to college I didn't like the biology.

"I went to Wayne State, did shows at the Bonstelle Theatre. Wayne didn't have a theater department then, it had a speech department.

"At the Bonstelle, I was acting and building scenery and painting and doing lighting."

*Bill Freehan, Joe Sparma, Pat Dobson.*

Her backstage work developed into expertise that in turn led her to frequently step behind the scenes of the camera.

After being pressed to fill in for an absent script supervisor on an industrial film project, Tucker let her production work begin to take precedence over acting. Eventually, she received credentials and membership as an assistant director, then as a director, from the Directors Guild of America, the professional group that represents most of those who make the movies, TV shows, and commercials that we see.

*Dick McAuliffe, Al Kaline, Dick Tracewski, Don Wert.*

Over the years as a freelance director — and as a producer, the person who assembles the elements of a project and oversees its work — Tucker would have her name on films as well as commercials for Chevrolet, Lincoln Mercury, Quaker Oats, Betty Crocker, Hickok, Maxwell House, and Pillsbury, among many others. And, oh yes, a fellow named Hubert Humphrey.

"I was production manager on a documentary done for Vice President Humphrey when he ran for president. Traveled on the press planes, arranged for interviews.

"I even had a plane come back for my crew when we just missed getting there before take-off. I got a Christmas card from him and his wife."

*Willie Horton, Tom Matchick, Ray Oyler, Wayne Comer.*

Since 1970 (oh, she let that date slip out) she's been mar-

ried to Bill Tucker, a professional bowler and pro shop owner. They live in Huntington Woods.

Two years before, on that forgotten date in 1968, she went into that studio "just to do a job." It was just a job, she said.

"If I'd been eager for recognition, I'd have stayed in front of the camera. Voice-over work is mostly anonymous. But my family and friends knew what I did that day.

"It doesn't bother me that all these years I've remained the unknown voice on a radio announcement that now seems to be going on forever. It matters to me that I was pleased with the performance I gave that morning."

*Eddie Mathews, Jim Price, Mickey Stanley.*

"I did what I was asked to do. I never like to leave a session until I'm sure it's my best work."

The work that Tucker was asked to do that morning in 1968 was to speak four words and make a sound.

The four words became the rousing cheer of the 1968 Detroit Tigers, all the way through their four-games-to-three defeat of the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

The four words Tucker spoke that morning remain the call that links Tigers fans together season after season, forever

restoring spirits on the team's worst days and intensifying the sunshine on its best.

The four words Tucker spoke that morning:

"Go get 'em, Tiger!"

And then what did she do?

Yep. She growled. She said the four words and then she

growled a growl that continues four decades later to evoke the crack of Detroit bats against

balls, the perfume of fresh-cut grass, and an unyielding belief in the vision of victory.

It's a tiger growl that might echo endlessly at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull. Just ask the Tigers who played there.

*John Hiller, Jon Warden, Fred Lasher, Roy Face, Jim Rooker.*



Paula Tucker gave Tigers their famous growl.

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