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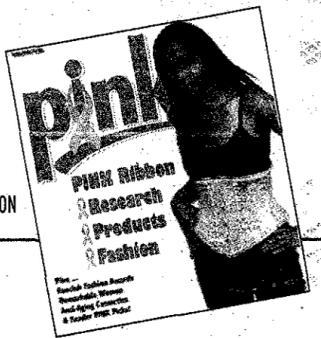
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Hear the ROAR

Sports bars
 to sports shops,
 anything Tigers
 is hot

BY DARRELL CLEM
 AND SUE MASON
 STAFF WRITERS



Is it Superman? Not on this T-shirt. It's Joel Zumaya, super relief pitcher of the Detroit Tigers. These shirts are the hot item at Fanatic U in Garden City, according to owner Greg Every. Here, Alicia Reyes of Detroit came with friend David Micklash to pick up a shirt.

Detroit Tigers fans are letting out a thunderous roar - the loudest since the baseball team won the World Series in 1984. They can't spend money fast enough on Tigers clothing, and they're belling up to sports bars in droves. Even when he's in the back office of Malarkey's Irish Pub in Westland, manager Joel Coiner can hear the roar. "Anytime something good happens in the game, you can hear the exuberance of the crowd," he said. "We have absolutely had an increase in business every night during the games. We've literally had all seats taken." Coiner scrambled to rearrange his workers' schedules after learning

PLEASE SEE HOT, A5

Even at age 3, he's 100 percent Tigers

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

Kaden Dailide of Westland may be the biggest little Tiger fan. He's only 3 years old, but he already had been to 21 Tigers games this season - even before the American League championship series started with the Oakland Athletics. "When I take naps, I get to go to the game," Kaden said Friday. He became a Tigers fan even before the team hit its winning streak. "I took him to his first Tigers game when he was 5 months old," grandfather Bud Somerville of Westland said. "We almost got hit by a foul ball." Kaden has become quite the celebrity since then. No wonder. Just look at his Tigers costume



Little Tiger fan Kaden Dailide, 3, of Westland is drawing attention everywhere he goes.

and face paint. Television cameras can't get enough of him, and he even graced an inside page of *Sports Illustrated* that recently hit newsstands. "Full families stop him on the street to get their picture taken with him,"

Somerville said. Kaden answers quickly when asked to name his favorite player. "Magglio," he said, referring to right-fielder Magglio Ordonez. Why Ordonez? Kaden mumbled his response, prompting his mother, Tawny Somerville, to translate. "I think it started with my dad," she said. "They would go to the games, and my dad would scream, 'Come on, Magglio.' Now, all Kaden talks about is Magglio." Almost. But he also likes pitcher Joel Zumaya. Kaden seems humble for a youngster with sudden star power. When asked what he thinks of his costume and face paint, he said, "It's fun." Who knows? Kaden may graduate to donning a real Tigers uniform one day. His grandfather, long active in the Westland Youth Athletic Association, plans to sign Kaden up with WYAA when he's old enough at age 5. Until then, he'll have to settle for being the



A huge tiger towers over Play Ball Sports Co. in Westland.

Fair ball: City lets inflatable tiger stay

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

The owners of Play Ball Sports Co. in Westland just wanted to show support for Detroit's hometown baseball team by putting a huge, inflatable tiger atop their building. Then came a city worker, warning Thursday that the owners didn't follow proper procedure by asking permission for what's considered a temporary sign.

"We're just supporting the team," manager Rema Aneed said. "The Tigers haven't done anything in 18 years. Now they're

great, they're fantastic, and this is our way of supporting them." Not to worry. Mayor Sandra Cicirelli confirmed Friday that no tickets will be issued against the company, which will be allowed to display its towering tiger until ... Detroit wins the World Series? Cicirelli moved quickly to show her team spirit. Although she couldn't attend Friday's game against Oakland, she said she attended all the other home playoff games. "We're not anti-Tigers," she said of city employees. "I've got Tigers fever, too. I'm a big Tigers fan, and I'm really rooting them on." The city received a complaint about the inflatable

PLEASE SEE TIGER, A5

Dispute ends in death of Detroit man

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

A Detroit man's shooting death Wednesday snapped a 32-month streak of no killings in Westland - traffic deaths aside, police said. Eduardo Enrique Garcia, 31, was shot and killed early Wednesday when he confronted his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend inside a Westland apartment, police confirmed. Garcia was shot in the upper torso and face during a dispute inside a first-floor apartment at Greenwood Villa, near Nankin Boulevard and Central City Parkway, police Lt. James Ridener said. Garcia was declared dead at the scene. The shooting happened around 8 a.m. Wednesday. Ridener said the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office decided that the shooter should be released as the investigation continues. Under a new state law that took effect Oct. 1, the shooter was released because he wasn't the aggressor and, in fact, was retreating from Garcia, Ridener said.

"The prosecutor's office decided he should be released pending further investigation," Ridener said. Garcia, a resident of southwest Detroit, went to his ex-girlfriend's apartment and found the new boyfriend there, Ridener said. "He (Garcia) backed the other guy down a hallway," resulting in the shooter ultimately pulling out a .38-caliber revolver and firing it, Ridener said. "It's not clear why Garcia went there, but it ended up in a confrontation," the lieutenant said. The new boyfriend had been staying at the woman's apartment at least part time and had spent Tuesday night there, Ridener said. Garcia's ex-girlfriend and a neighbor called 9-1-1 when the dispute erupted, and a Westland police dispatcher could hear the shots being fired in the background, Ridener said. The shooter also called the police department after firing at Garcia, Ridener said. He had a license to carry the gun used in the killing, Ridener said. According to Ridener, Westland had its last homicide in February 2004, when Anthony Pulley's body was found slashed and tied up in his basement on the city's southeast side. His killer, Dalion Davis, is serving 20-40 years in prison for robbing Pulley and murdering him.

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Halloween sales strong in spite of bad economy

BY SUE MASON
 STAFF WRITER

"How about Lightening? Do you want to be Lightening?" Bob Douponce asked his son Craig, 3 1/2. Questions like that are the norm for kids at Halloween U.S.A., where there's more costumes than flavors of Faygo pop. But being at the Westland store last week was a bit more than picking out a costume for Douponce's son. The Livonia resident, who lives and breathes costumes, was also there as the district manager for Gags and Games, the parent company of Party USA - the former Gags and Gifts - and Halloween USA. Located in vacant box store on Cowan west of Wayne

PLEASE SEE HALLOWEEN, A3

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Coming Thursday in Filter
 Party hopping this Halloween? The coolest events are listed in Filter!

Inventor lights up DTE stage with cardboard box bass

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Chris Badynee's Web site simply states that his cardboard upright bass rivals in sound quality with basses that sell for \$6,000.

The Westland man developed and sells the Bogdon Box Bass in kit form for \$49.95. That's right. A bass, made of cardboard, that can be plugged in and made electric. Assembly requires a screwdriver, hot glue gun, packing tape and a knife.

His Bogdon Box Bass is so off-beat it caught the eye of a crew member in the Clint Black band and suddenly the Dearborn postal worker with 18 years seniority was invited backstage Oct. 8 at DTE Energy Music Theater. He even had a couple of minutes onstage after the Dwight Yoakam and Clint Black performances.

Badynee was thrilled to be given a dressing room and a chance to joke with members of both bands. But the best part, he said, was learning how great his two-string cardboard bass sounded with all the equipment onstage.

The band members wanted to see if the cardboard box upright bass was real, Badynee, 47, said. "I jammed my bass as if I were in Carnegie Hall as the road crew cheered," he said.

Always ready with a joke, Badynee said when he was backstage with the guys from the Black and Yoakam bands he told them that he's a mailman at heart who plays music "until I make it big in the postal business."

About his 15 minutes of fame, Badynee said: "It's my cardboard box upright bass that's gaining celebrity status. I'm merely the box bass valet."

OUT OF NECESSITY

He got the idea for the cardboard instrument out of necessity. "Because I'm stone broke," Badynee said. "Every time I save enough money for a bass, we need tires on the car or something for the kids."

He was in the basement of the home he and his wife, Debby, had built three years ago.

"We still have boxes down

there and we have all this scrap oak flooring and there was this weed whacker twine," he said. "I started to wonder what would happen if I put that stick with that box with that string. I videotaped myself and posted it on the Web."

That was last July and he has generated about 370,000 hits on the Web site since. So far, he's filled 18 orders, including one request from Italy.

"Musicians love it because it's a novelty and non-musicians love it because it's as easy as playing the kazoo," Badynee said. "I'm very satisfied knowing that I did something original."

Starting the business making cardboard basses came naturally, he said, explaining that he has a lawyer, businessman, audio engineer and an electrical engineer in the family.

And making something out of nothing, he said, isn't unusual for him, either.

"I grew up in Detroit," Badynee said. "I'm used to not having money, but I'm used to having everything I want, because I make it."

After the DTE Energy gig, he got a call from *Good Morning America*. Badynee and his homemade bass were on for about 10 seconds earlier this week.

BRUSHES WITH FAME

These weren't Badynee's first brushes with fame. He was on *Star Search*, when he was with the band, Skeleton Crew, in the early 1990s competing against the preadolescent, Beyonce.

"We won (that stage of the competition, but failed to come in first place) and she cried on national television in front of 8 million people," Badynee said. "That high point was also my low point. But the cool thing is that Beyonce included me in her MTV story about how she became famous."

Badynee also played large venues since 1979 with different bands, including Cadillac Kidz, Dave Gilbert's Homebreckers and the Purple Gang. He currently plays with a band he describes as "strange," called Bazooka Jones, and another band, Lemon James, a female Jimi Hendrix.

"I've played Pine Knob dozens of times," he added.

Being the bassist, Badynee said, he's not used to being the center of attention, which goes to the singer or maybe the drummer. But when he has his cardboard bass, all eyes are on him and the unusual instrument.

Like when he was at Buca di Beppo restaurant in Livonia recently and started singing and playing his cardboard instrument. Or when he brought it to work, laid it on the floor and got five orders.

"I'm having more fun than I've ever had, because it's something I created," Badynee said. "This is so good, other people are going to make it. In two or three years, there are going to be five or six cardboard basses. As of today, I'm the only cardboard box bass and that blows my mind."

Badynee said he constantly has melodies "swirling, trying to find a way out of my body."

His first exposure to music was at home. Badynee's grandparents are from Poland and when his grandmother came to Detroit in the 1930s, she taught children traditional Polish songs.

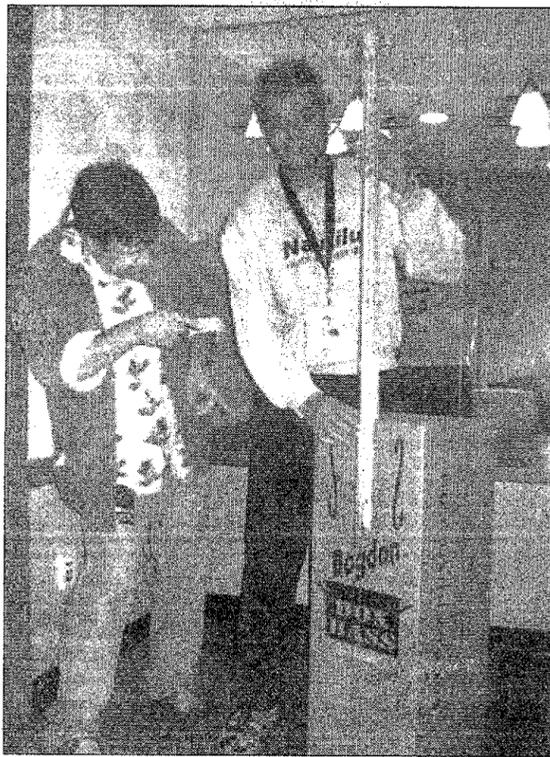
He remembers celebrating Christmas Eve listening to his grandmother and dad pass a harmonica back and forth. He'd ask to play it, too.

The father of three children who attend Livonia schools — Blaise, 17, a Churchill student, Shae, 12, a Frost student, and Chad, an 8-year-old who attends Garfield — said now most of his musical energy is focused on promoting the Bogdon Box Bass.

As for his performance at DTE Energy Music Theatre, Badynee played for about five minutes then "sensed that my time was up."

"I politely unplugged myself and thanked the stage crew," he said. "I went back to the dressing room to discover that everyone was gone. I gathered up my stuff and quietly left."

For more information about the Bogdon Box Bass, visit the Web site, www.bogdonmusic.com. The Bogdon Box Bass will be on display at Ellie's in Birmingham beginning this weekend.



Dane Bryant, Clint Black's keyboard player, listens as Chris Badynee plays his Bogdon Box Bass backstage at DTE Energy Music Theater.



Chris Badynee plucks the strings of his cardboard box bass on stage after the Clint Black/Dwight Yoakam concert.

AROUND WESTLAND

Attention, shoppers

Westland Shopping Center and Macy's will sponsor a half-day "shopping extravaganza" starting at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the mall. The cost is \$25, and the event is open to the first 100 people who respond.

The event is being presented by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Guests will report to Macy's for a continental breakfast provided by Panera Bread and a holiday make-up presentation by Clinique.

The day will continue with shopping for holiday gifts at participating merchants. Every participant will receive discounts and giveaways at certain stores.

The day will end at 1 p.m. at Lakeshore Grill with lunch and door prize drawings.

To sign up or for more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Coffee hour

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has announced his next local coffee hour with constituents will be at 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at the Westland Big Boy restaurant at Wayne and Hunter roads. Citizens are welcome to visit with Anderson to discuss issues or concerns.

Low-cost exams

In commemoration of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Garden City Hospital will provide low-cost mammograms Tuesday-Wednesday, Oct. 17-18, at the hospital 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

The exams are targeted toward women who have no medical insurance or physician. The cost of the examination will be \$30, the interpretation fee will be waived.

The hospital will offer physician services in case a follow-up examination is necessary. Women interested in the low-cost service should bring a prior mammogram film, if possible.

To schedule an appointment, call the hospital scheduling at (734) 458-3471.

Town hall meeting

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli will hold her quarterly Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Holliday Park Clubhouse at 34850 Fountain Blvd.

The Department of Public Service will be highlighted at the meeting and a certificate will be presented to Kenneth H. Reeves, president of the Southeast Homeowners Association. The presentation will be made in honor of Annapolis Park Week.

A special recognition also will be given to Josephine Brunet, the Senior Citizen of the Quarter, and the mayor will receive a presentation from Department of Michigan Junior Ms. Poppy Chelsea Kovacs.

The meeting is open to the public and there is no charge. For more information, call Michael Brautigan at (734) 454-3495.

Train show

Westland Rotary will hold a toy show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Romanowski VFW Post 6896 in Westland.

There will be new and antique toys, collectibles, non-sport cards, action figures, die cast toys, movie items, model cars, NASCAR, Matchbox, Hot Wheels and more as well as raffle prizes and refreshments.

Admission is \$3 with kids under age 12 free. The VFW Post 6896 is at 28945 Joy Road. For more information, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.

Absentee ballots

Westland residents who want an application for an absentee ballot for the Nov. 7 election should call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3188 or (734) 467-3187. Voters who think they might not be able to make it to the polls are encouraged to request an absentee ballot.

Holiday helpers

Community Hospice is seeking volunteers to help with its Tree of Memories holiday fundraiser. Activities include setting up Christmas trees at local businesses, assembling mail pieces, and collecting donations at the Westland Shopping Center exhibit.

No experience necessary; just a desire to help others facing terminal illness. Training will be provided. For more information, call Vicki at (734) 522-4244.

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HALLOWEEN

FROM PAGE A1

Road, the store is a popular haunt for Halloween enthusiasts, especially this year. It opened its doors in the beginning of September and, so far, sales have outpaced last year's by 30 percent.

"We've been really busy, especially the last two weeks," store manager Marge Hickman said. "When we were doing the setup, I don't know how many cars stopped in and people knocked on doors to ask when we were opening and it was only August."

"Even in a bad economy it gives people a chance to be something different," Douponce added.

LONGTIME TRADITION

Gags and Games has been around since 1977, opening its first Gags and Gifts store in Livonia. It now has 26 permanent locations — 23 in Michigan and three in Ohio — and 92 Halloween USA stores in six states.

It also has two warehouses in Livonia. One is 100,000 square feet, the other 35,000 square feet and "most of the space is devoted to Halloween."

"We start buying for the next Halloween in November; when Halloween is over, we start buying for the next year," he said. People think it's just a couple of months a year, but we have a crew that works year-round and all they do is Halloween."

In addition to the Westland store, its Halloween haunts include Dearborn, Livonia, Farmington, Commerce Township and Novi.

Its Canton store, in a vacant storefront in a strip mall at Sheldon and Ford Road will stay open after Halloween, reinventing itself as a prototype of a future Christmas store.

"We're doing it in partnership with English Gardens to see if it works," Douponce said. "If it works this year, we'll try doing 20 stores next year, then more after that. It'll keep people working a few more months."

Halloween USA's secret to success may well be what it offers shoppers. Other stores, like Halloween Express which abandoned the market in this area after three tries, focus on costumes. Halloween USA covers everything from decorations to costumes and accessories for everyone from infants to adults.

"They sell a lot of costumes, but they don't sell the makeup and the accessories; we're the whole package," Douponce said.

According to Douponce, decorations and accessories each make up 25 percent of sales, the remainder is costumes.

DECISION, DECISION

Jason and Peggy Monarch of Garden City come to the Westland store every year. They were shopping with their daughter, 2-year-old Morgan, who was showing a preference for a ladybug costume, and 1-year-old son Ethan.

"She'll be a lady bug, but I don't know about him," Peggy Monarch said. "His head's so big. He'll



Ronald Bond of Wayne plans to be the 'Evil Jester' for Halloween this year.



Amanda Vanderloft of Westland tried on a Wizard mask from Harry Potter at Halloween USA.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Morgan Monarch, 2, tries on a cowboy hat with her lady bug Halloween costume for her dad Jason Monarch. Looking on is her brother Ethan, 1.

probably be a Batman or Robin."

Halloween will be a new experience for Ethan, who's just starting to walk. His mom believes he should be able to walk by Halloween and even carry his own pumpkin.

"That shouldn't be too hard, he loves candy," she said.

The Monarchs admit this won't be their last trip to the store. They'll be back with daughter Mackenzie, 7. A second-grader, she already knows

what she wants to be.

"She want to be an Army girl, she's a tomboy," Peggy Monarch said.

Pirates are a hot costume for adults and children this year because of Johnny Depp and his film, *Pirates of the Caribbean*. They're also popular with parents because the whole family can dress alike, Douponce said.

"Superheroes are always strong, and it's Barbie for the girls," he added. "And witches ... We sell more of that for women and children because there's so much of it."

Anna Ziola came to the store looking for a costume for her job at Marvaso's Italian Grille and settled for a buccaneer costume. She plans on wearing shorts under the skirt and finishing the outfit with a pair of fishnet stockings.

"I picked it because it's cute and the one I feel most comfortable in," the Garden City High School student said. "I hope my mom says it's OK."

Joining her was Katie Darichuk who was just browsing. "My friend and I want to match and she's not here, so I'll be back," she said. "My friend wants to be a referee or a football player."

NOT JUST HALLOWEEN

It's not just people in need of Halloween costumes who've been at the store. Hickman sold 24 Dr. Seuss Thing 1 and Thing 2 costumes to Crestwood High School for its pom line, and Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Program has a safari theme in mind and organizers are looking at Steve Irwin costumes.

People doing hall parties, KOA campgrounds and haunted houses also turn to the store for supplies.

"The Red Hat Society is doing a seventh anniversary, but that's in April, and they need 200 red hats," said Hickman, a Garden City resident.

Hickman has been managing the store for four years and in the process discovered she loves retail. Not one to decorate because she "works all the time," she gets her Halloween buzz at the store.

She added that when the weather is nice, foot traffic is light at the store, but when it's cool and damp ...

"The worse it rains, this store is jammin'," Hickman said.

As it gets closer to Halloween, business will pick up even more. According to Hickman, adults tend to wait until the last two weeks to shop.

With the Halloween season in full swing, the Westland store will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

As for Douponce, his son is having a hard time deciding on a costume.

"He's been a pumpkin and a fuzzy bear, but this year he's trying to decide if he wants to be Batman, a ninja or Lightning McQueen, so I may end up with all three," he said. "This is the first year he's had a choice."

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INFORMATION CENTRAL

It's that time of year again! Teen Read Week is almost here. The theme for this year is "Get active @ your library" and we have lots of fun things planned to help you do just that.

When most people think about getting active, they think about things that get their heart rate going and we can help you do just that with our cardio kick class on Saturday, Oct. 21.

It combines a little bit of aerobics with a little bit of kickboxing and is a fun way to get some exercise and release tension. To guarantee we save a spot for you make sure to register, but if you just wake up in the mood for moving around, drop by the day of the program and we'll squeeze you in if we can.

There's more than one way to get active. You can always get active in the community by helping others and there's no better way than through "Fish frames and friends," our craft program on Tuesday, Oct. 17. This program pairs teenagers with Westland area special needs children.

Teens will help the children make a colorful fish picture frame to take home and the teens can also make one for themselves. Space is limited, so make sure to register for this one.

Getting involved with a cause is another way to get active and we have a contest just for that. Come in now through Oct. 21 and check out the display in the teen area. There will be nine Web sites posted that have to do with getting active with a cause and in the global community.

To enter, just visit one of the Web site and write a quick review. Do it once or do it for all nine Web sites. Each one is another chance to win! You may even find something you'd like to get involved in. Finally, for those who are already active, come in and brag about it. Pick up a form and tell us the things you care about and what you do to get active with those causes. Be as creative and artistic as you want. We'll display what you wrote and the best ones will win prizes!

So no matter how you want to get active, if you are in grades 6-12, come to the library during Teen Read Week, now through Oct. 21 and join in the fun!

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

Fish, Frames and Friends: 6 p.m. Oct. 17.

Teens help a special needs child from the Westland Therapeutic Recreation Center design a picture frame and make one for yourself. Register in advance at the reference desk to secure your spot.

Natural Hormonal Balancing and Cancer Prevention: 7 p.m. Oct. 18.

This informal lecture is presented by Ilika Handshaw, alternative medicine practitioner, and is designed for people interested in learning how hormones can get out of balance and what you can do about it, naturally. All are welcome. For more information on the library, call (734) 326-6123.

HOT

FROM PAGE A1

that Friday's third game against the Oakland Athletics had been moved up nearly four hours.

And don't tell local sports shops that the Michigan economy is in a slump.

"It's Christmas in October," said Greg Every, owner of Fanatic U in Garden City.

"Hooded sweatshirts are through the roof. I got 30 in and sold them in two days," he said. "If I'd gotten 50, I would have sold them in two days, that's how much they're in demand."

Anything in the Majestic brand - onfield jerseys and jackets, locker room shirts, T-shirts - is selling, Every said.

"It's totally Tiger mania, totally Tiger fever," said Cheryl Todd, a Fanatic U sales clerk. "The fan support is awesome."

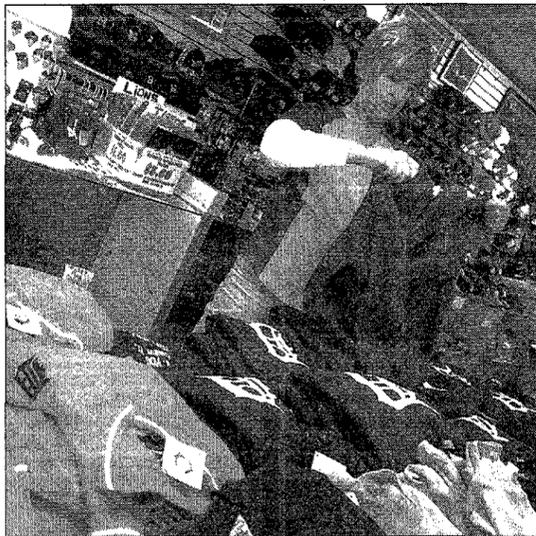
The same holds true at The Fan Zone at Westland Shopping Center, where manager Terry Ryckman said hot items include T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, flags, wristbands and caps.

"Everything you see the players wearing on the field is selling," Ryckman said. "It's been a good summer (for sales), but the last month has just been tremendous."

With snowflakes falling Thursday, many fans scrambled to buy winter jackets and hooded sweatshirts, he said.

Stores were poised late in the week to sell American League championship clothing. "Right now there's no attention being paid to anything other than the Tigers," Ryckman said.

The Detroit Pistons and the Red Wings have had their winning streaks, he said, "but there's a whole generation out that has never seen the Tigers win like this."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eileen Grandy of Westland, employee at Fanatic U in Garden City, folds up a hot-item Detroit Tigers hoodie with the big 'D' on the front.

At Fanatic U, Every was out Thursday afternoon gathering up more merchandise and working on opening a second Fanatic U store at Six Mile and Middlebelt in Livonia. He already has set up a corner stand at Nine Mile and Pontiac Trail in South Lyon.

On Thursday, with the Tigers up 2-0 against the Athletics, Every already was predicting that the Tigers "are going to the World Series."

The upsurge in Tigers-related purchases didn't just start with the team landing a spot in the playoffs. Higher sales started earlier in the season and continued to climb as the Tigers advanced.

"It's been going strong since the first of May when they were in first place," Every said. "August and September are usually our slowest months. The

Tigers are usually in last place, the Wings and Pistons are done, and the Lions haven't started yet. But not this year."

The enthusiasm for the team was apparent at autograph sessions the store hosted throughout the summer. In past years, the store was able to fit everyone wanting an autograph inside the store.

Not this time. "This year we'd sell at least 300 tickets and have 500 people lined up," Every said. "They were bigger crowds than some of the Red Wing crowds we've gotten."

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TIGER

FROM PAGE A1

tiger and had to check it out, Cicirelli said.

Play Ball Sports Co. owner Mike Odetalla said he would have paid fines rather than take down the 30-foot tiger. The business, located on Warren Road just west of Wayne, has been in Westland for 19 years - almost as long as local baseball fans have waited for Detroit to repeat its World Series championship of 1984. "The Tigers are making the

people feel good right now," he said. "With all the layoffs in the auto industry, we need this."

Cicirelli acknowledged that the Tigers' winning streak has helped businesses, such as Odetalla's, that sell sports clothing, memorabilia and equipment.

"We're for that," she said. On Friday, Aneed said she didn't expect the inflatable tiger will be coming down until after the World Series. She seemed confident that Detroit will beat Oakland in a best-of-

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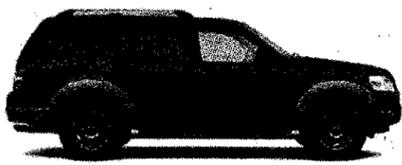
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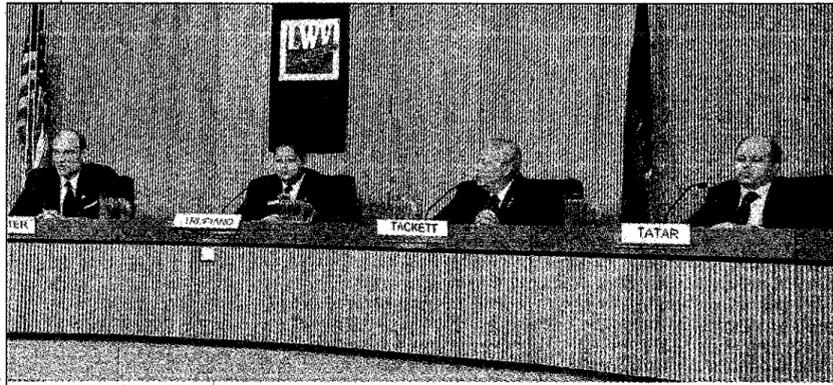
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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candidates for the 11th District congressional seat, from left, Thaddeus McCotter, Tony Trupiano, Charles Tackett, and John Tatar address the audience while answering questions during a candidate forum held Thursday night at Livonia City Hall sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Sparks fly at candidate forum

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

A League of Women Voters candidates forum Thursday erupted into an emotional and vituperative exchange between Republican U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter and his Democratic challenger, Tony Trupiano.

McCotter and Trupiano participated in the forum at the Livonia City Hall auditorium with candidates John Tatar of the Libertarian Party and Charles Tackett of the U.S. Taxpayers Party.

The exchange came during closing statements by the candidates. Trupiano criticized McCotter for campaign advertising showing Trupiano being abducted by space aliens with the tag "Far left, far out Tony" and saying that Trupiano favors "amnesty" toward illegal aliens. Trupiano called the ads "lies" about his position on the issue.

He said McCotter was out of touch with the district and offered to provide him with a map. He also challenged McCotter to a one-on-one debate. The League forum is the only joint appearance that McCotter has accepted.

A grim-faced McCotter shot back. "Politics is the only place

where a skunk says you stink," he said. "The only liar in this campaign is you."

TRADING BARBS

McCotter said Trupiano had lied about McCotter's use of his franking privileges to mail out circulars to 11th District residents. Trupiano said the mailings were not done according to congressional rules. McCotter said he followed the accepted procedures, had full approval and that a phone call by Trupiano would have cleared up the matter.

McCotter said the offer of a map was an insult to him and to his family, who have had to put up with McCotter being away from home to attend numerous community events. A segment of the sharply divided audience began to shout back at McCotter.

"You will not shout me down," he yelled. He said he would not allow for amnesty and that Trupiano had changed his position on the issue and was a "chameleon." McCotter said he offered the "hard truth with teeth."

In response to Tackett calling him a Bush rubber-stamp, he said he has never been a rubber stamp for the president. His comments were met with a loud mixture of cheers and boos. After the forum, the two major party candidates shook hands.

STRONG RESPONSE

Prior to the closing verbal fireworks, the candidates drew strong audience reaction on their views on the war, and the budget deficit, key issues throughout the country where the Republican Party is trying to maintain its majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Department of Peace proposal also caused sharp response.

Despite being in his hometown, McCotter, running for a third term, appeared uncomfortable and grim during the entire forum, giving his views in a clipped, rapid-fire manner. This was in contrast to the loose, blunt-spoken delivery of Tackett, whose observations often drew chuckles from the audience.

On Iraq, McCotter said it was time to reduce the number of troops and create a counter insurgency that would more effectively fight the enemy and to work at creating a viable government from the town council level up rather than from the top down.

Trupiano drew a chorus of boos when he said it was necessary to separate the war in Iraq from the war on terror.

"We need to start to bring the troops home, certainly by the end of 2007," he said. He was applauded by his supporters when he said the

war in Iraq "has made us more vulnerable and less safe" since 9/11.

PEACE VIEWS

The candidates were asked their views on establishing a Department of Peace. McCotter has made known his opposition to the idea. Trupiano led the response by saying he couldn't see how anyone would not favor a Department of Peace. Tackett responded that he believed in love and Tatar said he would support such a department.

McCotter said the idea was a "secular panacea for a spiritual problem."

"We have things that promote peace, churches and families," McCotter said.

He said the idea was just an example of "radical secularism" designed to build a wall between church and state.

On the deficit, Tatar called it the number one issue in the campaign. He said the deficit was hurting everyone and that not enough was being done to cut government programs.

McCotter drew laughs when he said that the "Republican Congress has been responsible" on deficit reduction. He responded angrily to the laughter.

McCotter and Trupiano had sharp differences on the Medicare prescription law and on universal medical coverage.

"We need to take Medicare Part D and dismantle it. It was a flawed plan to begin with," Trupiano said. "No one should have to decide between medicine and other needs."

McCotter said there was no need to dismantle the program.

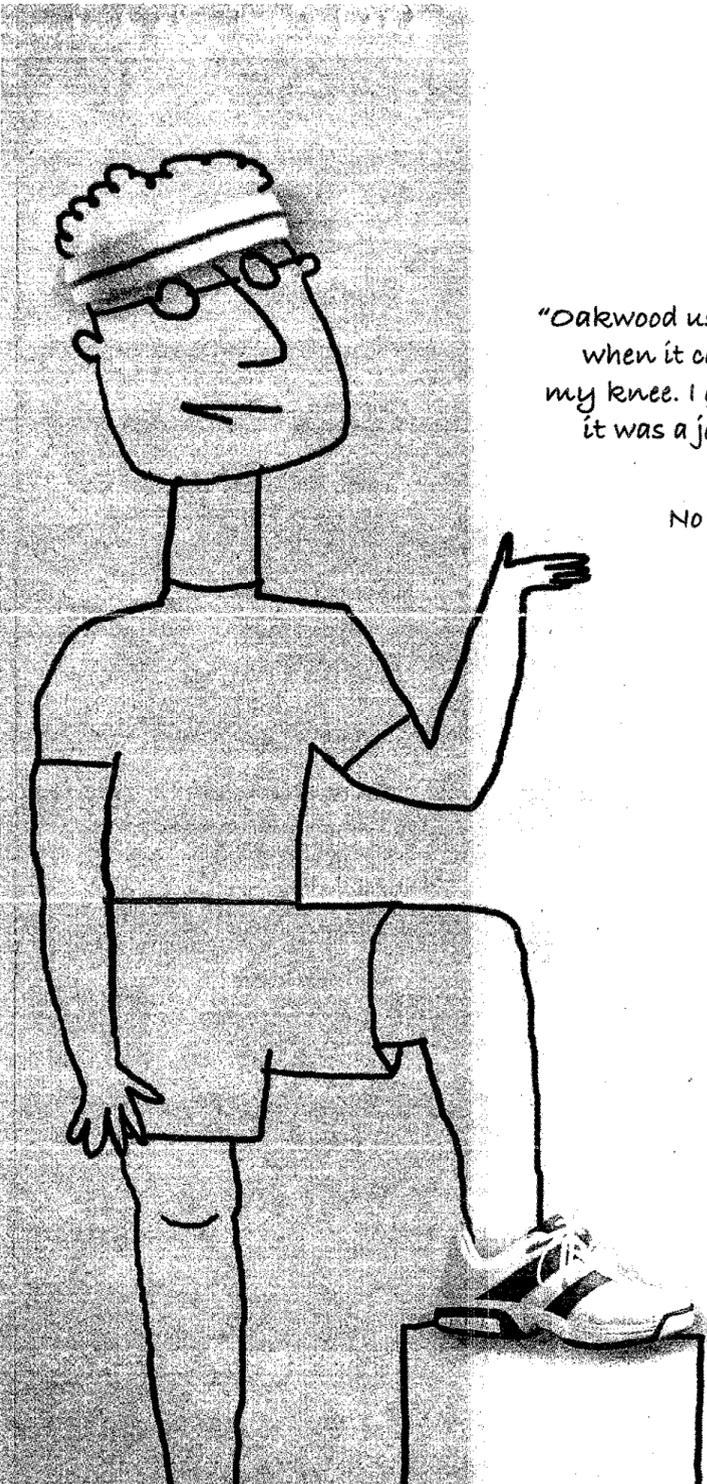
"It was designed to help seniors pay for their drugs and this district had one of the highest signups," he said.

He called the payment gap, or doughnut, when prescription costs reach a certain point a necessary cost containment feature.

On medical coverage, McCotter said he opposed a single-payer government insurance system and favored efforts to bring more universal access to medical care through federal qualifying health clinics and medical savings accounts. He also favors tort reform to limit malpractice suits.

Trupiano said he does favor a single-payer system and that the current model isn't working.

When asked to name some important accomplishments of his time in Congress, McCotter cited an amendment to preserve community block grants, the establishment of an assistant secretary for manufacturing in the U.S. Department of Commerce and preservation of delinquent tax revenues for deficit reduction rather than for more spending programs.



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Royalty

Churchill High School celebrated its 2006 Homecoming recently by crowning Megan Macerati as queen and Kyle Anderson as king.

Congressional campaign takes a turn to the ugly

Clearly there is no love lost between Thaddeus McCotter and Tony Trupiano. A tepid handshake at the end of Thursday's forum for 11th District congressional candidates didn't erase the angry response McCotter made to a complaint by Trupiano about campaign advertising showing Trupiano with space aliens on the "left-wing mothership."

Funny but wrong. Trupiano's position on the issue is closer to President Bush, hardly a crew member on the left-wing mothership, than it is to McCotter's and the House majority's hard line. But it is in line with the Senate immigration bill and argues for a strong border defense. He said in an interview with the *Observer* that he has moved toward a stronger position on controlling illegal immigration after visiting the Southwest and seeing the problems caused by that immigration.

The advertising comes on the heels of McCotter's own meeting with *Observer* editors during which he bemoaned the divisive partisanship on Capitol Hill and the lack of mutual respect. He said he was disturbed by the influence of such polarizing groups as the conservative Club for Growth and the liberal moveon.org.

"One of the right, one of the left. Moderates, the middle ground, ends up being cut from under you," he said.

A good point but completely negated by the tone of the advertising.

The congressman is usually not one for sound bite politics. In conversations, he presents often complex thinking on public issues. Though a reliable vote for the conservative Republican leadership, McCotter has staked out positions that go against the party grain. While supporting the original attack on Iraq, he has argued that the Bush administration made serious errors in its handling of the insurgency and the creation of a new Iraqi government. He voted against the Central America Free Trade Agreement and has argued vigorously that we need to demand fair trade concessions from China (a position he shares with Trupiano).

It may be true that "all's fair" in love and

politics, but this election year seems particularly strained. Perhaps it's because there is so much at stake.

For McCotter, Trupiano represents a different challenge than his previous opponents. In his first congressional campaign, he ran against former Redford Supervisor Kevin Kelley. Kelley came out of the same political environment, attended the same Catholic high school and knew the same politicians. They were friendly political rivals.

In the 2004 election, McCotter ran against labor leader Phil Truran. Truran was a well-intentioned political novice, who was clearly uncomfortable in areas away from his labor expertise.

Trupiano is running a hard campaign in a district that many in his party had already ceded to McCotter. As a former radio talk show host, motivational speaker and media consultant, Trupiano is neither the old school Kelley or the novice Truran. He's media savvy. He believes he can win, and he's taking the battle to the Internet, the streets and as many public appearances as his campaign can schedule.

The political winds seem to be blowing in the Democrats' favor. The public is disillusioned with the Congress and the president. Voters seem upset by an unpopular war, the stability of the economy, lobbying scandals and a sex scandal that raises questions about whether the GOP leadership was protecting one of their own. A switch in just a few districts could move one or both houses of Congress to the Democrats.

Of course, political winds are known to shift in the opposite direction pretty quickly.

Perhaps it is politically astute for McCotter to avoid further meetings with Trupiano. After all, the smart money seems to be on his re-election. Why give his less-known opponent another forum?

On the other hand, McCotter's constituents would be better served if he took up Trupiano's challenge for a one-on-one discussion of the issues without the sound bites, artificial time restrictions and the dim-bulb labeling in the now-notorious "alien" ads.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer* Newspapers. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149 or by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net.

There may be no solution to tragic school shootings

Crime knows no boundaries. Neither does madness.

In recent weeks we have seen a spate of school shootings around the country. All are shocking, but none stands out as much as the murder of five Amish children and wounding of five more in a one-room school house in Pennsylvania.



Greg Kowalski

Who in the world could imagine that such a thing could occur in such a place?

The Amish are noted for their deep respect for life. It is unthinkable for such a thing to happen.

Yet it did.

In other recent incidents, a student in Wisconsin shot a school principal, and a man shot a 15-year-old girl in a school in Colorado. In fact, there have been more than 40 school shootings around the world since 1997, ranging from Sanaa, Yemen, to Dunblane, Scotland, to Littleton, Colo. You may have forgotten Littleton, but you surely remember Columbine High School, the location of the most infamous of all the school shootings. There, 14 students were killed and 23 were wounded.

Many of the school shootings took place in schools that are not in inner-city areas where crime is usually higher but in upscale neighborhoods or areas where crime is rare.

Taber, a town in Alberta, Canada, does not leap to mind when one thinks of violent crime, yet a 14-year-old student killed one student and wounded another there in 1999. It was the first high school shooting in all of Canada in 10 years.

We almost added to that terrible list of tragedies locally. Last week two students were nearly carjacked in the parking lot of Lahser High School in Bloomfield Township. Fortunately the students escaped without being harmed. This happened on a school day morning, in just about the last place you would expect such a thing to happen.

Yet it did.

The schools acted properly. Indeed, there is nothing to indicate that the school has not acted responsibly at any time to protect the students.

In the wake of the recent shootings the government has promised to take a good look at school security nationwide. Don't expect much from the effort. It's not that they won't try to come up with some answers as to why these things happen and what can be done to prevent them. But most schools are already doing everything possible. And there is no real protection against madness.

A lunatic with a gun, whether it's a student or an adult, will find some way to do harm if he's determined to. That's not to say that proper precautions shouldn't be taken. Some schools use metal detectors and have police officers in the hallways. There's even a movement to arm teachers or administrators so they could take action against an armed intruder.

Whether more guns are the solution is debatable.

Perhaps the best thing the schools can do is to be aware of what the students are doing and saying, watching for signs of trouble. The Bloomfield Hills schools have already initiated a program to watch for signs of trouble — but it relates more to potential ethnic conflicts related to the Middle East. The schools also need to watch of more traditional dangers, like bullying and anti-social behavior, although realistically trying to distinguish anti-social behavior in an adolescent is a challenge, indeed.

And not all the danger comes from within the schools. The man who shot the Amish children was a determined intruder. Short of a man with a shotgun at the front door, it's hard to see how he could have been stopped before he did damage. And there's no guarantee that an armed guard would have made a difference.

So while there are things that can be done to protect the students, they will remain at risk.

It all sounds rather bleak, but it isn't, really. One reason school shootings gather so much attention is because they are rare. That doesn't lessen the pain of any of those tragedies or reduce the need to be more vigilant than ever.

But so long as there is madness in the world these incidents will occur despite the best efforts to stop them.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham *Eccentric*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2750 or by e-mail at gkowskik@hometownlife.com.

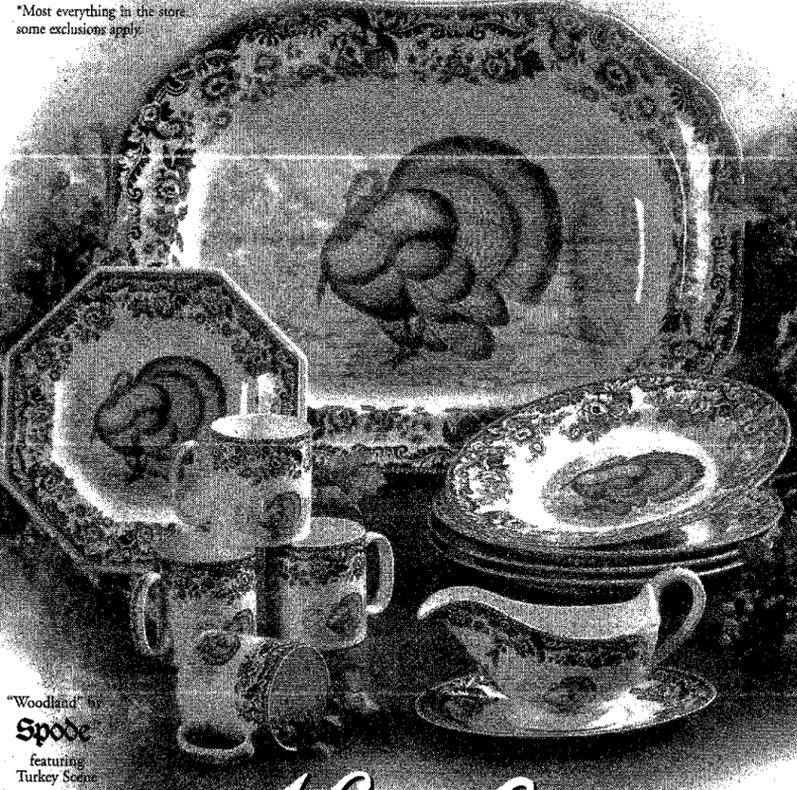
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Thanksgiving Parade adopts new 'old' route

The 80th America's Thanksgiving Parade has a new route this year, modeled after the original parade route in 1924 along Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit.

The new route highlights some of the City's architectural treasures, such as the Fox Theatre, and some of downtown's latest development including Merchants Row, Compuware World Headquarters and Campus

Martius Park. The Parade steps off at Woodward Avenue and Mack on Thursday, Nov. 23, at 9:20 a.m. in downtown Detroit and ends at Woodward Avenue and Congress.

"We are excited that our new route brings America's Thanksgiving Parade to the heart of downtown Detroit, continuing the great family tradition that has captured the hearts of millions over the last 80 years," said Deborah I.

Dingell, Chair, Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation. "In a sense, we are coming home, and it was made possible by the collaboration of our many community and corporate partners and the continued support from the City of Detroit and the entire region."

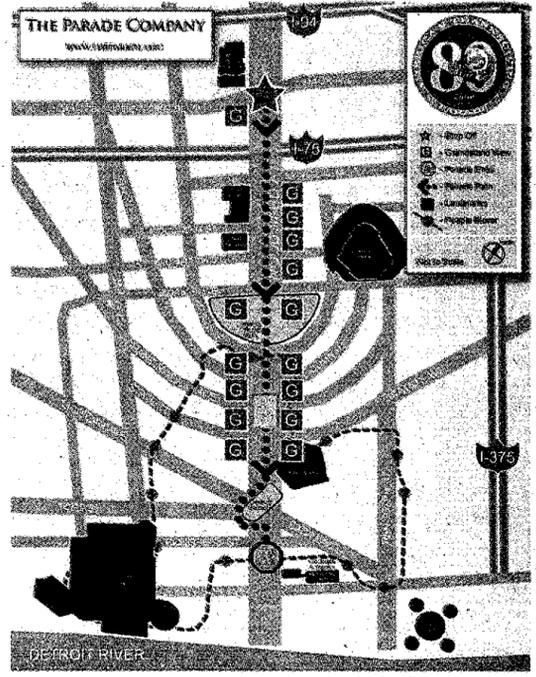
"Detroiters have enjoyed the rich tradition of going downtown to celebrate Thanksgiving for generations," said Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick. "This year's route will honor the Thanksgiving Day tradition that began more than 80 years ago, while providing parade-goers the opportunity to enjoy the transformation of our great City."

America's Thanksgiving Parade(r) is one of the country's oldest and most celebrated parades - America's Thanksgiving Parade(r) and

the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade(r) are both celebrating 80 years.

More than one million people will be watching America's Thanksgiving Parade(r) as it makes its way down Woodward Avenue. This year's Parade will have crowd favorites and new surprises with more than 75 Parade units including floats, balloons, award-winning marching bands, clowns, specialty acts, celebrities, and The Parade Company's own Distinguished Clown Corps.

The original Parade route in 1924 began on Second Avenue through Cass Park and Elizabeth Street to Woodward and ended at Hudson's Department Store. As in the early Parade, Woodward Avenue plays a significant part and central point of the Parade route.



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Airport CEO elected to U.S.-Canadian aviation panel

Lester Robinson, CEO of the Wayne County Airport Authority, has been elected to the Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) Board of Directors beginning a three-year term in January 2007.

"I am honored to be selected among an impressive group of airport leaders who will be setting policy for this critically important airport organization," said Robinson. "Airports, large and small, have many

common issues and concerns, and ACI-NA has been a powerful voice across the U.S., Canada and the world."

ACI-NA is the largest of the six worldwide regions of Airports Council International (ACI). The mission of ACI-NA is to advocate policies and provide services that strengthen the ability of air carrier airports to serve their passengers, customers and communities. Robinson will serve with the CEO's or directors of airports

located in Salt Lake City, Louisville, St. Louis, Las Vegas, Jacksonville and Sarasota among others. Robinson currently serves on the organization's Goals & Programs Committee.

"I look forward to working with the new leadership team in 2007," said incoming Board of Directors Chairman Rick Piccolo.

"We have a challenging year ahead with the FAA reauthorization pending and we'll use

all the resources at our disposal to accomplish our goals."

Other representatives from WCAA's management team with leadership positions in ACI-NA include Senior Vice President Steve Economy, who serves as the chair of ACI-NA's International Air Service Committee and Business Diversity Manager and Lori Ballard who serves as vice chair of the Economic Affairs Committee.

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