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# WESTLAND Observer

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## City conducts meeting on park contamination

Officials expected to explain situation, hear residents' comments, concerns

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Under fire for failing to earlier disclose elevated levels of lead in Central City Park, Westland city leaders have called a public meeting today to address the controversy. City and county officials are expected to explain the situation and hear comments from

concerned citizens during the meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. at Westland City Hall on Ford Road east of Newburgh. Mayor Sandra Cicirelli was hopeful that a representative from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality also will attend the meeting to field questions, although she wasn't certain. Cicirelli closed the park on Nov. 4, but she

has drawn criticism for failing to earlier announce that soil tests indicated elevated levels of lead, particularly on the western ball-fields. Tina Taylor - a parent, former resident and licensed daycare provider in Westland - has joined the list of critics who feel betrayed by city leaders. "The city park was a favorite place to visit for my children and the many children that I cared for in my daycare," Taylor, now of Allendale, wrote to the *Observer*. "I find it frustrating that we, as 10-year citizens, were never notified that the park was a former dump site. ... This, alone, would have raised my concern about ever

allowing my babies and small children to play at ground level." New developments continued to unfold this week as city officials prepared for today's public meeting. Reversing its position again, the Wayne County Health Department confirmed Tuesday that it will test for lead in both children and adults at its facility on the northwest corner of Van Born and Venoy roads. A spokeswoman said the tests will be done on Thursdays at no cost. For more information, call (734) 727-7100.

PLEASE SEE PARK, A6

## Glenn food drive helps Salvation Army

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

It looked like a trip to the grocery store gone wild. Cases of Ramen noodles stacked six high lined the wall and boxes and bags filled with canned and dry goods were scattered helter-skelter around the floor.

In the middle of it all stood members of the John Glenn High School Student Council, working makeshift assembly lines packing the food into larger boxes.

"Monday we counted and got most of that done, Tuesday, we're basically packing it up, getting it out of the bags into boxes," said senior Kija Colts.

"We counted everything then pushed it against the wall," added fellow senior Bemontai Johnson.

The food was collected during second-hour classes last week as part of an annual Student Council-sponsored food drive to benefit the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps.

The classroom with the most food receives bagels and doughnuts. Second place gets cupcakes and third place candy bars.

The drive lasted for eight days - Nov. 6-13 - and Student Council members used the fifth- and sixth-hour classes on Monday to go from room to room collecting the food.

"When we went to Mrs. (Amanda) Laidlaw's room, it



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn Student Council member Kija Colts (foreground), a senior, carries a box filled with canned goods that's being donated to the Salvation Army. Helping pack up the donations by students at the high school are junior David Sumlin (from left), senior Bemontai Johnson and ninth-grader Lauren Baker.

was crazy," said Colts. "It took three trips. When we went to the next room, we heard they had a lot of cans, so we took both teams and three carts."

There was Jell-O, canned soup, vegetables and fruit, tuna, crackers and cereal as well as heavy amounts of Ramen noodles, a popular donation because of their portability.

"We had one student bring in 1,300 packs of Ramen noo-

PLEASE SEE FOOD, A7



John Glenn junior Justine Easter (left) and sophomore Asra Najam pack boxes with canned food and dry goods for a Wednesday pickup by the Salvation Army.

## Marine recalled as a 'great guy'

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

The flag-draped coffin of Marine Sgt. Bryan Burgess of Canton Township was expected at Detroit Metropolitan Airport today (Thursday), escorted by six Marines who will stand by his side until funeral services and burial Saturday.

Burgess, 35, was killed last week in Iraq by a sniper while on patrol with the 1st Battalion of the 24th Marines in Fallujah.

"They were doing a typical security mission checking vehicles, stopping and searching for weapons," said Gunnery Sgt. Steven Kosinski of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines in Perrysburg, Ohio. "The machine gunner keeps watch, and it was at that point where Sgt. Burgess was shot by a sniper while observing his checks."

Kosinski said military reports indicated Burgess died instantly from the wound. A Purple Heart ceremony is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. Friday during visitation at Griffin Funeral Home in Westland.

"The Marines will present some of the awards Sgt. Burgess earned in Iraq and the Marine Corps, and the Purple Heart is one of them," Kosinski said. "They will be presented to his mother and father."

Burgess will be buried with full military honors after a



Sgt. Bryan Burgess

Saturday morning funeral Mass at St. Bernardine of Siena Catholic Church in Westland.

### MOTHER'S FEARS

His mother, Evelyn Burgess of Westland, said she knew right away something terrible happened when three Marines showed up at the front door of her home.

"I knew something was wrong; I knew he was gone," Burgess, 61, said about being notified her only child was killed by a sniper's bullet.

Bryan Burgess lived with a roommate the past several

PLEASE SEE MARINE, A6

## Field narrows to 4 candidates for library director's position

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Following a nationwide search, officials hope to hire a new Westland library director within weeks.

The Westland Library Board called in four candidates for interviews, and board secretary Daniel Bourdeau indicated Monday that the field could soon be narrowed to two hopefuls.

"Our strong desire within the board would be to have a director in place before the New Year," he said.

The board is searching for a director to replace John Patane, who was fired in a 3-2 vote

in May amid allegations he improperly deleted patron fines, used a library credit card, proposed pay raises beyond approved levels and filled jobs without advertising them.

The board hired Ohio-based consultant Larry Corbus in August to help with the search, and Corbus confirmed Tuesday that nearly 30 candidates have applied for the position.

"That's a pretty good number," he said, saying those who came in for interviews represented "a good mix" and a "high caliber" of candidates.

Those four include Susan Wess from the Manistee County Library in Manistee, Mich.; Hallie Silver from the Manitowoc Public Library in Manitowoc, Mich.; Susanna Davidsen from

the electronic Michigan eLibrary; and Clyde Scoles from the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library in Toledo, Ohio.

The board has advertised a salary of up to \$84,864 for the next director. That compares to the \$70,000 that Patane was paid.

Patane became the second Westland library director hired within a two-year period. The facility's first director, Sandra Wilson, also lost support from a library board majority.

Some library patrons had worried that the firing of two directors could make it difficult to find a top-notch replacement for Patane, but Corbus said the search produced some quality candidates.

The library marked its 10th anniversary this month, and Bourdeau and Corbus commended employees for keeping the popular facility running smoothly as the search for a director continues.

"I think they've done a good job," Corbus said. Bourdeau said the library board had appointed a two-member interim management team of employees. He said the team has done "a spectacular job" of running the facility.

"All in all, we're very proud and pleased with how they're managing in the absence of a director," Bourdeau said.

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Coming Sunday in Health



Device assists patients awaiting a heart transplant.





Confrontation awaits Ethan Hedeon (shown in a montage of two separate photos), when he portrays plays both Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in the CAPA production of "Jekyll & Hyde, the Musical." The show begins today at 7:30 p.m. at Churchill High School.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Actor fills title roles in 'Jekyll & Hyde' show

BY REBECCA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

As an actor, Ethan Hedeon prefers comedic roles.

But this weekend the Churchill High School senior takes on a dark side, moody and conflicted, frustrated and angry as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

Hedeon developed both characters for the lead in the Creative and Performing Arts production of "Jekyll & Hyde, the Musical."

The show runs Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Carli Auditorium at Churchill.

Director Gail Susan Mack said Hedeon — with his strong vocal talent — was up for the challenging role.

"A lot of people thought in the beginning that I would cast two people as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," she said. "I thought if I could find someone to fit the bill, I would cast it as one person. It's amazing how well it works." Jekyll sings to Hyde in the

confrontation scene. Hedeon switches from the confused, verbally expressive Jekyll to the violent and hunched-over Hyde. Stage lighting and tempo help convey this behavior change, but Hedeon had to develop the characters — right down to the way Hyde walks.

"It's very difficult to keep them apart," Hedeon said. "There are just so many different things. You have to get all of them, or it's like, 'Which one is he?'"

"It's very clear when he is Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," Mack said.

Hedeon shares the stage with Anna Novotny and Taylor Alphanso in the two female leads, and Nick Downs, the other male lead.

Mack believes all of the students will go far. Downs has already performed professionally in a local film. Hedeon has aspirations for Broadway, and attending the University of Michigan. Theater talent runs in his family. His sister, Hanna

Rose, starred as Millie in a Chicago production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" last weekend.

"She should be on Broadway," Hedeon said. He describes younger sister Naomi as an amazing dancer. Mom Sarah Hedeon made costumes for "Jekyll & Hyde" and is parent supporter of CAPA.

The special effects, classic music and story morals make "Jekyll & Hyde" a show not to miss, Hedeon said. However, it may not be suitable for young children.

"It is done so well. The music is stunning," he said. "It is not a show that is light and fluffy. It delves into the mind of man and what we do when our evil side comes out."

Tickets (\$12 for general admission, \$10 for seniors and students) are available by calling (734) 425-5942 or at [www.starringcapa.com](http://www.starringcapa.com).

rrjones@hometownlife.com  
(734) 953-2054

# Celebrate the season

## Westland lights up holidays with activities for children

Parents interested in hitting the mall for some gonzo shopping without the kids in tow can sign up for the 11th Annual Kids Play Day Friday, Nov. 24, at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The program runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hoops Basketball is offering plenty of things to do, including activities in the gym and a craft project to take home. There also will be a special program after lunch.

A pizza lunch and snacks will be provided. Youngsters should wear comfortable clothes and gym shoes.

The Play Day is for kids ages 5-12 years. The cost is \$20 per child for the whole day and \$15 per child for a half day, if registered before Nov. 21. At the door registration will be \$25 for the whole day and \$18 per child for the half day.

The Bailey Recreation Center is in the city's civic center complex on Ford just south of Carlson. For more information, call Ron Levin of Hoops Basketball at (248) 496-3268.

Youngsters who are already thinking about Christmas can share their views in the annual "What Christmas Means to Me" essay contest.

Each year, city officials ask school children who live in the City of Westland and are in kindergarten-fifth grade to write an essay about what Christmas means to them.

The winner will be invited to read his or her essay at the

annual tree lighting ceremony and will get to help Santa and the mayor light the city Christmas trees.

Essays can be turned in at the mayor's office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and the Bailey Recreation Center 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. They also can be mailed to Christmas Essay Contest, Westland Parks and Recreation, 36651 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185.

Entries should contain the author's name, address, home phone number, name of school he or she attends and grade. All entries must be received by 10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20.

As for the annual tree lighting, it will take place at 6:15 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, in front of Westland City Hall on Ford Road.

Santa will be there to help Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and Westland City Council members light the city Christmas trees.

In addition to the "What Christmas Means to Me" recognition, there also will be a Christmas carol sing-along.

The ceremony will be followed by refreshments and a visit with Santa at the central fire station next to city hall.

Youngsters who don't get a chance to whisper in Santa's ear that evening can chat it up with the Jolly Old Elf during the annual Santa Call-in Show at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7. Call (734) 467-3198 for more information.

Youngsters with an artistic flair also can try to win a white Christmas in the 13th Annual "We Promise You A White Christmas" children's poster contest.

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department will promise one family in Westland a white Christmas. Even if there is no snow on the ground Dec. 21, they'll make sure the winner's house has a snow-covered yard.

The contest is open to all elementary school children who live in Westland. All they need to do is draw a picture showing their house covered in snow on Christmas Day.

Posters must be received by no later than 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13. The contest winner will be announced and contacted on Monday, Dec. 18. If there already is snow, another prize will be awarded.

Posters can be dropped off at the Bailey Recreation Center or mailed to the Westland Parks and Recreation, Attention Poster Contest, 36651 Ford Road, Westland, MI, 48185.

Schools groups and scout troops can help dress up the city for the holidays by joining the mayor in decorating the pine trees between city hall and the Bailey center at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Each group will decorate a tree specially chosen for them and then present their trees to the mayor and her special guest, Santa Claus. There also will be time for some Christmas caroling sing-along and refreshments.

For more information, call the mayor's office at (734) 467-3200.

## Retirement celebration honors judge, workers

A retirement celebration has been scheduled for Westland 18th District Judge Gail McKnight, her husband Richard McKnight, her secretary Tammy Harder and one of her court officers, Daniel Harvey.

The party is scheduled for 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, on Joy Road east of Newburgh. There will be an open bar,

a 7 p.m. dinner and entertainment.

Tickets are \$50 each and must be paid for in advance.

The court is asking for tickets to be ordered by Dec. 1.

Tickets are available at 18th District Court, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli's office, the Westland Police Department and city fire administration offices.

For more information, call (734) 595-8720.

### CORRECTIONS

Volunteers who want to help the Westland Goodfellows pack Christmas gifts for children should report to the city's Friendship Center at 5:30 p.m. until the job is done Friday, Dec. 15. For more information, call Vic Barra at (734) 637-5579.

Times for the Salvation Army Red Kettle bell ringing in the Wayne-Westland area is 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, according to Capt. Matt O'Neil. Time slots are still available, and people interested in helping with the campaign can call (734) 722-3660 to volunteer.

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**HOW TO REACH US**

**Susan Rosiek**  
Executive Editor  
(734) 953-2100  
srosiek@hometownlife.com

**Hugh Gallagher**  
Managing Editor  
(734) 953-2149  
hgallagher@hometownlife.com

**Sue Mason**  
Community Editor  
(734) 953-2112  
smason@hometownlife.com

**Jeannie Parent**  
Retail Sales Manager  
(734) 953-2177  
jparent@hometownlife.com

**Cathy White**  
Retail Advertising Rep.  
(734) 953-2073  
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203 Cedrick Vanhook; 926 Jerry Lindsey; 227 Jeffery Adams; 430 Paula Doughty; 153 Rhonda Reed; 634 John Higgins; 418 Milton Jamieson; 616 Paula Gnacke-Nemeth; 670 Kevin Dotson.

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Publish: November 12 & 16, 2006

**CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**Case #1941H - Public Hearing for Proposed Rezoning from CB-2, Shopping Center Commercial to CB-3, General Commercial Business, Parcel #034-99-0030-005 and Part of Parcel #034-99-0030-003, Northwest Corner of Wayne Road and Hunter Avenue, Keith Maziasz**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 5.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: November 16, 2006

**CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING**

Case #1941G - Proposed Land Division, Parcels #034-99-0030-003 and -0030-005, Northwest Corner of Wayne Road and Hunter Avenue, Keith Maziasz

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 5, 2006.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: November 16, 2006

**CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**Case #1525E - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Used Car Sales Office, 5871 N. Hix Road, Parcel #027-01-0011-305, West Side of Hix Road, North of Ford Road, Samuel D. Goins (Walter D'Aloisio)**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 5, 2006.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: November 16, 2006

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# Better late than never

## 80-year-old finally grabs high school diploma

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

Charles Britton's high school diploma says he graduated in 1942.

He was actually supposed to graduate in 1944, but never did after missing a lot of school due to a broken leg and then joining the U.S. Marines.

He noticed the misprint a few weeks ago, when his wife and high school sweetheart surprised him with the high school diploma he never earned nearly 60 years ago.

Confused? It doesn't matter, because none of that matters to Britton, the 80-year-old

Plymouth Township resident who is now the proud holder of a high school diploma from Enfield, Ill., High School.

"The point is, I got it!" Britton declared. "I'm very proud of it, because it was hard to get."

Britton traveled a long road to becoming a high school graduate. Born in 1926 in rural Enfield, Ill., a farming community, Britton had to walk some eight miles to school.

That was fine with Britton until his junior year, when he broke his leg, rendering him unable to hobble the eight-mile trip. By the time the leg had healed, Britton figured

he'd missed too much school and, with permission from his parents, joined the U.S. Marines.

While training in San Diego, he saved a buddy from drowning during an exercise. Britton was sent overseas, where he drove amphibian tractors onto the islands of Peleleu and Okinawa.

Britton married his high school sweetheart, Marjorie Winter, and the couple moved to Michigan, where jobs in the auto industry were plentiful. The Britton's had five children, four of whom would become teachers in the area.

Daughters Linda and Jane retired after teaching in the Plymouth-Canton district; son Ken teaches special education in Westland; son Jim teaches physics in Livonia. A third son, Stan, is an accountant.

The kids came by their desire to teach honestly: Marjorie worked for years at Starkweather, Plymouth-Canton's alternative education school.

Her experience at Starkweather came in handy when Charles started making noises about wanting to get his high school diploma.

Marjorie knew a law in Michigan allowed former servicemen to get their diplomas; persistent digging dug up the same program in Illinois.

Marjorie made all the necessary calls and provided the necessary documentation, and Britton's life experience and military training did the rest.

"I tried to get him to take classes way back when, because I saw all kinds of other people going back to school,"



Charles Britton of Plymouth Township recently received his high school diploma - some 60 years after he would have graduated.

Marjorie said. "But he wasn't interested. All of a sudden, he just wanted it."

Officials in Illinois told Marjorie they'd get the diploma to her in the spring, but it got delayed until September. Marjorie sprung it on him for his 80th birthday.

The moment left an indelible impression on Britton's family.

"As his daughter, I speak for our entire family in congratulating him on this achievement," said Jane Patete. "We are very proud of his courage in battle, his honor to his country, his faithfulness to God, his commitment to family and, lastly, his pursuit of education."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

## Dillon named next House speaker

Andy Dillon, who represents Redford Township, part of Livonia and part of Dearborn Heights in the Michigan House of Representatives, was elected Speaker of the House by his Democratic colleagues on Tuesday.

Dillon, who won a second House term last week, said he will emphasize job creation, schools and the environment during his House leadership, and will seek to overturn a 1996 law that gives drug companies immunity from product liability claims.

Democrats are set to take control of the state House when the 94th Legislature opens session in January. The Democrats won 58 of the 110 House seats in last week's election; Republicans retained control of the state Senate.

"As the next Speaker, I'm committed to working with all my colleagues in the 94th Legislature to get Michigan back on track," Dillon said. "I'm honored to have this



State Rep. Andy Dillon, D-Redford, speaks to reporters in the House chamber after fellow Democrats elected him Speaker of the House for the 94th Legislature, which will be seated in January.

responsibility, and we will work very hard to make sure Michigan is a great place to live, work, do business and

raise our families."

Dillon will take over leadership of House Democrats from Dianne Byrum, D-Onondaga,

who is term-limited.

He will succeed Craig DeRoche, R-Novi, as Speaker of the House.

## Bowling benefit helps teens fund China Trip

Two Westland teens will experience the thrill of lifetime when they visit China next summer. But to get there, they need to raise money to offset tuition and travel costs.

So Margo McClain and Scott James, eighth-graders at Emerson Middle School, will hold a bowling benefit noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at Wonderland Lanes in Livonia.

The fun-filled afternoon costs \$15 for three games and shoe rental. There also will be raffles and door prizes.

The two teens will visit China as part of People to People, a program initiated in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower who believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would nations.

The two students will be part of a contingent of some 30 delegates who will tour China. Participation in the program is by

invitation. Both are honor students. Scott is a competitive swimmer with the Bulldog Athletic Club, and Margo is an active participant in the Drama Club.

During the 17-day trip, they will receive an official Tang Dynasty welcome to Xian, visit Tiananmen Square and hike the Great Wall. Scott and Margo also will interact with other students, teach English during a home-stay with host families and participate in a ceremonial tea with the local residents.

They also will have the opportunity to build new skills in Chinese cooking, art, calligraphy and kung fu, study world economies and learn the effects of British and American policies on China's economy.

People interested in helping their dream come true can purchase tickets online by e-mail at bugsymclain583@cs.com or by calling (734) 261-4253.

Presented by NorthRidge Church

# Letters

## Glory of Christmas 2006

Three Stories. Three Letters. One Night

### Performance Dates & Times

Thursday, November 30, 7:30p  
 Friday, December 1, 7:30p *Sold Out!*  
 Saturday, December 2, 1:00p *Sold Out!*  
 Sunday, December 3, 3:00p *Sold Out!*

Thursday, December 7, 7:30p  
 Friday, December 8, 7:30p *Sold Out!*  
 Saturday, December 9, 1:00p *Sold Out!*  
 Sunday, December 10, 3:00p & 7:30p *Sold Out!*

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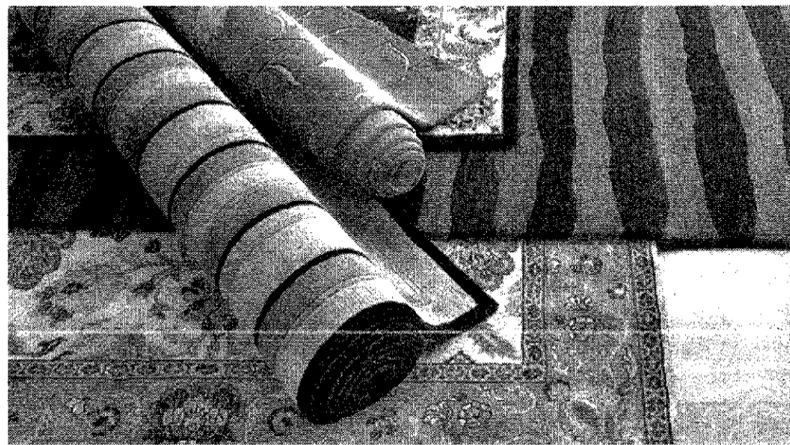
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 Tickets are on sale NOW and can be purchased through Star Tickets Plus at 800.585.3737 or at www.starticketsplus.com

**Children**  
 Due to the length of the performance (approximately 2.5 hours) and as a courtesy to others, children under the age of 4 are not permitted to attend this event.

North Ridge Church  
www.northridgechurch.com

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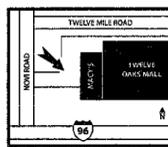


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# 28 teens vie for 2007 Junior Miss honors

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Lions, tigers and leopards will take over the stage of Wayne Memorial High School's Stockmeyer Auditorium on Saturday evening in a Safari Adventure that will end with the selection of the 2007 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss.

Twenty-eight young women, seniors at Wayne Memorial and John Glenn high schools, are competing in the program in hopes of representing the two communities at the state program in Alpena and hopefully the state at America's Junior Miss program in Mobile, Ala., next year.

And Pat Hermatz, who oversees the program, is delighted.

"We have 14 from Wayne and 14 from Glenn," Hermatz said. "We've never had 14 from Wayne Memorial, and I'm pretty happy about that."

This is the 40th year for the scholarship program, in which contestants are judged based on their scholastics, an interview with the judges and a talent routine. They also perform in an almost nine-minute long fitness routine for the poise portion of the program Saturday.

Judges will select the next Wayne-Westland Junior Miss and the runner-up who, depending on where she lives, will be either the Westland or Wayne Junior Miss. Both will advance to the state competition.

The winners will succeed Westland teen Kim Rutkowski, the 2006 Wayne-



FILE PHOTO

Kim Rutkowski has had a busy year as the 2006 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss.

Westland Junior Miss, and Kelly Doerr, the 2006 Wayne Junior Miss.

In addition to the Junior Miss title, participants also compete for scholarship money raised through ads published in the program and ticket receipts. Last year, the program gave away some \$20,000 in scholarships.

Hermatz isn't saying how much will be awarded this year, only that all money raised, except for 1 cent, will be given out this year in preparation for the possible demise of the Wayne-Westland program.

Hermatz has been building the program since becoming co-chair with her husband, Dennis, 12 years ago. Currently, the only local pro-

gram in the state, its fate is tied in with a decision by the Wayne-Westland program's board to propose taking over the state Junior Miss program and bringing it down-state from Alpena.

Hermatz is waiting to hear from America's Junior Miss if the group will take over the state competition and is waiting to hear from someone interested in taking on the Wayne-Westland program. If the Wayne-Westland ceases operations, young women would be able to compete in the state program as at-large contestants and there would be no limit in how many teens from the two cities could compete. Hermatz had expressed an interest in the state program two years ago,

when there was a lot of turmoil with the national program, but put it on hold until she received a phone call from the national organization in late October, asking for a proposal.

She took the request to the local board, which decided it would "like to pursue it."

"We'd like to help get it back on its feet, even if it's for two or three years," she said.

The Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Program will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Stockmeyer Auditorium on Glenwood east of Wayne Road. Tickets are \$12 each and are available in advance at Wayne Lawn and Garden on Wayne Road south of Cherry Hill. They're also available at the door.



FILE PHOTO

Kelly Doerr is completing her year as the 2006 Wayne Junior Miss.

## THE 2007 PARTICIPANTS

Participating in the 2007 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Program are:

John Glenn High School seniors Jamie Allen, Natalie Bower, Jessica Burns, Adrienne Camung, Jana Dean, Amanda Femat, Karyn Fowler, Belinda Gee, Kayla German, Michelle Gutkowski, Alysa Lannoo, Alexa Larimore, Nkari Mandisa and Crystal Obiukawu.

Wayne Memorial High School seniors Kelsey Baker, Cara Bell, Ravynne Gilmore, Julie Good, Tracey Halabreda, Jessica Kay, Olivia LaFortune, Karissa Matson, Adrienne Meagher, Nichole Pierson, LeJohnna Reid, Nalisse Smith, Kayleigh Thorner and Bobbi Turner.

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\*Limited time offer ends December 15, 2006 and applies only to selected suites at Brighton Gardens of Northville. Certain restrictions may apply.

### Coffee Hour

State Rep. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, will hold a local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 20, at the Westland Big Boy Restaurant, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.

Citizens are welcome to visit with Anderson and discuss issues and/or concerns.

### Country breakfast

AMVETS Post 171 and its auxiliary will hold a country breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Nov. 26, at the hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill in Westland.

The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for kids up to age 12 for hash browns, pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, coffee and tea. Milk and juice will be available for an extra 50-cent charge.

### Food fest

Holiday Taste Fest, featuring food and drink from 19 vendors, mostly restaurants, will come to the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Admission is \$20 per person for the event, sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

The Hellenic Cultural Center is on Joy Road east of Newburgh.

Tickets may be bought 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays at chamber offices on Ford Road east of Newburgh. The event also will include entertainment.

For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

### Christmas Extravaganza

The Westland senior Friendship Center will hold its annual Christmas Extravaganza noon-3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at the center 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. with the Fabulous Fest served at noon. There will be an opportunity for pictures with Santa Claus, a sing-along with the Friendship Center Chorus, entertainment by the Tommie James Trio with Michael Carluccio and gifts.

Tickets are \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. They're on sale at the Friendship Center. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

### Grand opening

Westland residents are invited to get fit while helping the Gleaners Food Bank.

Fitzone for Women at 6531 N. Wayne Road is offering a free tanning session to residents who bring in three cans of food for Gleaners as part of its grand opening celebration 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16. Food, massages and facials also will be part of the event.

Fitzone features yoga, Pilates, ball blast, kick boxing, power step and personal training. For more information, call (734) 641-4300.

### VFW events

VFW Post 3323 and its Ladies Auxiliary is holding a holiday craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be a snack bar, and vendors are still needed. Call Rich at (812) (734) 812-7978. The post also will start off the holiday season with a Red Cross blood drive 1-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24. Call the post at (734) 721-9876.

### Annual bazaar

The Village of Westland will hold its annual bazaar and bake sale 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the senior community at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman, in Westland.

### Card party

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold a holiday card party 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. Tickets cost \$7 and are available at the door. There will be door and table prizes, 50-50 raffle, light meal and snacks. Proceeds will go to the church building fund.

### Scrapbooking event

Scrapbookers and picture people are invited to Another Hot Crop! and Holiday Open House 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Sponsored by the Westland Jaycees, the event allows scrapbookers the time and space to

devote to their scrapbooks and pick up new ideas, tips and techniques. Non-scrapbookers and beginners can learn how to preserve their memories and photos.

The cost is \$35 for the all day crop. It includes lunch and dinner, goody bag, cropping space and much more. Album supplies and tools will be available for purchase. The event will benefit the Westland Fire Department which is raising money to purchase a thermal imager.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call Lisa Graham at (734) 718-5705 or contact her by e-mail at Lisa.Graham@sbc-global.net.

### Book sale

The Friends of the Library will

hold a book sale Dec. 8-10, at the William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

### Holiday helpers

Community Hospice is seeking volunteers to help with its Tree of Memories holiday fund-raiser. 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.

### Euchre games

Friday Night Euchre/Pinochle Card Parties start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernardine Parish in Westland. Doors open at 7 p.m. No partner is needed. Admission is \$5 admission includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available. The scheduled dates are Nov. 17, Dec. 1, 15, Jan. 7, 5, 12, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16. For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

### Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play Bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

### Praise and worship

Westwood Community Church holds praise and worship services at 10 a.m. Sundays at 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. The church also offers a children's church and nursery. For more information, call (734) 254-0093.

### Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford. The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available.

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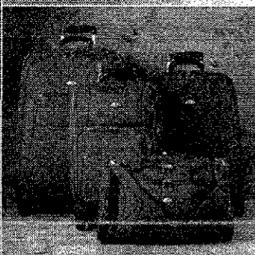
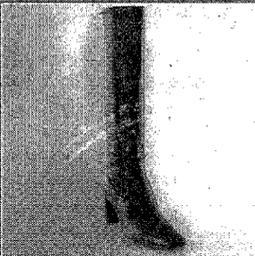


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## Charity Event benefits United Home Health

United Home Health Services will hold its first annual Charity Event Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The festive evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a wine and cheese/dessert reception followed by a holiday concert by the 60-member Canton Concert Band at 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds go to United's Patient Support Fund, which is used to provide home care to individuals who do not have medical insurance or whose needs go beyond the scope of insurance coverage. It also is used to provide emergency medications, food, clothing, transportation, and medical equipment to patients in need.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by contacting Mary Jane Swanson at United Home Health Services at (734) 981-8820.

Sponsorships also are available for this event. Donations can be sent to 2200 Canton Center

Road, Suite 250, Canton, MI 48187 or made by visiting the United Home Health Services Web site at [www.uhhs.org](http://www.uhhs.org).

United Home Health Services is Garden City Hospital's home care agency. A not-for-profit, Medicare-certified home health care agency, it has been serving the community for more than 23 years.

The agency provides home-based skilled nursing, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, home health aides, social work and registered dietitian services.

Specialty programs include heart failure program, telehealth, rehabilitation, wound care, IV therapy and psychiatric home care.

The agency is accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program and active in the National Association for Home Care and Michigan Home Health Association.

## PARK

FROM PAGE A1

"They will test anybody," Cicirelli said after she, too, received confirmation of all-ages testing.

In another development, Cicirelli confirmed that results of new soil tests, conducted earlier this month, are expected during the week of Nov. 27.

Those tests could help to determine whether portions of the park could be reopened, Cicirelli said. Potentially, the results also could mean that certain areas, such as the ballfields, would be fenced off until remediation efforts are completed, she said.

Cicirelli said she has received an e-mail from MDEQ indicating that the playscape area is

"not an issue" for exposure to elevated levels of lead.

"We may be able to open that up very quickly," the mayor said Tuesday during a telephone interview, adding later, "It's a shame to have that whole park not used when there's only certain areas that had elevated levels of lead."

The worst contamination appears to be on the western ballfields, although Cicirelli said there is "one spot" on the park's soccer fields.

MDEQ officials have rejected at least three remediation plans submitted by county officials, Cicirelli said, but she said the city and county are pushing for a cleanup plan as soon as possible.

Some residents have contacted the *Observer* to say that a few children and adults have

continued to use the park, despite signs that it is temporarily closed.

"We've been watching (the situation)," Cicirelli said, "and we haven't seen anybody on the ball diamonds."

Remediation efforts will be the responsibility of the county, which leases the park to the city, Cicirelli said. But, she said city officials want to be involved in the process.

"We want to have a say as to how that area is restored and that it's cleaned up properly," she said.

Cicirelli has said it's possible the ball diamonds could be moved to another area of the park. "We will do whatever we can to facilitate this remediation," she said.

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## MARINE

FROM PAGE A1

months in Canton before being deployed, but was raised in Westland and attended Livonia Franklin High School. Evelyn Burgess said her son was in the Marines for 11 years and traveled around the world, but this was his first tour of duty in Iraq.

"He had only been in Iraq for six weeks and I was afraid for him," said Evelyn Burgess, who wears a button with her son's picture. "But he wanted to serve his country and be with his fellow Marines. He didn't want to disappoint them."

"He was on my mind 24 hours a day, but he liked the challenge," she added. "I'm very proud of him."

As a member of the Marine Reserves, Burgess participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, and also spent time training against terrorists in Africa and with soldiers from other countries in South America.

"The Marines were special to him, and he participated as much as he could," Kosinski said. "He was a motivator. He would get down in the trenches with his juniors. He was a great instructor, and would do anything for anybody. He died with honor."

Bradley Compton, 26, of Ypsilanti Township served in the Marine Reserves with

Burgess, where they were also roommates. They were such close friends that Burgess participated in Compton's wedding.

"Bryan would have given his last shirt off his back to a complete stranger," Compton said. "He worked really well with the younger Marines, and they had an enormous amount of respect for him."

"He wanted to go to Iraq to make sure the younger guys, who didn't have the experience, were OK," he added. "He had outstanding leadership ability."

### 'ALWAYS UPBEAT'

Canton Township Trustee Todd Caccamo, who is currently a Marine fighting in Iraq, said in an e-mail that he bunked with Burgess while they trained at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"Bryan was a great guy, he was always upbeat and smiling," Caccamo wrote. "I talked to him almost every day. He'd yell something from his turret at me and toss me a thumbs up or a wink, 'Hey, Caccy-baby. Go get 'em!'"

"I talked to him no more than 24 hours before his untimely death," he wrote. "All of us at Weapons Company miss him greatly."

Clay Cutchin of Pinckney served with Burgess in 1999, while both were stationed at Mountain Warfare School in California.

"Bryan was a junior Marine,

but his maturity was way beyond that," Cutchin said. "He quickly garnered a lot of responsibility and respect."

"He was the kind of Marine the mystique of the Marines was built on," he added. "He was phenomenal in that way."

Visitation is from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday at Griffin Funeral Home, located at 7707 Middlebelt in Westland. The funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Bernadine of Siena Catholic Church, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland, following a one-hour visitation in the church. There will not be a burial service.

"A bagpiper will play *Amazing Grace*, and a rifle detail outside will give a 21-gun salute," Kosinski said. "Six Marines will fold the American flag draped over his casket and present it to the family."

Leah Bell, 31, who lived three houses down from Burgess while growing up, plans to pay her respects to Burgess and his family.

"Bryan was always the kind-hearted kid, and didn't like to see people hurt," Bell said.

"There are so many memories to share, but I want people to know what a great guy he was, and he believed in what he was doing. His mother raised a great young man, and he will never be forgotten. I will miss him."

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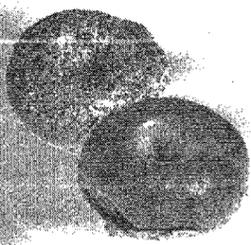
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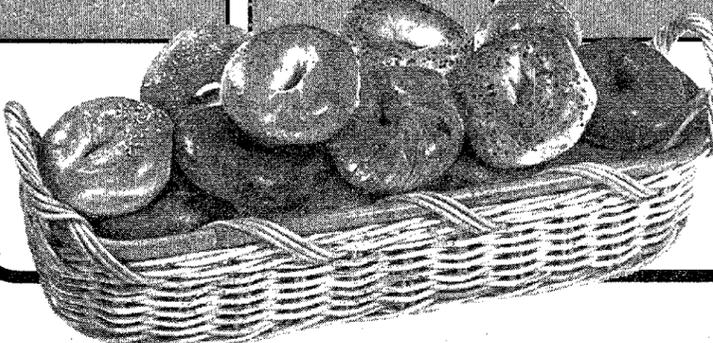
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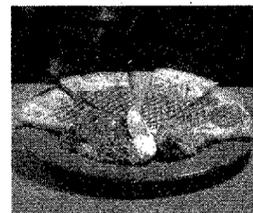
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Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### 'Capturing ancestors'

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society will be meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Speaker Susan Vitali will discuss "Capturing Your Ancestors Through Photos and Journaling." At 6:30 p.m., a session will cover online book catalogs available through the library. Guests are welcome. The group's Web site is [www.rootswest.com/~miwvcgs](http://www.rootswest.com/~miwvcgs). Contact Margie (734) 522-4050.

##### Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. See what Girl Scouts has to offer. Call (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688).

##### New Year's Eve party

Urban Singles presents "Ring in the New Year," with live entertainment from Jimmy Howard and Company Sunday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the party goes until 1 a.m. The party takes place at the Livonia Elks, 3117 Plymouth Road in Livonia (between Merriman and Middlebelt). Tickets are \$50 per person until Dec. 8; \$60 after Dec. 8, and cover dinner and beverage. Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations will be available. Deadline for tickets is Friday, Dec. 22. For more information, call Linda, (734) 507-9173, or Mary Ann, (734) 654-0115.

#### ORGANIZATIONS

##### Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

##### Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam



### Wish you were here

Christine Pociask of Westland decided to give herself a birthday present - a seven-day cruise to the Society Islands on the Regent Seven Seas Paul Gauguin. She visited Raiatea, Taha'a, Bora Bora and Moorea. Pociask decided to pose with her Westland Observer at Bloody Mary's on Bora Bora, made famous by the movie South Pacific. If you go on vacation, take a photograph with your Westland Observer for Wish You Were Here. Send it to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or by e-mail at [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com).

Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975; even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at [www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA](http://www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA) for more information.

##### Friends of library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

##### In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's

Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

##### Civil Air Patrol

Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site [www.members.home.net/capliberators/](http://www.members.home.net/capliberators/).

##### Habitat help

The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

##### Veteran's Haven

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

##### Pet-A-Pet

The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Marie Johnson, (734) 326-1200), and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

##### Zonta Club

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month on the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920

##### Franklin PTSA

The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

##### Tutoring program

A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

#### FOR YOUR HEALTH

##### Eating Disorders

Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and

friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 324-3089.

##### Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

##### TOPS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) No. 28 meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6-6:45 p.m. For more information, call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

##### Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

##### Support group

A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

##### AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

##### Childbirth classes

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

##### Childbirth Association

Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

##### Fibromyalgia

The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on

Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

#### HISTORIC

##### Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. Call (734) 326-1110.

##### Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. Call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

##### Friends of Museum

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

#### BINGO

##### VFW Bingo

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

##### St. Mel Church

Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

##### Shamrock Bingo

Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

##### K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 3117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

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# Palestinian ambassador brings optimistic message

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Arif Safieh, the Palestinian ambassador to the United States, told a gathering of about 50 area clergyman and Arab-American leaders Wednesday that the situation in the Middle East is on the verge of a breakthrough with the imminent announcement of a new Palestinian coalition government.

Safieh spoke at the East Hall of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Livonia, one of several meetings planned during a three-day visit that began Monday. The events were to conclude Wednesday night with a banquet at St. Mary Church for local Arab-American leaders.

Following the speech, Safieh said an announcement would be made in the next 72 hours on an agreement between Fatah and Hamas, the two rival political factions in Palestine. Fatah holds the presidency and Hamas has the majority in the parliament. The U.S. and other governments have been critical of Hamas as a supporter of terrorists activities and have been reluctant to continue negotiations.

"The new government will be adopting a political program that will be more representative of Palestinian society and will allow us to re-engage with the international community and get back to normal and intense cooperation with the American administration and other players," Safieh said.

Safieh, a Roman Catholic, was appointed Palestinian ambassador to the United States in October 2005. He previously served as ambassador to the United Kingdom and delegate to the Holy See. He was born in Jerusalem in 1950 and educated in Jerusalem, Belgium and Paris.

He was accompanied on his visit to Detroit by his wife, Christ'l Leclercq. His visit was organized through the group Sabeel working with local groups, the Palestinian Office and Ramallah. George Khoury of the ad hoc Palestine Education Fund coordinated the visit.

In the last three days, Safieh met with Arab leaders in Dearborn, spoke at Wayne State University and met with Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. He was scheduled to meet with University of Michigan students Wednesday.

Safieh's message to the assembled clergy, including representatives of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths, was generally optimistic.

## AMERICAN NON-ALIGNMENT

"During a moment of diplomatic stagnation, which has been frequent recently, I would start by saying: a Palestinian went to see God and told him, 'God, God Almighty will there ever be peace in the Holy Land?' and God looked at him melancholily and said, 'Yes, yes, of course, but not in my lifetime.'" Safieh said to a round of laughs. "Without any impertinence, I say that I'm sure God wouldn't mind if he proved him or her wrong."

Safieh said it was time for the United States to have a policy of "non-alignment" and treat Palestine and Israel even handedly.

"I'm not inviting America to sacrifice its traditional friend Israel, what I'm doing is bringing you is an additional friend, Palestine," he said.

As the last superpower, America risks alienating the Arab community abroad and the large community of Arab Americans, Safieh said. He said for the last 60 years, it has been uncomfortable to be an Arab, Muslim or Palestinian American.

"Non-alignment, even-handedness should be what characterizes American policy," he said. "I happen to represent people, the Palestinians, who became the victims of the victims of European history and because of that fact we have been deprived of our understanding."

Safieh said the situation in the Middle East is "extremely unhealthy and unwelcome."

He said the "650 military" checkpoints between Israel and Palestine cost work hours as well as causing fear and humiliation.

"And the horrible wall, the wall of shame," Safieh said of the wall Israel is building between itself and Palestinian territory. "Even President Bush



Safieh

said it was snaking into Palestinian territory. The International Court of Justice called for its dismantlement."

He said the situation in Gaza was volatile, but that there is still hope of change.

In a question and answer period, Safieh said the situation is "dynamic and not static" and that many in the Jewish community in Israel and the United States have been supportive of Palestine. He said the powerful American Israel Political Action Committee is no longer in a "golden era" and change is on the way.

After the speech, Safieh said the United States has a chance

to change its negative image brought on by its special relationship with Israel and the war in Iraq.

"As a superpower, America has a choice between a foreign policy that makes you loved and respected or hated and feared," he said. "Given such a choice, I would rather be a superpower that was loved and respected."

Khoury said Safieh's visit has

been well-received.

"He represents us in the best way I can imagine," Khoury said. "He is a man of peace, peace with justice. If one side gives up completely, you have oppression. We want peace with justice."

He said he is a firm believer that the Arab-Israeli conflict can be settled in a peaceful way under international law and UN resolutions.

The Rev. George Shaloub, pastor of St. Mary, said he was happy to host the meeting with clergy.

"I feel that if clergy represent anything in the world, it would represent justice and peace," he said.

He was impressed by Safieh's eloquence.

"He was very pointed, very balanced. He didn't speak out of hate, he spoke out of indig-

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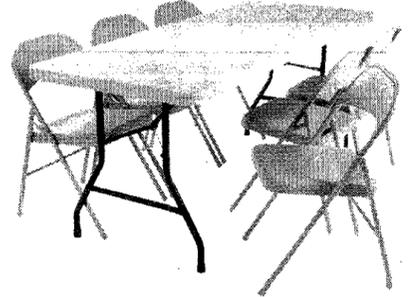
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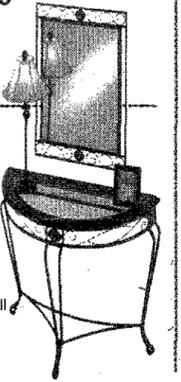


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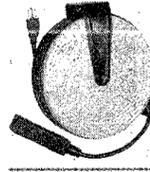
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OUR VIEWS

## LPS budget surplus info comes too late

We needed this financial information a year ago. With it, the past year might have been different. The decision to close schools, the community divisions, the recall elections all might not have happened. After all, it's hard to believe the Livonia Public Schools school board would have gone ahead with this Legacy Initiative in the face of such a strong opposition and knowing about the soon-to-be improved financial picture.

The LPS 2006 audit shows the district's fund balance had \$10.9 million on June 30, which is some \$3.2 million more than budgeted for that date during the previous year. Yes, the fund balance is still only a somewhat low 7 percent of the district's budget, but that \$3.2 million is a big difference in light of what's happened this year.

The district could have boosted its fund equity by a lesser amount and planned to spend some of that larger fund equity to make up the \$1.8 million that was supposed to be saved this first year under the Legacy Initiative, the controversial plan to close seven schools, reconfigure school grades and improve the system for the long term.

The point of this Legacy Initiative was to save money in both the short and long term. Certainly there were some specific educational improvements behind it, but the main issue was money and this recent audit shows that the delay and restudy that was desired by most of the anti-Legacy crowd would have not harmed the district's bottom line.

And now that Livonia's student count has finally been released, showing a loss of about 500 students this school year, the predictions of many of those opponents from last year have come true: The loss of students - most likely due in large part to this plan - has cost the district much more revenue than it had ever hoped to save in the first year.

There has also been money spent on building improvements, buses and a fund balance over \$6 million in the district's special education fund.

Hindsight can often be 20-20. And this improved fund equity will only be temporary, since the district is going to need to use it to make up for the loss of \$8,490 per student based on the decline this year.

However, for the longer term, it's important for district leaders to recognize that this fall-off of students may not end this year, as there is still a lot of dissatisfaction out there. This Legacy plan still needs close examination and review as it progresses. And the district needs to find ways to renew the confidence of many of its customers.

## Deer hunting still a big deal across state

Hunting has been a hot topic of discussion in recent months.

After a somewhat bitter campaign, with wild charges flying from both sides, Michigan voters last week overwhelmingly shot down a law that would have allowed a mourning dove hunting season in the state. Much of the discussion about the issue centered on the economic benefit of having a dove hunting season.

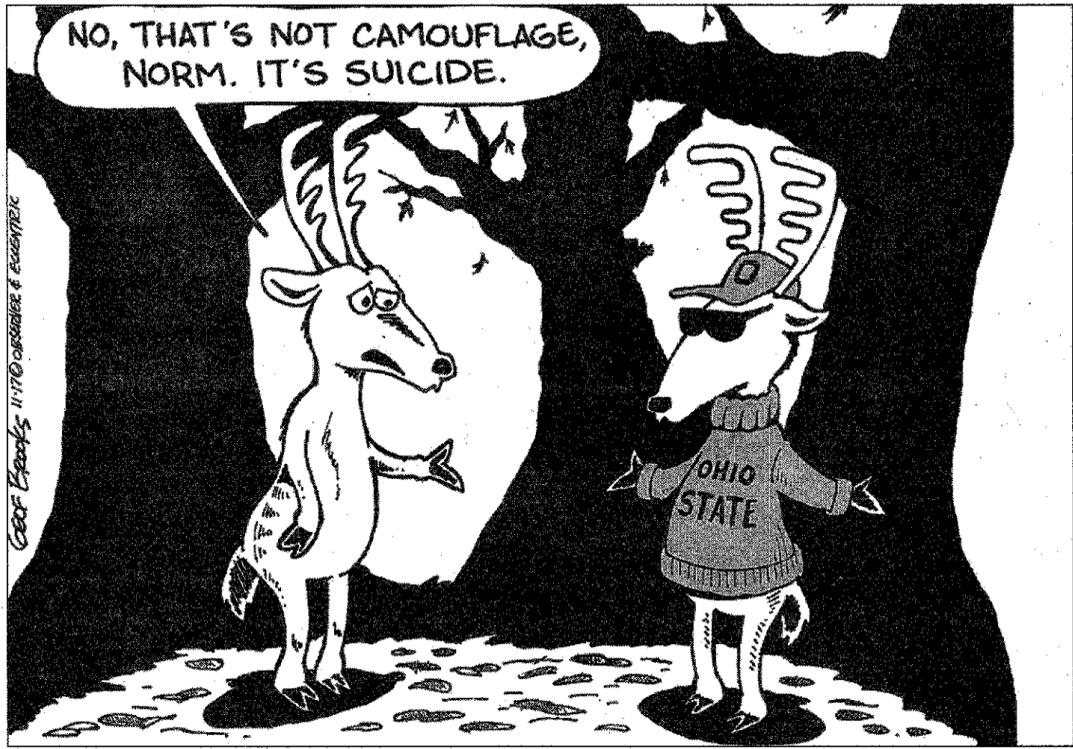
During the next two weeks, hunting will again take center stage as more than 700,000 orange- and camouflage-clad hunters will head out to the state's forests and farmlands for the annual firearms deer hunting season, which opened yesterday.

Despite the dove hunting ban that voters approved, hunting is a long-standing tradition in Michigan. At no other time is this more evident than during the firearms deer hunting season.

The traditional Nov. 15 opener is still one of the most anticipated days around the state, especially in many smaller towns, where it is celebrated as a local holiday. In fact, many rural school districts still cancel school for the day, and businesses close up shop because owners and patrons head out to the woods in search of the white-tailed deer.

It is a tradition that also gives a huge shot in the arm to the state's economy. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, deer hunters alone directly pump \$500 million into the state's economy.

There is no getting around the fact that hunting is big business in Michigan. The state is tops in the nation in the number of licensed hunters with more than one million for all seasons. That means about \$2.5 billion each year for the state's economy, according to the DNR. Not only do hunters purchase licenses and hunting equipment like rifles, shotguns, bows and arrows, and all the other gadgets used in the field, they also help support hotels, restaurants and other businesses in small towns that heavily rely on tourism to make it. And the fees that hunters pay for licenses also help the state buy more forest lands and support many wildlife programs. For these reasons and many more, the annual deer hunting season is a tradition to celebrate.



LETTERS

### Graunstadt treated terribly

I am writing in regards to the terrible treatment of Cheryl Graunstadt by the mayor and certain council members. The only reason they treat her the way they do is she is the one who stands up to them and for the citizens of the city of Westland.

She is the one who knows what she is talking about when it comes to the environment. (Cooper School property, the incinerator, and now the City Park).

Mr. Pickering, why should she have contacted the mayor when it should have been the other way around? The mayor should have been doing the contacting.

We understand from people around town that you and the mayor are an item. There is nothing wrong with that except I think it is a conflict when there is an important item to be talked about. I also believe (my opinion) that you degrading Ms. Graunstadt is part of this conflict.

You are not the only council person who talks down to her (except for this conflict) and believe me, people know this and are taking note of how Ms. Graunstadt is being treated and by whom! She is a truthful person and some of you should take lessons from her!

I went by the park on Thursday (Nov. 9) and the only things that the signs say is "Park Temporarily Closed," not why or any explanation. Well, not everyone reads the paper or has heard about this, and when I went by there children and parents were still in the park. Don't you think the signs should say toxic or have some warning?

Tired of mean-spirited mayor and council people,

Deane Seber-Kirby  
Westland

### Disgusted with administration

I read the article about the lead poisoning in our park. How dare our mayor or any administration hide something as horrendous as lead in our soil and then say she never got the letter about it. Do we really want her as a judge (trustworthy and fair)?

I would like to make a comment to Mr. Pickering while I am at it. How dare you take Cheryl Graunstadt to task because she brought it up at the council meeting. I know you all try to put a muzzle on her and it just isn't right. She speaks the truth.

My mother lived in the senior building there and we never got any real reasons why she died so fast. My husband, my family and I helped to build the playscape there. My husband and I (now deceased) slept on the ground during the Relay for Life two years in a row. We give birthday parties for grandchildren, great-grandchildren (renting the pavilions). Children all play in the dirt.

You can believe I and my grandchildren and great-grandchildren will all be tested for lead poisoning as soon as possible.

Disgusted with the administration,  
Georgia Becker  
Westland

### Proud of her son

I am writing this both as a very proud mom and a very grateful citizen. On Tuesday, my son Richard LeBlanc was elected to be State Representative for Westland. It was a landslide victory, which I was confident it would be. Richard has been an asset to Westland in many capacities. His dedication and hard work has paid off.

Georgia Becker  
Westland

Westland won this election.

Richard has a wife who has worked tirelessly at his side. Thank you Cheryl, you deserve all the accolades that go with this victory. You've earned this as much as Richard.

A special thanks go to all of you who have supported Richard, without your support all of this would not have happened.

I am so proud to say "he is my son."  
I love you,  
Mom.

Jackie LeBlanc-Murphy

### Should have know severity

Why was it only after the election that the information about the park closing came out. Yeah, right. The county just let the mayor know. Great charter for a judge. And I have swamp property.

If everyone that was here remembers correctly, there was a council watcher that kept trying to tell all the citizens, me included, that the park was on a toxic dump. Remember, two stepped down, two were recalled, and one more should have been on the list. When the playscape was built, a lot of the volunteers commented on their findings. How fast we forget.

I don't think any of us realized how severe it was, but we all should have known. Look at the Cooper School property. Put a fence around it and let it sit for 10-plus years and suddenly it's OK to build on it. That's right, OK to build senior housing or multiple dwellings, that way the soil won't be disturbed as much.

Now a wetland is sold in parcels under the state laws for it being technically a wetland, with the rest to be bought later while it waits on option to make it legal. Legal and right aren't always the same.

I think Captain Planet needs a revival. Wake up Westland before the ooze seeps out all over.

And didn't I just read in the news that the wells in Romulus were leaking. You know the ones that were supposed to be so safe that no one should complain at all. What's that old saying "money talks and ..." Well, at least the rest of the country and most of the state woke up.

Judy McKinney  
Westland

### Concerned about park

Dear Mayor Cicirelli,  
As a parent, former resident of and licensed daycare provider in the city of Westland, I am very concerned about the problems in Central City Park.

The city park was a favorite place to visit for my children and the many children that I cared for in my daycare. I find it frustrating that we, as (10-year) citizens, were never notified that the park was a former dump (there could have been signs posted or notices in the newspaper or mailings sent). This alone would have raised my concern about ever allowing my babies and small children to play at ground level.

I'm also concerned about the comment I read in the *Observer* (online) stating: "Fausone added that children shouldn't be in danger unless they regularly ingested contaminated soil or came into almost-daily contact by skin."

"Potential cleanup efforts, he said, could be as simple as topping the contaminated soil with fresh dirt or hauling away some dirt from the park."

Mayor Cicirelli, I cannot help but feel

these cleanup "efforts" would be a Band-Aid solution to a greater problem. Will bringing in fresh soil actually eliminate any hazards of the lead in the soil below?

How far down have the lead levels been tested? I would like to know exactly how deep these soil samples are taken and the results of the tests. Are tests being done on the pond at the south end of the park where young and elderly people enjoy fishing, feeding geese and reading quietly?

I am requesting that when reports are published on the findings of these tests and the resulting planned actions have been decided on, that I be notified in writing.

I feel that this is a very serious issue and that I am deserving of some answers as to why my children were potentially subjected to the hazards of poison in the soil.

Tina Taylor  
Allendale

### Be upset with mayor

It seems a shame that (Charles) Pickering can only get upset at Graunstadt for not calling the mayor after she was contacted by the press. It also seems as though he's a little jealous that the press never calls him.

I also believe he is just a little too protective of the mayor's office for some reason or another! He should be getting upset over the mayor's office not contacting him about those letters, of course, unless he already knew!

The timing on all this was also great, the day after elections.

Roger Caldwell  
Westland

**Editor's note:** The problems at the Central City Park became public just days before the Nov. 7 general election.

### Commercial overkill

Talk about overkill. I have never seen as many countless campaign ads and so much BS in a lifetime of voting. If this trend continues, look to Michigan's and the nation's voters to seriously question the integrity and seriousness of our political candidates. I wonder if we would experience the same if we had a realistic multi-party system.

Talk about facts! I'm supposed to vote for Granholm because her mother was a tough economist and I'm to vote for DeVos because his daughter loves him. Television programming has become political commercials with story breaks.

Federico U. Acerrri  
Livonia

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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Letters to the editor  
Westland Observer  
36251 Schoolcraft  
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(734) 591-7279

**E-mail:**  
smason@hometownlife.com

### QUOTABLE

"We didn't expect to win Westland. He did very well there. I don't think it's anything we did personally, my staff or my supporters."

State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, about her loss to Glenn Anderson in the last week's general election.

**WESTLAND**  
**Observer**  
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

**GANNETT**

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Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

## Families of our veterans deserve to be honored, too

In the wake of the election commotion last week it seems as if Veterans Day was nearly overlooked.

It was Saturday, and ceremonies were held in various towns. These days, there should be more emphasis than ever on Veterans Day. We are embroiled in a war in Iraq that is producing ever-increasing casualties as the months go by. More and more of our service people are in harm's way and making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and liberty.



Greg Kowalski

It's been that way since this nation was founded. We were born out of a war and have fought more than our share over the past two centuries.

In the past few weeks I have been doing research on World War II for a new book. My emphasis is not on the soldiers — many more people are far more knowledgeable than I am on that topic — but rather on the battle on the home front.

I recently came across several hundred photos that were taken during the World War II years. While they related to one specific town, I think they show scenes that were typical all over the country.

What was most striking to me was how pervasive the war effort was in nearly everything. Factories stopped producing cars and refrigerators and turned to making tanks. Although the country was still reeling from the Great Depression at the end of the 1930s and beginning of the 1940s, suddenly basic commodities, like gas and certain foods, were in limited supply. I came across a ration book filled with stamps that allocated how much a family could get of restricted items each month.

Newspapers, fliers distributed around town, signs posted on and in buildings urged everyone to save all manner of items and donate them to the government.

Don't throw out that chewing gum wrapper, people were urged. It was made up of metal foil that was needed for the war effort. I have photos of mounds of old tires and scrap metal that were gathered in lots and buildings to be sent to the war effort.

Even an old ceremonial cannon left over from World War I ("The Great War," until the second world war) was hauled

off and melted down to be recycled into a new cannon or shells.

It may seem hard to believe now, but there were genuine fears that Japan was going to bomb this area. And, in fact, the Japanese did launch bomb-carrying balloons that drifted as far as here, but did no damage.

In light of the threat of attack, civil defense organizations were formed. Wearing white metal hats and armbands emblazoned with the letters "CD," the civil defense officers patrolled the streets making sure lights were off when blackouts were called.

Civil defense trucks rolled down the streets, and towns applied for special federal aid to beef up their fire departments to be ready for any incendiary bomb attacks. No one really knew how serious the threat from the Axis powers was, but everyone prepared for the worst.

Great also was the impact the war had on families. Men were being drafted or joining the military by the millions. Virtually every family had someone overseas. World maps suddenly became extremely popular and important as people searched for such obscure places as Tarawa, Saipan, St. Lo and many others.

Postcards and letters from faraway places started to arrive. Occasionally a family would receive a scratchy vinyl record with the barely audible voice of a soldier recorded at special places that could supply records to be sent home.

Then, of course, delivery of the telegrams started. And Gold Stars were placed in windows at homes that the soldiers would never return to.

A life-and-death drama was played out daily as the war raged on the other side of the world.

But even though the people here, at home, didn't see the flash of bomb blasts or feel the shock of explosions, they were in a battle too. And there were many casualties.

They didn't die in battle but they lost someone they loved. Children lost their fathers, fathers lost their children, wives lost husbands, brothers lost brothers, and on and on.

Truly, those who waited also served.

Remember them too as we honor the veterans.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowskial@hometownlife.com.

## LETTERS

### Many wrongs at park

Our subdivision is next door to a Brownfield, namely the Cooper Site which has set behind an eight-foot high fence for the past 15 years. Imagine my surprise to learn from a published report the MDEQ had declared Central City Park in Westland a Brownfield site. The Thomas H. Brown Central City Park was closed by the City on Saturday, Nov. 4, due to environmental testing.

In my opinion, there are several things wrong about this picture.

1. It is wrong that Wayne County, MDEQ and city officials have known that there was contamination in some parts of the park and no action was taken to close the park before Saturday. It is county-owned land and the county is responsible for closing and cleanup. However, the mayor is responsible for the safety and well-being of Westland residents. It is a safety concern for all of those who have used the beautiful 100-acre park, and what about the city maintenance crew who maintain the park?

2. It is wrong that use of Central City Park continued after knowing that some areas had high levels of lead. The extent of contamination is unknown at this time until further testing by the MDEQ has been completed. There were other sites available for ballgames, soccer games (Corrado Park and Curtis Woods Park), and playground equipment can be found at other parks and school yards. And how ironic that the annual Relay For Life event to benefit cancer was held in the park.

3. It is wrong that Westland City Council members and residents were not notified about it in a timely manner. Hearing about it at the Nov. 6 Westland City Council meeting when some government officials have known about it for several years is not timely.

4. It is wrong that in January 2007, a new mayor will be beginning a one-year term and will be passed a full plate, with not only the task of budget work but contamination on it.

Was our Brownfield Redevelopment Advisory Board aware of this matter? If not, it needs to be added to their list along with the Cooper Site. In the past 10 days there have been two excellent published articles. The first one that alerted the public was the *Detroit Free Press* on Nov. 7. The second one was written by Darrell Clem and published in the *Westland Observer* on Nov. 9. These are two must-read newspaper articles.

The public is outraged by the irresponsibility of our governments. For the safety of all the county needs to let the state determine the scope of the contamination at the park and then proceed with cleanup of the site so that Central City Park can once again be used by the public.

Ruth Dale  
Westland

### Sore losers

Despite saying that he will work with the new leaders of the Congress, I see no improvement in the demeanor of President Bush. He came across as his typically cocky self in the press conference Wednesday when he announced the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld.

Bush also opined several times that, while the total number of seats made a large shift toward the Democrats, if you looked at each of the individual

paces, they were decided by very slim margins. How interesting that when the numbers came in for the presidential election in 2004, indicating a decision by a similarly narrow margin, he described the results as a "mandate."

Bush has no choice but to accept the outcome of the mid-term election. He needs to put his arrogance in check, stop being a sore loser and bow to the will of those he serves.

Thomas McFarland  
Madison Heights

### Third parties ignored

As a public high school civics teacher, I am again extremely disappointed in the television and print media's coverage of Michigan's "third party" candidates this election year.

With a slew of lackluster Republicans and Democrats again running for office this fall, little if any exposure was afforded candidates of the Green, Libertarian and U.S. Taxpayer parties. Never mind that these parties have graced the Michigan ballot for several years and had to collect thousands of voter signatures in order to do so.

During the three Michigan governor's debates, for instance, the "third-party" candidates were not invited because their voter recognition numbers didn't poll high enough. How could these candidates gain voter recognition — let alone win elections — when they were repeatedly locked out of candidate debates and forums?

It is interesting that we live in a country that extols the virtues and benefits of competition when it comes to such things as business and athletics. But when it comes to elections, we seemingly accept the monopolization of our electoral system.

When the two "major" parties are repeatedly permitted to duck and dodge "third" party competition, constituents ultimately lose.

Peter Ponzetti III  
Rochester Hills

### Anderson says thank you

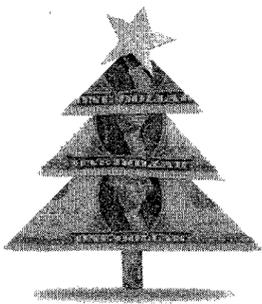
I'd like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the voters of the 6th Senate District for their support for my campaign on Nov. 7. While it was a long and sometimes grueling campaign, it was rewarding to be so well-received by residents at their door as we walked the neighborhoods of Livonia, Westland, Redford and Garden City.

I look forward to the challenges at hand and understand the urgent need for action that our citizens expressed to me. I commit to focus on getting our state's economy back on track and making our educational system second to none.

In closing, I again want to say thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve you in the Michigan Senate. I pledge to fulfill my responsibility to be there to vote on your behalf and live up to the confidence you've placed in me.

Sincerely,

Glenn S. Anderson  
18th District State Representative  
6th District State Senator-elect



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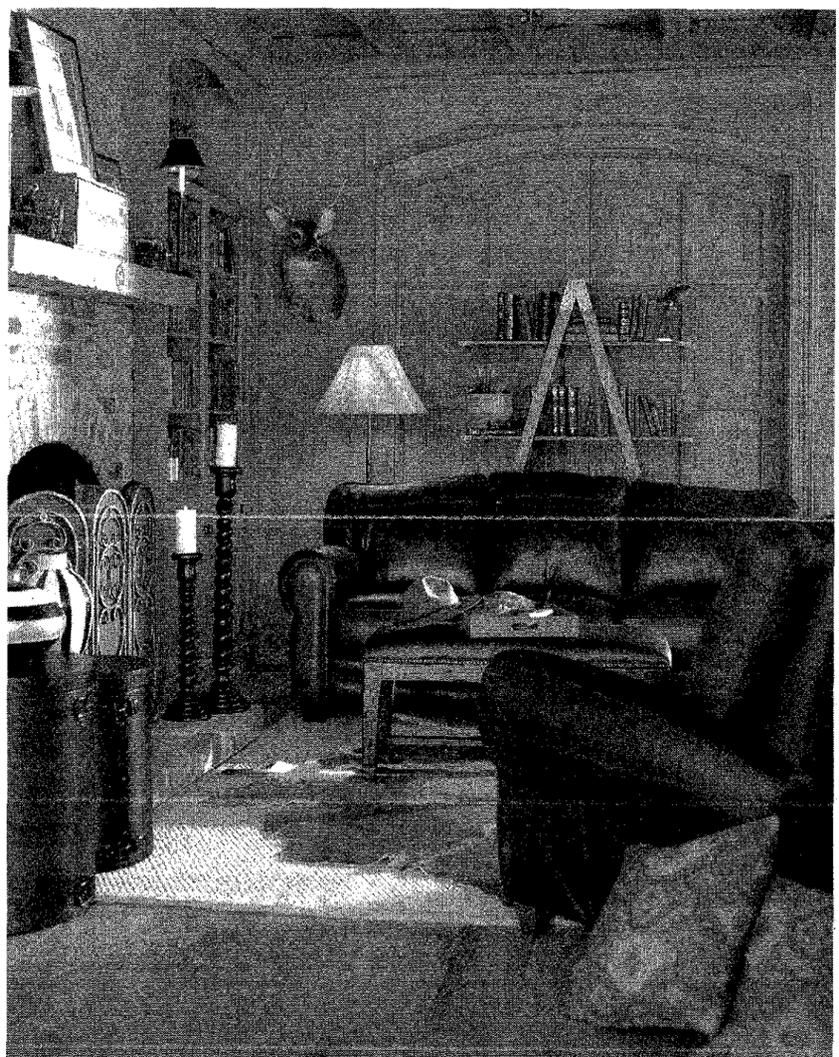
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# Weir Manuel does dressy affair for dogs

Talented - or at least good-looking - pooches paraded at Weir Manuel Realtors recently as the firm hosted a costumed dog show to benefit animal welfare.

Agents from its four offices in Birmingham, Rochester, West Bloomfield and Plymouth brought their costumed dogs and prizes were given in a number of categories, such as "Miss/Mister Congeniality," "Most Outrageous Costume," "Tiniest/Biggest Dog," "Most Comical Outfit" and "Most Adorable Dog."

Weir Manuel, at the corner of Brown and Old Woodward, is a Birmingham landmark and provided a perfect venue for a community event.

"We thought this would be a great fall event for families and children," said Kelly Sweeney, broker/owner of Weir Manuel Realtors. "And it was a way to draw attention to the number of pets that are in distress and need to be rescued. We hope we helped to educate the public and the community we serve about animal welfare. It's a worthy cause, and we wanted to find wonderful homes for some deserving dogs."

As a representative from the Michigan Humane Society said, "Weir Manuel is in the business of finding great homes for families, and we're in the business of finding great companion pets for them to complete their families."

Weir Manuel Realtors is a leading real estate company in southeast Michigan, with more than 150 employees in four Michigan offices in Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Rochester and Plymouth.



Caitlyn Melamed of Farmington Hills holds, Pumpkin, who was named 'Most Adorable Dog.'

# Cranbrook takes an artistic look at space

The theme of space exploration - its infinite potential, as well as its historical successes and failures - is the focus of the exhibition *Space Is the Place* exhibit at the Cranbrook Art Museum.

It will featuring installations, paintings, works on paper and sound and video works made during the past 10 years by an international group of contemporary artists. Cranbrook Art Museum is the first stop on the national tour of this exhibition that explores how global attitudes toward the subject of space have changed radically between the time the Soviets launched their Sputnik satellite nearly 50 years ago and the explosion of American space shuttles in 1986 and 2003.

Despite some setbacks, travel to outer space remains a powerful catalyst for contemporary artists, inspiring nostalgia, fantasy, and, at a time of great terrestrial conflict, consideration

of serious earthly concerns. *Space Is the Place* opens at Cranbrook Art Museum on Nov. 18, and runs through Jan. 14, 2007. The exhibition is organized and circulated by Independent Curators International, New York.

While these works are united by the primary theme of outer space, the open-ended parameters of the subject also invite consideration of issues relating to the technological, environmental, and sociopolitical forces affecting life on earth.

For example, Polish-born artist Aleksandra Mir's video, "First Woman on the Moon," which was performed on a beach in the Netherlands 30 years after the first moonwalk, uses the fantastical context of space exploration to comment on the continuing problem of gender inequality.

A related, gently satiric spirit permeates the work of Mexican artist Damián Ortega, whose *Aterrizable* en

la luna (*Voyage to the Moon*), named after a French Tin Tin comic, is a galvanized metal shelter that appears to be part imaginary space capsule and part dwelling for the homeless, highlighting both the inequalities that divide and the dreams that unite affluent and developing nations.

The title of the exhibition derives from a 1974 movie about an influential jazz fusion band, whose leader, Sun Ra, spoke of making music sublime enough to elevate humanity beyond Earth, transcending reality. Much like the cosmic themes of Sun Ra, *Space Is the Place* reaches out to realms beyond our planet.

*Space Is the Place* is curated by Alex Baker, curator of contemporary art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, and Toby Kamps, senior curator at the Contemporary Arts Center Cincinnati. It is accompanied by an illustrated publication.

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Send in your Family Favorite Recipe complete with cooking time and temperature (and maybe a bit of history or origin) to:  
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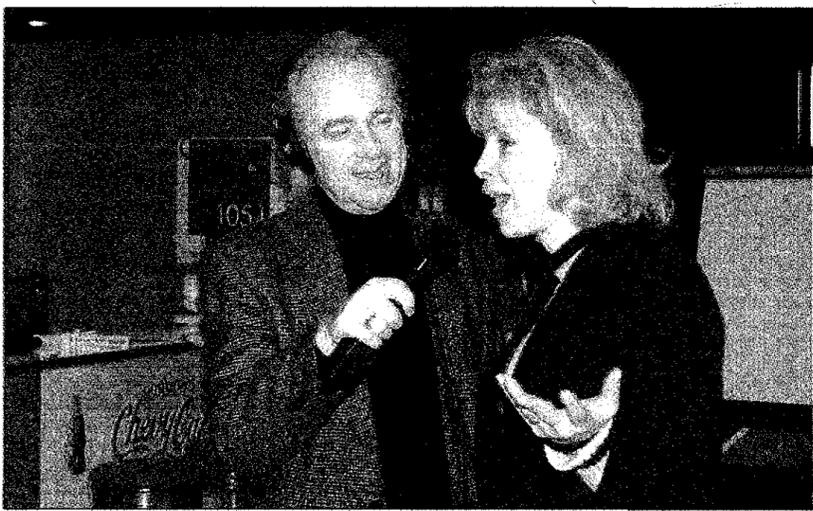
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Jim Harper interviews Gordon Chevrolet General Manager Susan Ianni during the Radiothon for the Capuchin Kitchen.

## Radiothon raises \$94,000 for Capuchin Kitchen

Magic 105.1 (WMGC-FM) announced the station raised \$94,000 and filled four trucks with clothing during their Capuchin Soup Kitchen Radiothon, which took place on Friday, Nov. 3, at Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City.

Jim Harper & The Magic Morning Show broadcasted live from the dealership to collect clothing and raise money for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Last year the event raised \$33,000.

The money collected will be

used to feed hungry families, provide school supplies and clothing for children. It will also help keep the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's library and computer center open! This center is staffed by volunteers who train children how to use computers.

"When great people come together for a great cause, you get great results! Our listeners are wonderful," said Marcy Cyburt, WMGC General Sales Manager.

Money was collected through a phone bank, sales of the

Magic Family Favorite Recipe Book and an auction. Auction items included: front row Pistons tickets, a two-night stay at the Great Wolf Lodge for four people and four Tigers tickets for the 2007 season!

"Every year I am amazed by the generosity of the people in Michigan! Even in a tough economy everyone reached into their hearts for such a worthy cause. We are all so blessed," said Susan Ianni, General Manager of Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City.

## Bishop stands ready to lead

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY  
STAFF WRITER

Rochester Republican Mike Bishop knows he has a tough job ahead of him in his new position as Senate majority leader.

In his final term as a state senator, Bishop, 39, will have to find a way to work with a Democratic governor with whom he admits he doesn't have much of a relationship, as well as a new Democratic majority in the House.

"There's a lot of anxiety, there's a lot of pressure on us to perform," he said. "I think the public was very clear about that. You can just look at the ratings for government and our rating is not what it should be."

"But there's also a lot of excitement, there's so much we can do. I'm personally excited to have an opportunity to be very proactive and work on



Bishop

things." Bishop, who is currently assistant majority leader, was selected by the incoming Republican caucus Tuesday morning to lead it for the next four years.

He succeeds term-limited Sen. Ken Sikkema of Wyoming, who has served as Senate majority leader since 2002.

"He faces a huge challenge," longtime Michigan political observer Bill Ballenger said. "He is the principle Republican under the capital dome ... facing off against a Democratically controlled House and a Democratic governor. This is exactly the same position former governor John Engler was in 20 years ago."

Ballenger, publisher of *Inside Michigan Politics*, said

Bishop shouldn't try to be popular but rather emulate Engler, who had "all the things you need if you are a minority party in a three-way faceoff."

"The question is, is Mike Bishop the new John Engler. I think people have their doubts."

Ballenger served with Bishop's father, Donald, in the state Senate.

"I remember when (Mike) used to play under the desk behind me on the Senate floor," he said.

Before he officially takes over the job in January, Bishop will be working on committee assignments. He has already put together a transition team.

"We have to start preparing our agenda as well," he said. "I'm already at Jan. 1 right now. I have had my eyeball on that day for a long, long time. We're going to be very proactive."

## Trial avoided in mom-teen sex case

BY STACY JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

With a "no contest" plea comes some relief for the family of a local teen.

The plea entered Tuesday in Oakland County Circuit Court by Jami Lee Knox, the Farmington Hills mother accused of having sex with a 15-year-old friend of her son's, means both families will be spared the grueling details that would become public in a trial. The victim would have had to take the stand.

"We definitely feel relieved that there won't be a trial, for her family's sake as well as ours," said the victim's father.

Knox, 41, was arrested in July and charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct and three counts of using a computer to communicate with another to commit a crime.

The wife and mother of three could serve at least three years in prison, but faces up to 15 years. She is

expected to be sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Rae Lee Chabot on Jan. 2. The probate department will recommend a sentence after reviewing her file. She has no prior criminal record.

A "no contest" plea is considered a guilty plea and means she does not challenge the contents of the police report, said Assistant Prosecutor Robert Giles.

Had Knox entered a "not guilty" plea, she would have faced a jury trial at the end of the month.

The victim's father said the potential sentencing could have been more severe, but his family isn't spiteful.

"Right now, I can say that more (jail) time would not have bothered us, but we are not out for revenge and feel bad for her family," he said.

"She will still be a young woman when she gets out and hopefully she will get the help she needs so she can mend her relationship with her family."

He said forgiveness will come, eventually.

"More for our sake than hers," he said. "You can't carry all of this anger and vindictiveness around with you and heal."

Knox has remained free on \$50,000 personal recognizance bond and wears a tether. She was joined in court by her husband and had supporters at her side at one of the two pretrial hearings in recent weeks that were postponed due to Judge Chabot being ill.

Police said Knox engaged in communication via cell phone and e-mail before a sexual relationship began with the boy. She reportedly would call the boy's school, posing as his mother, and excuse him from school so they could meet. The relationship was discovered by the victim's parents, who then shared their concerns with authorities.

Knox's attorney, Michael McCarthy, could not be reached for comment.

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## Mall Claims to Know What You Want, Even if You Don't

Advertisement

By Drew Reed  
*Taubman Today*

North Pole — "It's better to give than to receive," the old saying goes. Now with Holiday Gift Guides found at Twelve Oaks Mall, giving is easier than ever. Everyone has a list this time of year. Large or small, there's no shame in admitting that you might not know exactly what the people on your list need or want this holiday season. With the Holiday Gift Guides, you can get gift suggestions for everyone on your list.

Mall shopper Nina Crawford said, "I have a few specific gift ideas, but, honestly, it's primarily a list of names. I've got this long-lost uncle that no longer is lost, and I need to buy him a gift this year. Until the Holiday Gift Guides arrived at Twelve Oaks Mall I was clueless." With separate Holiday Gift Guides for Moms, Dads, Kids and Teens, you'll be able to polish off most of your list with some of the most popular gifts of the season. But don't forget about the Holiday Gift Guides full of Stocking Stuffer Ideas, Unforgettable Gift Ideas and, definitely not least, the Holiday Gift Guides Under \$25, which is perfect for finding the always-necessary teacher gift, or perhaps the small gift for your dog walker.

### Gift Guides at a Glance

- Gift Ideas for Moms, Dads, Kids and Teens, Stocking Stuffers, Gifts Under \$25, and Once-in-a-Lifetime Gift Ideas
- FREE to all mall shoppers
- Conveniently located at multiple locations throughout Twelve Oaks Mall

[www.findyourgift.com](http://www.findyourgift.com)

Here's a look at the Gift Guide for Moms. "It comes down to convenience," says Mike Fetrow, General Director at Taubman Malls' agency. "We supported the Holiday Gift Guides as a relative from the get-go. It just makes sense." And that it does. The mall has seen a huge lift in customer happiness and satisfaction, which can be a hard thing to achieve around the holidays. Even with this year's long shopping season, anything to make the customer happy is always welcomed.

That happiness might also have something to do with the giant snow globe exhibit in "Celebrate the Holiday Season" exhibit. This year, the holiday exhibit is bigger than ever. Four giant snow globes surround Santa and his elves. The holiday to-do lists and party scheduling, it's a nice break from the stress of the holiday season. One of the most festive holiday experiences you can have is as a mall shopper as she left the mall on Friday afternoon. "My kids love seeing their neighbor's kids loved it. I even saw my husband crack a smile. Amazing." Families who visit Twelve Oaks Mall this holiday season can actually step inside the huge 20-foot snow globe where it's always snowing. After exiting the giant snow globe, kids can visit with Santa and then the whole family can have a photo taken right in a scene from Antarctica with the magic of green screen technology. Speaking of pictures, "The great holiday cards," claims one shopper at the mall last week. "The kids love it. It's just magical to see the look in their eyes as they see themselves standing in the snow of the North Pole." Green screen technology is the same method used on the evening news when the weather person is standing in front of a map. It looks like a giant green screen with special effects that make it possible to transport the person in the picture to one of two scenes from Antarctica. One family last week was seen leaving with multiple pictures. The mom was so impressed with the picture that she hoped to make a Christmas card for the entire family. "This one's going on the fridge for sure," said Jody Rowland, mall shopper. "Holiday photos are priceless and this one really tops off my holiday experience." She also used a few of the Holiday Gift Guides to polish off her naughty/nice list this year.

In closing, it is important to note that as an alternative to the traditional gift, the mall is also offering Gift Cards. "Not everyone wants to give a traditional wrapped gift in a box," says one shopper, "not to mention I have no idea what to get my brother this holiday season, so I figured, what the heck, I'll just get him a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card, that way he can get whatever he wants." It's definitely an easy way to holiday shop, and between the Gift Guides and Holiday Gift Cards, never again should anyone on your list go giftless.

### Stress Level of Holiday Gift Guide Users vs. Non-Users

SOURCE: [www.findyourgift.com](http://www.findyourgift.com)

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

NOVEMBER

**Book and bake sale**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 17-18, in the Fellowship Hall at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Everyone in the

community is welcome to attend. The Women of ELCA are sponsoring this sale as a fundraiser to assist Adults Saving Kids, a faith based organization dedicated to educating congregations and communities about sexual exploitation of young people in our country. For information, call (734) 420-9191.

SOUL

Students Of Upper Elementary Activity Night from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at St. Aidan Catholic Church Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile Road, Livonia. The theme is pirates. There is a best-dressed pirate prize. Pillage the free pizza and ice

cream. For fifth- and sixth-graders (feel free to bring a friend). No registration required. Contact David Conrad at (734) 425-5950.

Drum circle

7-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Whirlyball for singles

7-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at Whirly Ball West, 41540 Grand River and Meadowbrook, Novi. Tickets, 20 and must be purchased in advance. For details, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920.

Breakfast meeting

Monthly meeting for Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at Leon's Family Dining, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call (734) 513-9479.

Singles Thanksgiving dinner

6-11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at Kings Mill, Northville. No cost but pre-registrations is required. For details, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920.

Sacred music concert

Featuring Dalvin Taylor, pianist and recording artist, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at First Baptist Church

of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Road, Southfield. No charge, but a freewill offering will be received. For details, call (270) 796-9000 or visit www.calvin-taylormusic.org.

Sisterhood luncheon

For paid-up members of Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, Canton Harry Sturm will delight with a concert of traditional Jewish melodies. Members are requested to bring in new, unopened toiletries to be donated to a local charity. For information on membership or to RSVP, call (248) 477-8974.

Hanukkah gift shoppe

Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood Hanukkah/Judaic gift shop opens from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays beginning Nov. 19 and continues to Dec. 10. Selection includes holiday gift wrap, chocolate coins, dreidels, candles, electric and traditional menorahs and many Judaic gift items. Congregation Beit Kodesh is located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.

Thanksgiving choir festival

More than 100 voices will join in celebrating Thanksgiving with a music festival featuring choral anthems accompanied by brass, handbells and organ as well as an audience sing-along of familiar Thanksgiving hymns at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, one mile east of Beck, Plymouth. Participating choirs are from First United, Our Lady of Good Counsel, First Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal, and First Baptist. Brass players from the Plymouth Community Band led by Carl Battishill will add to the festivities. Admission is free but an offering will be received to benefit a local charity. Call (734) 453-5280.

Thanksgiving service

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Call (313) 255-6330.

Thanksgiving service

10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400. The church's traditional celebration features the Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Teen Choir and Children's Choir. Special presentation of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Childcare provided to age 4.

Lighthouse cafe

7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call (248) 374-5920.

Messiah

4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at the historic Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodbridge at Trowbridge, Detroit. The concert is performed by the Archdiocesan Chorus and orchestra. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at door. Call (313) 865-6300, ext. 227 or visit www.aod.online and click on calendar.

Blood drive

Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Call Carolyn Libeau at (734) 455-5395 to make an appointment of just drop in.

Christmas Hope tour

Featuring NewSong and Todd Agnew with special guest Rachel Lampa, also author Donna VanLiere Tuesday, Nov. 28, at Faith Lutheran Church, 37635 Dequindre, Troy. Tickets are \$18 advance, \$20 at door. Call (248) 627-5800 or (888) 627-5808.

Worship service

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

Bridging the holidays

A program designed to help families work through the holidays and special occasions without their loved one, includes a small memorial 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, at St. Cletus Catholic Church, 26256 Ryan, Warren.

Winter memorial 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Best Western Hotel, 16999 South Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Come to honor and celebrate the lives of your loved one. All programs are non-denominational. No charge. RSVP requested by Nov. 27, at (800) 770-9859. Refreshments provided.

UPCOMING

Monthly dance

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Dec. 2, at Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (east-bound I-96 service drive), east of Inkster, Redford. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Covenant Players

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3 during 10:30 a.m. service, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Please join us as we begin the Advent season. For information, call (313) 255-6330.

Crafters wanted

For the St. Thomas a' Becket Church Christmas Craft Show to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 555 S. Lilley, Canton. The church is accepting applications for handmade crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

Christmas craft show

Featuring more than 85 crafters 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. Thomas a' Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Admission is \$2, under age 12 free. Bake sale and lunch available. Call (734) 981-1333.

Christmas music

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m. Dec. 3, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For details, call (248) 374-7400. Through Scripture and beautiful music, this quiet and reflective candlelight service will help prepare your heart for Christmas. Childcare provided to age 4. No charge.

Vespers and Nativity concert

Sponsored by the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, 19600 Ford Road, Dearborn. The evening begins with a Vespers service concelebrated by priests from COCC member churches and sung by the COCC's Inter-Orthodox Choir. Following the service, the choir will sing a concert of Orthodox liturgical and para-liturgical music for the Nativity season and selected Eastern and Western European Advent and Christmas carols. The story of St. Nicholas and gifts for children will follow the concert. Refreshments will be served. The evening is free of charge and open to the public. A nut and poppyseed roll will be collected. For more information, call (313) 366-0677 or send e-mail to KopistianskyVickie@sbcglobal.net.

The evening is free of charge and open to the public. A nut and poppyseed roll will be collected. For more information, call (313) 366-0677 or send e-mail to KopistianskyVickie@sbcglobal.net.

Traditions of Christmas

Multi-event open house with carols, stories, musical performances, model train layouts, cookie decorating, crafts, displays, film, and the Best Christmas Pageant Ever 3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. A gift to the community. No tickets, donations or reservations necessary. Call (248) 644-2040.

Cookie walk

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 13th Annual Cookie Walk takes place Saturday, Dec. 9, at 36075 W. Seven Mile, 3/4 mile east of Newburgh on south side of street, Livonia. Doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until we are sold out. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and over 50 different varieties of ethnic (kiefie, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia, biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale.

Christmas cookie walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound.

Christmas music

Christmas Jazz Vespers Service 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400. Jazz in the Spirit from First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, will present a musical, poetic and prayer filled worship experience. Childcare provided to age 4. No charge.

25th annual concert

St. Aidan Catholic Church presents its 25th annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission is \$5 plus 200 non-perishable food items. Proceeds go to Christmas Baskets prepared by St. Aidan Christian Service Commission.

Bible-based ESL classes

Mondays 7-8:30 p.m. Registration: Dec. 11 and 18 (classes closed after that), at First Baptist Church of Farmington, 33400 Shiawassee. Call (248) 474-0350 ext. 222. Open to adults 18 and over. Book fee only.

A family covenant

A new production with drama skits, music, dancing, a 150-voice choir, flying characters, big screen video, kids dream scene and more 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, and 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 18-19, at Detroit World Outreach, 23800 West Chicago, Redford. Tickets are \$5, children under age 3 are free, groups of 10 or more are \$3.50 per person. For more information, call (313) 255-2222, ext. 236 or visit www.dwo.org.

Singles New Year's Eve

Catholic Singles New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance catering to singles in their 30s, 40s and 50s 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31. For tickets and information, visit www.CatholicSinglesNYE.com or call Kathleen at (734) 657-7750.

Education pilgrimage

The third annual education pilgrimage of faith and hope to El Salvador is being organized by our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth, assisted by CRISPACZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador). The pilgrimage will take place from Feb. 11-18, 2007. This is an intensive learning experience with special emphasis given to the voice and experience of the poor and marginalized. You will visit martyr sites, grassroots organizations, a rural community, and hear speakers on the history, politics, and economy of El Salvador. For details, call coordinator Richard Dahike at (734) 455-6474.

# Massages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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CLEMENT R. "CLEM" SMALL

Age 81, of Clear Lake, WI., passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer at his home surrounded by family on November 8, 2006. Clement Robert Small was born on March 23, 1925, in Libertyville, IL., the son of Lulu Mae & George Small. Clem served in the Army in the China-Burma-India Theater during WWII. He married Elaine Mattson in 1951. He retired from the City of Livonia in 1986, moving to Bruce Crossing, MI. He later moved in 1999 to Clear Lake, WI. He is survived by his wife Elaine; sister Ruth (Maurice) Felgar and Lou Small (brother) both of Libertyville, IL.; son Steven of Story, WI.; daughter Sally (Earl) Langlois of Clayton, WI; and two grandchildren Nyssa and Patrick Langlois. Services were held on November 11, 2006 at the Clear Lake United Methodist Church and a spring burial will follow in Bruce Crossing, MI.

DANIEL SZYMON BIBIK

72, November 13, 2006, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Maxine for 45 years. Loving father of David (Kimberly), Matthew (Renee), Marguerite (Chris) Johnson, Katherine (Robert) Berger and Elizabeth. Dear brother of Leonard, Raymond, Martha Cesare. Loving grandfather of Thaddeus, Jacob, Michael, Kody, Rebecca, Chynne, Amanda and Aaron. Funeral Service Thursday, November 16th, 11:30 am, at the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btwn 9-10 Miles Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes suggested to Angela Hospice. heenev-sundquist.com

DOLORES MCCARTHY

Of Lake Leelanau, died Monday, November 13, 2006 at her home surrounded by her loving family. Dolores was born Nov. 17, 1929 in Elwood, Indiana, the daughter of Melford and Bertha (Behr) McCann. On Nov. 16, 1951 in Bloomington, Indiana, she married her loving husband of fifty-four years, Charles Francis McCarthy who survives. For many years, Dolores worked in the Birmingham school system and was a teacher in the Great Books Program. She and Charles made their home in the Detroit area for many years prior to moving to Lake Leelanau in 1985. Dolores' love was reading, entertaining, music and her family. She cherished the time she spent with her family and was always there to provide sage advice. She was the songbird at social and family gatherings, with a voice as beautiful as a bird in flight. Our Angel's voice is silent now but will sing in our hearts forever. Dolores is survived by her husband, Charles; three sons, Michael (Christine Koch) McCarthy of Birmingham, Daniel McCarthy of Grand Rapids, Patrick (Lou Ann) McCarthy of Santa Fe, TN; a brother, Robert McCann of Winston Salem, NC; son-in-law, Linus Couturier of Lake Leelanau; six grand children, Ashley Couturier of Lake Leelanau, Colleen and Dellen McCarthy of Santa Fe, TN, Mitehell, Hayden and Lillian McCarthy of Grand Rapids, she is also survived by her extended family Jane Marcinkowski and Tricia Hawthorne. She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Betty Lou Wilsey and a daughter, Lesley Ann McCarthy. Visitation will be held Friday, Nov. 17 from 4-7pm at the Martinson Funeral Home of Suttons Bay. A committal service will be held Saturday, Nov. 18, at 11am, also at the funeral home. A procession to and burial in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Lake Leelanau will follow the committal service. The Rev. Michael Janowski will serve as celebrant. Memorial contributions may be directed to the American Lung Association, Development Office, 25900 Greenfield Rd., Ste. 401, Oak Park, MI 48237; Leukemia Lymphoma Society, 1020 Hastings St., Ste. 105, Traverse City, MI 49686 and/or to Munson Hospice House, 1105 Sixth St., Traverse City, MI 49684. Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home of Suttons Bay, 1-877-271-3441



DONALD W. REAMY

Age 77, of White Lake, MI, passed away 11-14-06. Survived by brother, Leland and nieces and nephews of three brothers. Previously preceded by brothers, Ralph and Howard. Donald worked at Cass Elementary School, Livonia, MI for over 20 years. Services at Elton Black & Son's Funeral Home, White Lake, MI Monday, Nov. 20, 2006 at 7pm.

ELEANORE M. ARNISON

of Plymouth, died November 14, 2006, at Chelsea Retirement Center in Chelsea, Michigan. Eleanore was born November 4, 1913, in the state of Washington to the Rev. Fredrick E. Stern and Lydia N. Pieper Stern. The family later moved to Michigan where she married Leonard W. Arnison on November 4, 1938. A long-time resident of Plymouth, Eleanore was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church for over 50 years. Her love of traveling took her to many places around the world including Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Hawaii, Europe, and at age 86 she took an Alaskan cruise. Eleanore loved her garden and spent many happy hours there. A lifelong student, her interests included history, languages, and literature, as well as a love of classical music. Eleanore worked for the State of Michigan as a medical secretary at the former Plymouth State Home until her retirement in 1978, and for many years volunteered her time transcribing books to Braille for the Tri-County Braille Volunteers. Other volunteer activities included driving senior citizens to medical appointments for FISH. Eleanore is survived by her three daughters, Nancy Possley, Christine Arnison, and Martha (Donald) LeCom; two granddaughters, Jennifer Possley and Melissa (Scott) Taylor, both of Florida; and three great-grandchildren, Marc, Logan, and Lily Taylor. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard. Viewing will be at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth on Thursday November 16, from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm. A memorial service will be held Friday, 3pm, in the chapel at Towsley Village, Chelsea Retirement Center, in Chelsea. Call Schrader-Howell Funeral Home at 734-453-3333 for information.



In Loving Memory of RALPH ALLAN SITTLER SR.

Dec. 1, 1932 - Nov. 20, 1996  
Forever in our hearts and prayers. We love you and miss you.  
Husband to Marilyn. Father to Ralph Jr. (Jean) Sittler, Margaret Drais, Therese (Mark) Oller, Anne (Todd) Meadows, John (Pamela) Sittler, Thomas (Marisa) Sittler, Karl (Theresa) Sittler, Stephen (Stephanie) Sittler, Karen (John Jr.) Currey, Kurt (Kelly) Sittler, Erich Sittler. Grandfather to April (William II) Sziaga, Sarah Sittler, Ralph Sittler III, Katherine Drais, Jennifer (Paul) Lopez, Matthew Oller, Elizabeth Oller, Thomas Buck III, Jeffrey Jacobson Jr., Brandon Meadows, Ivy Sittler, Catherine Sittler, Vincent Sittler, Melissa Sittler, Andrew Sittler, Amanda Sittler, Rachel Sittler, Rebecca Sittler, Karl Sittler Jr., Emily Sittler, Jacob Currey, Nicole Currey, Carolin Currey, Madeline Currey, Megan Currey, Lillian Currey, Ryan Lynch, Curtis Sittler. Great Grandfather to Quintin Sziaga, Maguire Sziaga, Ethan Sittler, Willow Gurney. A remembrance mass will be held at 9:30 AM November 19, 2006, St. Aidan's Church of Livonia, Michigan

JAMES W. ROWLAND

Passed away on November 13, 2006, at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak following a long illness.  
Husband of the late Margaret E. Rowland for 50 years. She passed away in 1993. Father of Wendy (Stephen) Gatchie of Jamestown, OH, Ellen (Scott) Manint of Palantine, IL, and Mark D. (Frankie) Rowland of Ossining, NY. Grandfather of Katie, Leigh, Amie, and Melissa. He graduated from Cranbrook School, attended Wesleyan University in Ohio and received his degree in Law at the University of Detroit. Lifetime resident of Birmingham. Attorney with office in Troy, being awarded the distinction by The State Board of Michigan "50 years plus". His college was delayed during WWII. Jim served in the Army of the United States for years in the Pacific Theater of Operations as a Navigator aboard a four engine Liberator Bomber. He belonged to The First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, Rotary Club of Birmingham, Michigan Bar Association, and Canadian Creek Ranch (fun place near Atlanta, MI). Funeral service at The Wm. R. Hamilton Co., 820 E. Maple, Birmingham on Thursday, November 16, 2006, at 11:00 AM with Reverend Dr. Carl Price officiating. Interment White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, Troy. Memorial tributes may be made to The Salvation Army.

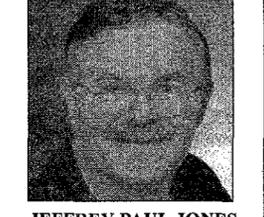
JACQUELYN E. TROUTMAN

Age 78, a lifelong resident of Plymouth, passed away peacefully on November 10, 2006. She was born September 10, 1928, in Detroit, Michigan, to John and Lucille (Cook) Dalton. She was united in marriage to Harvey on June 22, 1974, until his death in 1990. Mrs. Troutman received her BA from Michigan State University in Food and Nutrition and her MA in Instructional Media Technology. She was a teacher for Plymouth High School and Middle School. She was also an author, even publishing her latest book. Jacquelyn was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. She was also a member of the Home Economics Association and Retired Teachers Association. She enjoyed writing, swimming, and being a world traveler. She was involved in many charitable organizations. Survivors include her children, David J. Johnson, Matthew A. Johnson, Meg Sliwinski, and Anne D. Johnson; her step-children, David, Daniel, Dana, and Debbie; 18 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. Rev. James Skimins and Rev. Emily Campbell officiated the service. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the Christian Children's Fund, PO Box 26507, Richmond, VA 23261. Arrangements entrusted to Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.



JANE A BARRETT

Age 83 of Livonia. Born July, 1923 - Died November 8, 2006. Loving mother of Sandra, Paul and Suzanne. Predeceased by son, Gregory. Grandmother of E.J., Jessica, Adam, Eric, Elizabeth, Tony & Jesse. Great-grandmother of Mason & Camden. Loving sister of Lloyd Wallace. Her love, laughter, hugs & kisses will be missed by all who knew her. Family and friends will honor her life at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at Praise Chapel, 34645 Cowan Rd., Westland.



JEFFREY PAUL JONES

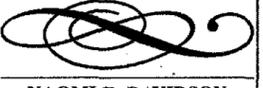
Nov. 13, 2006 of Plymouth, age 59. Beloved husband, loving father and grandfather, he was a hero to his family. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, December 15, 1946, the third child of Robert and Mary Jones. Jeff graduated from Stepiac High School in White Plains, NY in 1964. He earned his BS, MS, and MBA from the University of Detroit. He was active in Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity, serving as his chapter's President and Pledge Master. Jeff worked as an engineer and a supervisor for Ford Motor Company, and then Visteon, for 36 years. He was an active volunteer with the Plymouth, Michigan Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Jan; son Ralph Jones (Marietta), daughter Rachel Smith (Paul), grandchildren Luka and Niko Jones, sisters Sheila Reagan and Molly Jones, brother R. Michael Jones, and maternal uncle Paul Burd. He is predeceased by a brother, Christopher Jones. Service Saturday 11:00 a.m. at Plymouth Salvation Army 9451 South Main, Plymouth. Visitation Friday 5-8 p.m. at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Memorial contributions to the Salvation Army or Karmanos Cancer Institute would be appreciated. To leave a message of condolence for the family go to: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

LOUIS J. LAVIGNE SR.

Louis died peacefully in Orinda Convalescent Hospital, Orinda, CA, on November 8, 2006 at the age of 89. A native of Michigan, he moved with his wife Shirley, to Antioch, CA in August 1995. Louis was born July 4, 1917 in Cheboygan, MI, and graduated from Cheboygan High School, and Chillicothe Business College. Louis was a retired banker. He became a major in the U.S. Army during World War II. His banking career began at Citizens National Bank upon his return to his hometown of Cheboygan, MI, in 1945. He left his executive Vice President position at Citizens to become President of Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington, MI. The last position held in his banking career was as assistant Vice President of Mortgage at Manufacturers Bank of Southfield. He is survived by his beloved wife, Shirley, son Louis Jr. and daughter-in-law Shelley, daughter Cara and son-in-law Andy. He was Grandpoo to Stephanie and Gordon, Great Grandpoo to Zachary, Benjamin, Max, Emily and Jack. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to Macular Degeneration Research, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871 or to Alzheimer's Association, 2065 W. El Camino Real, Suite C, Mountain View, CA 94040.

MARY-JO HEWITT

Age 73, died in Miami, FL, on October 24, 2006. Mary-Jo grew up in Philadelphia, PA., lived most of her adult life in Livonia and Plymouth, MI., moving to Miami in 2001. She is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Janet Hewitt of Lexington, KY, and Cynthia Hewitt and Fritz Hayes of Miami, as well as many family members and friends. Mary-Jo was known for her compassion and willingness to help others, which she continued after her death by donating her body to the University of Miami Medical School. She established a scholarship fund at the University of Michigan-Dearborn to provide women in need the opportunity to go to college to obtain the necessary skills to become economically empowered. Memorial donations may be sent to University of Michigan-Dearborn, Institutional Advancement, 4901 Evergreen Rd. 1040AB, Dearborn, MI., 48128-1491. Checks should be made out to "UN-D" and note "Hewitt Scholarship." A memorial service will be held in Miami on January 21, 2007.



NAOMI E. DAVIDSON

Age 88, November 12, 2006, after a long illness, preceded in death by her loving and beloved husband Russell W., beloved mother of Russell W. Jr. (Lorraine), Douglas D. (Susan), Donna W. Taylor (Ron), Charles G. (JoAnn); loving grandmother of Lisa Piontek (Michael), Robert Hammond (Ann), Laura Kancierz (David), Richard Hammond (Lisa), Russell W. Davidson III (Tanya), Christopher O. Davidson (Julia); and nine great-grandchildren. A private memorial is scheduled. Funeral arrangements by the Harry J. Will Funeral Home-Redford

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The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines: Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday  
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e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

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# Light rail off track for Ann Arbor-Detroit transit

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

A light rail system connecting Ann Arbor, Metro Airport and Detroit is not a viable mass transit system for that corridor, according to a report released last week by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments or SEMCOG.

Carmine Palombo, SEMCOG director of transportation programs, said light rail was prohibitively expensive for the expected ridership, with capital costs estimated as between \$2.4 billion and \$2.9 billion.

Palombo presented five mass transit alternatives Nov. 8:

- A bus route along Michigan Avenue
- A bus route along I-94 and Michigan Avenue
- A commuter train route along Norfolk Southern Michigan railroad tracks
- A commuter train route along Norfolk Southern Detroit Division railroad tracks
- Light rail along Michigan Avenue

Palombo said bus and standard train options were still on the table, though probably with changes to lower the cost estimates.

"I don't want to prejudice," Palombo said in an interview Tuesday. "Buses give you flexibility, decent ridership. But buses have the same problems as other options in that we had designed Cadillacs, if you will, now we're going back and designing a system more in line with use."

Daily ridership estimates for the alternatives range from 611 on one of the commuter train routes to nearly 6,000 on the bus route on Michigan Avenue. The lowest capital investment would be for a commuter train route on existing track.

### DESIGN OPTIONS

Meg Owens, executive director of Transportation Riders United, a mass transit advocacy group, said the cost estimates seemed high compared to previous estimates and what was found in studies in other cities. "We are disappointed and frustrated that they didn't release a more detailed report. They put out numbers, but not what was behind them," she said.

ANN ARBOR - DETROIT TRANSIT OPTIONS							
Goals/Measures		TSM	Bus Michigan Ave.	Bus I-94 Michigan Ave.	Commuter Train Line 1	Commuter Train Line 2	Light Rail Michigan Ave.
Daily transit trips using alternative		6,200	5,800	3,200	2,100	600	3,400
Capital cost (\$Million)	Low	\$43	\$879	\$918	\$618	\$1,107	\$2,641
	High		\$969	\$964	\$1,474	\$1,432	\$2,870
Total annual operating and maintenance costs (\$Million)	Low	\$25	\$23	\$26	\$93	\$35	\$54
	High		\$24	\$27	\$111	\$42	\$59

SOURCE: SEMCOG Ann Arbor-Downtown Detroit AA/DEIS Transit Study

This chart compares the five transit options studied by SEMCOG for the Ann Arbor-Detroit corridor. The TSM is the baseline alternative used to compare the five plans. The costs figures are in millions.

### 3 PUBLIC HEARINGS SET

Three public meetings will be held on the five rapid transit alternatives in the Ann Arbor to Detroit corridor:

- 4:30-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, Washtenaw Community College (Morris Lawrence Building, Room 103), 4800 E. Huron Drive, Ann Arbor.
- 4:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, The Fairlane Club (Dining Room D), 5000 Fairlane Woods Drive, Dearborn.
- 4:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, SEMCOG offices in the Buhl Building, 535 Griswold, Suite 300 (Ambassador Room), Detroit.

Comments can also be sent to SEMCOG Information Services (535 Griswold, Suite 300, Detroit, MI 48226) or e-mail [infoservices@semcog.org](mailto:infoservices@semcog.org). The deadline for comments is Dec. 31.

Palombo said they will be going back and designing options that are less costly. He said they had considered buses running on their own rights of way and trains with separate tracks.

"Now we're thinking about building a couple of sidings so we don't have conflicts with freight trains in the same corridor and maybe not as many trains. We were looking at 20 trains a day, but we'll come back and reduce service," he said.

Owens said she agreed with

the decision on light rail.

"We've said it's not appropriate for a route like this," she said.

The 48-mile proposed light rail route would travel through some lightly populated areas. Owens said light rail made more sense along the more densely populated Woodward corridor, which serves many communities between Detroit and Pontiac.

Owens said she favors commuter trains.

"With buses, they run on the same roads and highways as the rest of traffic," she said. "If there's an accident, they'll be stopped with everyone else. Also, many people have a negative perception of buses. It would be great if people would get over it. But a train, a lot of people have been to Chicago, (Washington) D.C. or Dallas that have light rail or trains and they see that as a viable option."

She said residential developments form around train stations, which are fixed as opposed to bus stops that can be moved.

### NEXT STEPS

SEMCOG will hold three meetings to gather public comment. Palombo said that in addition to looking at more cost-effective options, SEMCOG would like to set up some trials to see how the options would work.

"We're meeting with Amtrak

on the train side, looking at starting up a service and see what the costs would be, put it out for a period of time and see if people will use it," he said.

The only mass transit between Ann Arbor and Detroit is the Greyhound Bus Service, Palombo said.

"We'll be meeting with the Ann Arbor Transit Authority, SMART and DDOT to get a bus and see if we could work with the three bus services to get a bus service in the corridor," he said.

Palombo said the study was done under a process created by the Federal Transit Administration. The study was not funded by the \$100 million federal design/construction grant awarded to southeast Michigan pending results of preliminary studies. The area is competing with projects in other parts of the country for release of the funds.

"We can't apply to access those dollars until we complete this and another phase," Palombo said.

He said they have received other federal funding through the congressional delegation.

Palombo is optimistic about developing mass transit along the corridor, though he has heard many people ask whether it's still possible to have mass transit in Detroit.

"The way things have developed, I can understand, but a lot of other areas have similar situations and we still have projects approved that have had an impact on where development goes," he said.

# Wild cougars are on the prowl in Michigan

"Face the animal and do not act submissive. Stand tall, wave your arms and talk in a loud voice. Never run from a cougar or other large carnivore. If children are present, pick them up so they cannot run."

And then this warm and fuzzy: "If attacked, fight back with whatever is available. Do not play dead." Those Michigan DNR statements were released on the Oct. 10.

Information and knowledge — even unnerving information — is the best weapon we have to avoid wildlife-human conflicts, even conflicts that are highly unlikely.

Fact of the matter, on the Oct. 27, Michigan DNR Director Rebecca Humphries announced, "The DNR recognizes the potential for the presence of cougars is alarming to many Michigan citizens. Providing information about cougars on our Web site ([www.michigan.gov/dnr-cougars](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-cougars)) is an important first step in educating the public. We encourage people to visit this Web site if they have any questions about cougars."

Her statement was a long time coming.

Cougars? In Michigan?

With all the election rhetoric the DNR cougar announcement was all but lost by the media. But bit by bit, evidence — some scientific, some anecdotal — trickled in, lending credence to a belief long held by many that the cougar, once extirpated (or so we thought) from the Midwest has returned, and some of these very big cats are using Michigan as their kitty litter box — and food bowl.

But before you grab the kids and panic, keep your perspective. You face greater dangers from everyday life: Try talking on a cell phone while driving. You wouldn't do that! And domestic dogs kill 18 people a year in the U.S., but in the last 113 years, cougars have killed only 13 people. And it's deer, not cougars that kill more than 100 humans a year across America. If you enjoy fast food "heart-blockers," that's even a bigger risk to end your days. Want real risk? Try spring ice fishing on Lake St. Clair.

With that aside, pay heed to



Michigan Naturally

Jonathan Schechter

the words of the Canadian Wildlife Service, for Parks Canada just confirmed the presence of free-roaming wild cougars in Quebec.

"The cougar has the most extensive range of any terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere. It stalks its prey to within two or three great leaps, then launches a lightning-fast charge. The cougar is extremely elusive and a master of camouflage."

Cougar is just another name for a mountain lion or puma and if you type your way into the new DNR link, you'll find solid factual information to keep you from being befuddled over the greatest wild feline to stalk our woods, along with a cougar reporting form. (I am not suggesting Oakland County hosts a single cougar — or has even been a pathway for this great cat — but I once said that about coyotes. And they are now here.)

The Cougar Network ([www.cougarnet.org](http://www.cougarnet.org)) states cougars are expanding their range from rugged undeveloped areas into more human-dominated landscapes. And, of course, there is the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy — long feuding with the DNR — proclaiming cougars living and breeding in our midst and even reporting cougars in Oakland.

Go to its Web site ([www.miwildlife.org](http://www.miwildlife.org)) for a look back at the long-simmering controversy and you will also find, "You will probably never see a cougar, even from a distance, let alone encounter one up close. Cougar attacks on humans are even less likely."

Michigan: cougar country! Nature always finds a way. And sometimes that way is fang and claw and the resulting fear of beasts in our woods and their shadows in our minds.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way in Michigan.

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**Finally, a card college students can't tax out**

By Drew Reed  
Taubman Today

Gift Cards taking local mall by storm. [www.findyourgo.com](http://www.findyourgo.com)

It's true. Some college students have trouble with credit card spending. For the holidays you can give them a card that can't go over the limit. Once dubbed the last-minute gift option, Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Cards are shipping lists nationwide. "If you're not sure what they want (or you're short on time), Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card is one of your best options," said the mall manager.

Hailed as the king of options, Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Cards allow the receiver to choose whatever they want from almost any store in the mall. Perfect for any occasion, a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card allows users to choose exactly what they need (or want) from hundreds of first-class retail stores.

Admittedly, Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Cards are not always the best gift option. For instance, if you've recently had a spat with your significant other and you show up on Christmas morn armed with a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card, you might be in a bit of trouble. In that particular case, it might be better to reference the corresponding Twelve Oaks Holiday Gift Guides for gift ideas with a tad more "tree presence." There are Gift Guides for nearly every type of person on your list this year. From Holiday Gift Guides for Moms, Dads, Kids and Teens

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SOURCE: [www.findyourgo.com](http://www.findyourgo.com)

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Fun-loving, attractive SWF, 70, 5'5", 135lbs, blonde, retired, N/S, seeks well-groomed WM, 65-72, N/S, to share life, romance, and possible relationship. ☎891247

**WHY WAIT?**  
Down-to-earth, fun-loving SBF, 38, mom, brown complexion, medium-length hair, 5'4", full-figured, great personality, D/D-free, likes dancing, cooking, relaxing at home watching movies etc. Seeking compatible man to share some fun. ☎130211

**TRUE FRIENDSHIP**  
WIAF, 62, 5', 100lbs, enjoys gardening, dogs, cats, cooking, dining out, travel. Seeking kind, caring, honest, SW/M, 55-70, slim, with understanding of asian culture, for friendship first, maybe more later. ☎139934

**IS IT YOU?**  
SWF, 56, tall, trim, seeks hard-working or retired, conservative SWM, 51-65, with good values, educated, no tattoos, drugs, or games please. ☎138981

**FRIENDS FIRST**  
WIAF, 68, 5'6", 145lbs, healthy, honest, happy, likes comedy films, country cooking. Looking for outdoorsy, active man affectionate and warm-hearted, to share the good things in life. ☎139719

**SHALL WE DANCE?**  
I am a SBF, 58, 5'3", 170lbs, attractive, intelligent, creative, articulate, seeks SWM, 57-73, who is kind-hearted, articulate, who enjoys dancing, walking, traveling, movies, dining out. ☎612098

**SOMEONE SPECIAL**  
SBF, N/S, 18, 5'9", thick, seeks sweet, outgoing, honest, respectful, open-minded man, 18-25, for friendship, and more. ☎140694

**WANTED: TALL, CLASSY MALE**  
I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. ☎982305

**MADE TO ORDER**  
SWF, 52, attractive, Pisces, N/S, nice, educated, secure, fun, enjoys sporting events, movies, camping, travel, theater, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S possible romance. ☎939487

**FORMER MODEL**  
SWF, 50, 5'6", slender, intelligence, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share this interests and more. ☎500106

**LOOKING FOR YOU**  
Attractive SWF, Catholic, 59, N/S, 5'6", good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who enjoys golf, movies, theater, dining, long walks, church, and much more. ☎124235

**ALL OF ME**  
SWF, 50, 5'10", big beautiful woman, 300+ pounds, easygoing, N/S, light drinker, enjoys nights out or in. ISO loving, happy, commitment-minded man to share a happy, lasting, loving relationship. ☎956929

**IS IT YOU?**  
Bright SBF, 18, full-figured, confident, independent, enjoys cooking, shopping, friends. ISO nice, honest respectful guy intelligent, motivated, goal-oriented who likes having fun, sports, good talk. Friendship first. ☎135256

**WANTED: KIND-HEARTED WOMAN**  
SWF, 38, full-figured 5'8", seeks SWF, 25-50, who loves animals, parks, books, movies and music, someone kind-hearted, good-humored and outgoing, for a real friendship first. ☎136879

**BROWN SUGAR**  
Sexy SBF, 49, N/S, likes church, going out, parks, movies, concerts, seeks man, 45-65, for quiet times, and more. ☎138528

**ARE YOU THE ONE 4 ME?**  
SF, 29, loves family, the outdoors, cooking, people, more. Looking for bright, level-headed, goal-oriented, family-oriented man w/big heart and open mind to share life and all its little adventures. ☎139414

**BIG GIRLS NEED LUV**  
SBF, 31, marriage-minded, N/S, romantic, seeks man, 25-58, likes children, having fun, for friendship, maybe more. ☎140252

**FIND ME**  
Attractive SAF, 49, N/S, 5'3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, and more. ☎113901

**COULD IT BE YOU?**  
SWF, 45, looks younger, blonde/blue, 117lbs, employed, independent, secure, loves animals, kids, N/S, social drinker, enjoys listening to music, just having fun. Seeking open-minded, honest, dependable man into the same. ☎130599

**FRIENDS FIRST**  
SBF, 37, 5'6", black/brown, easygoing, Aries, N/S, enjoys bike riding, long walks, travel, and cooking. Seeking WM, 30-50, N/S, for fun. ☎933970

**ONE GOOD WOMAN**  
BBW, SWF, attractive, compassionate, down-to-earth. Enjoys movies, comedies, long walks, romantic evenings and more. Seeking employed SM, 38-55, to do and share things together. Must like pets. ☎947175

**WHERE ARE YOU?**  
Very attractive, sexy SBPF, 35, 5'2", medium build, enjoys dining out, jazz, plays, ISO SBM, 40-52, commitment-minded and sincere, for LTR. ☎950732

**SINGLE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN**  
SWPF, 45, 5'9", average build, educated, Capricorn, N/S, loves golf, reading, gardening, dining out, movies, seeks SWPM, 38-55, N/S, similar interests, for LTR. ☎983176

**GORGEOUS**  
SWF, 39, 5', attractive, average build, dark/blue, Pisces, N/S, outgoing, fun-loving, seeks WM, 35-53, N/S, for LTR. ☎112039

**TAKE A CHANCE**  
SWF, 37, likes motorcycles, movies, Star Wars, seeks WM, 34-35, N/S, with similar interests, for friendship, and more. ☎114057

**LOOKING FOR ME?**  
Hard-working, affectionate SAF, 47, 5'11", 95lbs, very clean, N/S, N/D, loving and fun, seeks independent, responsible, respectful, secure man, 45-50, to share the special times in life. ☎113534

**SEEKING SOMETHING NEW**  
Down to earth, attractive SBF, 36, N/S, 5'7", professional, enjoys movies, dining out, shopping, traveling, seeks WM, 35-55, N/S, for friendship first, possibly more. ☎123659

**SEEKING FRIENDSHIP**  
SBF, young 60s, w/good morals, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 150lbs, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, clean, honest living, party retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 60-60, race open. ☎134425

**LOOKING FOR ME?**  
Energetic SBPF, 52, N/S, attractive, educated, sociable, 5'7", 170lbs, enjoys movies, reading, concerts, theater, dining, travel, trying new things. ISO intelligent, spontaneous, active gentleman, N/S, to share these. Let's talk ☎135517

**AWAITING YOUR CALL**  
Caring, conservative WIAF, 55, blonde/blue, wears glasses, enjoys reading, music, movies, travel, museums, animals, quiet evenings home. Seeking animal-friendly, good-hearted, affectionate guy to share special times. ☎137067

**SOULMATE SEARCH**  
Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. ☎589975

**PETITE & SEXY...**  
SBF sensitive, affectionate, loving, 51, looks 35, 5'1", 105lbs, N/S, Seeking healthy SBM, 5'10"-6'1", to work out with. ☎912553

**LOVES BOATING**  
SWF, 66, 5'6", Aries, N/S, loves dancing and dining out. Seeking WM, 60-71, N/S, with sense of humor, for friendship, possible romance. ☎890004

**COULD YOU BE THE ONE?**  
Loving, youthful SBF, 57, trim, shapely, very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, festivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more. Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. ☎121526

**LOVELY AND LOVING**  
Attractive 52-year-old, blonde/green, 5'5", nice figure, romantic, wanting to meet a very romantic, affectionate SM, 42-52, who will treat her like a queen. ☎617628

**FUN-LOVING**  
SBF, 22, N/S, likes shopping, going out, quality time, seeks BM, 21-26, N/S, for friendship, possibly more. ☎132713

**IN SEARCH OF**  
Optimistic, healthy WIAF, 68, sense of humor, healthy, honest, N/S, great listener, loves to travel. Seeking special man, healthy, N/S, N/D, with a sense of humor. ☎765933

**LOOKING FOR YOU**  
SF, 33, 5'4", 140lbs, mother, caramel complexion, brown eyes, enjoys music, chilling w/friends, home-cooking. Looking for an intelligent, down-to-earth, honest, child-friendly man to share talks, good times and maybe more. ☎134568

**REFINED AND FULL OF LIFE**  
Very attractive blonde, fit, energetic and happy, professionally employed, very youthful 60s, 5'3", trim and shapely, enjoys dining, travel, dancing, theater, family and friends. Seeking honest, serious, sports, seeks WM, grad, N/S, with youthful passion for life. Serious replies only. ☎652360

**ARE YOU THE ONE?**  
SF, 25, 5'7", shoulder-length medium blonde hair, bright green eyes, outgoing, fun, loves fitness, outdoors, boating, cycling, camping, concerts, auto racing. Seeking active, fit, caring man who appreciates the same. ☎953694

**LET'S ENJOY LIFE**  
Female, 51, 138lbs, seeks independent, respectful male, 45-52, D/D free, who likes outdoors, walks, movies, for LTR. ☎987475

**LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN**  
Attractive, professional, educated W/F, 55, 5'2", slim, N/S, interest includes movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family ties. Seeking WM, 48-55, HWP for lasting, loving LTR. ☎973365

**POSSIBLE LTR**  
SWPF, 57, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks WPM, 55-61, N/S, educated, healthy, humorous, possible LTR. ☎939381

**GREAT CATCH**  
Attractive, youthful widow, 68, 5'3", 135lbs, brunette/brown, shapely, N/S seeks WM, 55-70, prefers N/S, in Livingston county or Oakland county areas for LTR, variety of interests. Seeks relationship/companionship and more. ☎111193

**59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR**  
Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, caucasian gentleman, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. ☎92074

**MR. RIGHT, ARE YOU THERE?**  
SWF, 56, 5', HWP easygoing, dependable, reliable, Taurus, N/S, social drinker, likes computers, nascar, casinos, sports, seeks WM, 46-56, for friendship, and more. ☎112612

**SEEKING A LADY?**  
SBF, 56, 5'4", 110lbs, slim build, Seggitaris, smoker, honest, sincere, retired, enjoys movies, concerts, travel, park walks, seeks man, 45-70, similar, for friendship, possible romance. ☎118410

**FAMILY-ORIENTED**  
Beautiful, shapely SBF, 34, 5'4", likes reading, long walks, working out, movies, plays, concerts, spontaneous trips, traveling, seeks patient, understanding BM, 34-46, N/S, with similar interests. ☎123905

**TAKE ME GOLFING**  
Tidy SWF, 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. Seeking golfer, best friend, confidante, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a must to make a relationship work. ☎976914

**HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU**  
Easygoing SWF, 57, CNA, N/S, N/D, enjoys talks, togetherness, day trips, soft rock, ISO loving Christian man, N/S, N/D, w/children ok, to share talks, dates, simple times, then who knows? ☎128925

**WORTH YOUR TIME**  
SF, 66, pretty eyes, warm smile, charismatic, loves R&B, soul/jazz. Looking for a kind man to share the special moments in life. ☎132238

**I LISTEN WITH MY HEART**  
Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no games WM, 45+, N/S, for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them fly. ☎639272

### MEN SEEKING WOMEN

**NEW TO AREA**  
SWM, 36, 6'5", athletic build, dark blond/blue, enjoys sports, outdoors, music, movies, cooking and more. Seeking creative, fun lady with an open mind and heart to share friendship and fun. ☎140890

**THE FINER THINGS**  
SBM, 40, 5'11", average build, likes sports, theater, movies, parks, seeks energetic, open-minded, sincere woman, 25-65, for friendship, possible romance. ☎141614

**JOIN ME**  
SWM, 38, looks younger, active, open-minded, honest, respectful, health-conscious, goal-oriented. I enjoy cuddling, family time, sports, festivals, running, etc. ISO SWF, 35-42, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎140569

**SERIOUS**  
SWM, 71, N/S, widowed, 5'8", 150lbs, young at heart, enjoys outdoors, cooking, dining out, travelling, seeks slim, petite female, 62-70, N/S. ☎118483

**TRUE GENTLEMAN**  
SBM, 52, 5'8", 185lbs, looking for a medium to full-figured SBF, 46-54. Someone who is worldly, nice, loves to laugh and just enjoying life to the fullest. ☎912726

**JOIN ME?**  
Honest, secure SWM, 73, 5'9", 200lbs, N/S, homeowner, enjoys karaoke, oldies music, dancing, keeping active, meeting new people. ISO sociable, sweet, sincere lady to share the special moments in life. ☎982461

**DRAMA FREE**  
SBM, 34, 6'1", 235lbs, athletic build, N/S, seeks attractive woman, 22-40, N/S, nice shape, for LTR. ☎134389

**HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU**  
Affectionate DWM, 64, brown hair, N/S, D/D-free, enjoys craft shows, flea markets, movies, dining, camping, The Red Wings. ISO a special lady, 48-59, to share friendship, dates, possible LTR. ☎920969

**CALL ME**  
SWM, 44, N/S, seeks attractive female, 29-40, with a sound mind, body, and spirit. Only forthcoming individuals are to reply. ☎137865

**WHY NOT CALL?**  
SWM, 42, 6'4", 225lbs, not about games, self-employed, loves the outdoors, camping, fishing, hunting, bowling, walks and more. Seeking spontaneous, outdoorsy SF to share the good times in life. ☎135980

**WILL IT BE YOU?**  
Honest, loyal DWM, 48, 5'10", 135lbs, blond/blue, self-employed, enjoys bonfires, sports, quiet nights, cuddling, much more. W/MTM a special lady, HW proportionate, to share the good things in life. ☎139870

**OLDER WOMAN DESIRED**  
SWM, 47, 6'2", 200lbs, muscular, athletic, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, workout, new activities, seeks friendly SF, age/location open. ☎531308

**SWEET GUY**  
Good-looking SWM, 52, 6'1", 197lbs, college graduate, financially secure, homeowner, bodybuilder, seeks petite SWF, 25-50, easy, attractive to enjoy dining out, movies, for serious relationship, maybe marriage. ☎256073

**FANTASY OR REALITY?**  
SBM, 50, 5'8", medium-build, N/S, fun-loving personality, likes dancing, jazz/blues, quality time, traveling. Seeking passionate and sexy SF, 20-50, slim-to-medium build, race open, kids ok, for sharing time and romance. ☎46417

**LIFE IS FUN**  
SBM, 44, 5'7", average build, N/S, likes movies, seeks WF, N/S, fun-loving, for friendship, possible romance. ☎137822

**THE LONG RUN**  
Male, 31, smoker, 6'3", 200lbs, clean-cut, hazel eyes, seeks smart, intelligent SWF, 21-28, HWP for friendship, and more. ☎138369

**THAT SPECIAL ONE**  
SBM, 44, N/S, likes movies, parks, the arts, seeks special SF, 27-40, N/S, slim to medium build, great sense of humor, college educated, for friendship, and more. ☎132888

**HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU**  
Independent, self-sufficient DWM, 45, sturdy build, carpenter, sociable, affectionate likes boating, walks, drives, cycling, cooking. Seeking a special lady to share the good things in life. ☎855207

**A SPECIAL GUY**  
DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest D/WF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. ☎269846

**LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER**  
SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎114846

**SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED**  
SBM, 46, looking for that special persona for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. ☎692418

**LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER**  
SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎92943

**FRIEND AND CONFIDANT**  
SWM, 74, active, educated, financially-secure, seeking a nice woman. Join me for dining, dancing, and classical music. I'm a good listener, and would love to hear from you! ☎139382

**WORTH A CALL**  
SWM, 48, 6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner, hard-working, easygoing, honest, secure, enjoys motorcycleing, hunting, the outdoors. Seeking honest, secure, attractive slim/fit woman, 25-50, N/S, D/D-free. ☎956910

**HANDSOME & FUN-LOVING**  
Sincere, fun-loving, down-to-earth SBM, 44, ISO romantic, honest, intelligent BF, 25-55, with great SOH, for companionship, possible LTR. ☎968147

**LONELY ANN ARBOR MAN**  
Considerate, intelligent SBM, 51, tall, slim, dark complexion, Capricorn, looking for a sweet, loving woman respectful, faithful and ambitious, to share friendship, good times, possible romance and LTR. Race open. ☎122606

**AMERICAN MADE**  
WM, 45, above-average looking, brown/blue, athletic, honest, good sense of humor, seeks compatible woman, with same interests, age open. ☎131277

**GET AT ME**  
SBM, 19, 5'7", smoker, athletic, brown complexion, seeks woman, 18-24, for friendship, and more. ☎133171

**TAKE A CHANCE**  
SWM, 34, smoker, likes playing pool, darts, music, concerts, seeks WF, 20-37, with similar interests. ☎133195

**LET'S TALK**  
SBM, 34, N/S, brown eyes, muscular build, seeks BF, 25-50, for good conversation, and more. ☎133482

**INTERESTED?**  
SWM, 22, 5'11", smoker, athletic, likes dining out, seeks WF, 21-25, adventurous, good SOH, who is down for anything. ☎133925

**WORTH IT**  
SM, 63, blond, 6', 200lbs, fit, active, fun, enjoys keeping active, the gym, sports, cars, boats, horses, pets. Seeking good-humored, fit, energetic, attractive lady w/spontaneous streak, who enjoys the same. ☎135531

**HERE I AM**  
Confident, fun mature, respectful SBM, 32, dark complexion, handsome, independent, neat, seeking mature, loving SF, 32-35, to share good times and more. ☎136424

**GREAT GUY**  
Male, 52, 6'1", 220lbs, athletic build, handsome, with sense of humor and own business, intelligent, N/S, enjoys good communication and honesty. Seeking attractive, slim JF, 30-50, inner beauty, good communication, intelligent, nice personality, for relationship. ☎264993

**HARD MAN TO FIND**  
Fit, affectionate SM, 5'10", 180lbs. Seeking attractive female, 35-55. Enjoys outdoor activities, movies, cooking, camping. Looking for some qualities, and interests, for LTR. ☎972650

**CALL ME SOMETIME**  
Professional WWM, 53, 5'10", bald, family-oriented, N/S, enjoys kids, classic cars, outdoors, walks, music, dancing, animals, good food, travel, more. Seeking SF, 40-50, to share these. ☎137501

**SOUND LIKE YOU?**  
SBM, 25, 5'8", 190lbs, dark complexion, long hair, no kids, looking for fun, energetic lady affectionate and real, who knows how to have fun in life. ☎122864

**TAKE A CHANCE**  
Attractive SWPM, 56, sensitive, easygoing, a good listener, good-humored and fun, enjoys travel, sports, music, good food. Seeking romance with shapely, like-minded SBF, someone to share/explore life with. ☎761588

**CUT TO THE CHASE**  
SBM, 51, 6'3", 250lbs, N/S, enjoys plays, concerts, country drives, ISO SWF for friendship and much, much more. Age open. ☎121414

**A NICE GUY**  
SM, 24, black/blue, 5'7", 120lbs, looking for a nice, non-judgmental SF, loving and fun, to share the good times in life. Friendship first, possibly more later on. ☎127134

**LET'S TALK**  
Laid-back SWM, 52, smoker, brown/brown, likes riding Harley's, the country, seeks open, honest WF, 35-54, for possible LTR. ☎124193

**LOVELY & READY**  
SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. ☎660305

**LET'S BE FREE TOGETHER**  
SBM, 6', 220lbs, physically fit, retired, well-educated. I would like to meet a single female 52-62, who is understanding, loving and caring, for a LTR. ☎698189

**NICE GUY**  
SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturers' representative, Libra, N/S, works out, enjoys movies, restaurants, and summer festivals. Seeking SWF, 50-55, N/S, Shirley, please call back. ☎708126

**ECONOMICALLY VIABLE**  
SWPM, 54, 5'11", 170lbs, trim, Aquarius, N/S, likes music, art, golf, landscapes, architecture seeks WFF, 44-60, attractive, fit, active, financially secure, intelligent, possible LTR. ☎964220

**THAT'S ALL**  
SWM, 66, tall, thin, Scorpio, N/S, seeks WF, 60-68, N/S, old-fashioned, slim, fit, humorous, possible romance. ☎116761

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## ACLU will honor Dykema, One United Michigan

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan will honor the Dykema law firm and the Steering Committee of One United Michigan for their "unwavering commitment to justice" at its Annual Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18. Caroline Fredrickson, ACLU's National Legislative Director, will give the keynote address.

Over the past 10 years, the Dykema firm has devoted more time to ACLU of Michigan cases and programs than any other large firm in the state. In addition to providing top-notch cooperating attorneys for numerous high impact, high profile cases, Dykema attorneys have served on the ACLU Lawyers Committee and on the ACLU Advisory Board.

In past ACLU cases, the law firm has defended the right of women to become full and equal members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the right of students to voice their opinions, and the right of domestic violence victims to not be subject to eviction from public housing because of violence perpetuated by abusive

partners. Most recently, Dykema is working with the ACLU of Michigan to improve the criminal defense system for low-income people throughout Michigan.

The ACLU will also honor the Steering Committee of One United Michigan for their work against Proposal 2 or the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, which was approved in last week's election.

The steering committee is comprised of 30 key Michigan leaders from a wide range of organizations, including Detroit Renaissance, the Michigan Federation of Teachers, NAACP, Detroit Chamber of Commerce, UAW, and many others. Although hundreds of men and women have worked tirelessly to defend affirmative action programs that provide opportunities for women and minorities, the Steering Committee members are receiving special acknowledgement because of their leadership. Through the direction of the steering committee, One United Michigan has grown to more than 200 organizations throughout the state and thousands of volunteers.

The main program will also feature a speech by Fredrickson who oversees all federal lobbying efforts for the ACLU. Fredrickson will discuss the challenges and opportunities for the ACLU in today's political climate and give an insider's view into beltway politics.

Other highlights of this year's dinner include an expanded silent auction and a steaming-hot performance by a New Orleans jazz band with the Bill Meyer Group, featuring Marcus Belgrave and Charlie Gabriel.

The silent auction, which will include unique items such as packages devoted to Bob Dylan, including an autographed guitar; and exclusive photos of Janis Joplin and Eleanor Roosevelt. The auction will also showcase original artwork depicting the Statue of Liberty from nearly 60 local and national artists who donated their work to the ACLU of Michigan's inaugural Lady Liberty Project, entitled Lady Liberty: Unmasked, Uncensored, Unleashed, Undaunted.

## Madonna lab gets new Sony technology

The Sign Language Studies lab at Madonna University has gone digital thanks to a \$50,000 Sony Virtuoso Education Grant.

Installation of the Sony Virtuoso and Soloist American Sign Language (ASL) equipment was completed at the end of August and Madonna Sign Language Studies (SLS) faculty received training.

"This technology takes teaching to a new level," said Ken Rust, chair of the SLS department.

The new all-digital, multimedia, software-based lab works within Madonna's computer network. It enhances sign language instruction using video cameras at the teacher station and at each student workstation.

Rust said that students could

use the lab to create a digitized portfolio.

"They could save their best work - sign language skills, resumes, and term papers - on a DVD that they can distribute to prospective employers and graduate schools," said Rust.

With the Soloist authoring tools the SLS teaching staff is creating a number of authentic multi-media ASL course materials stored on local servers for easy access and sharing.

SANS Inc. is the developer and exclusive licensor of the Sony Language Learning Technology.

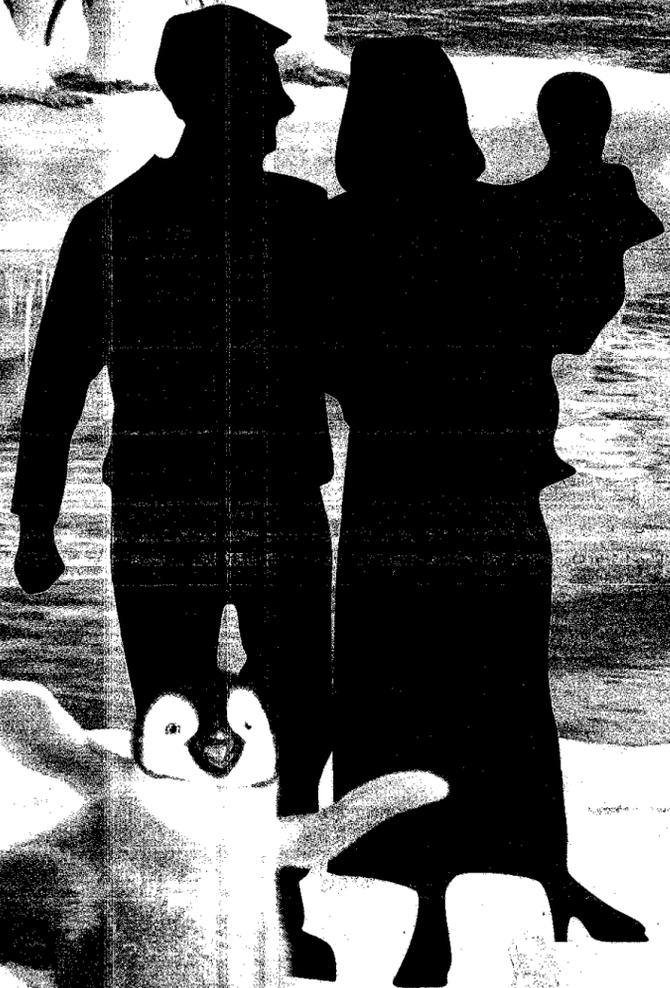
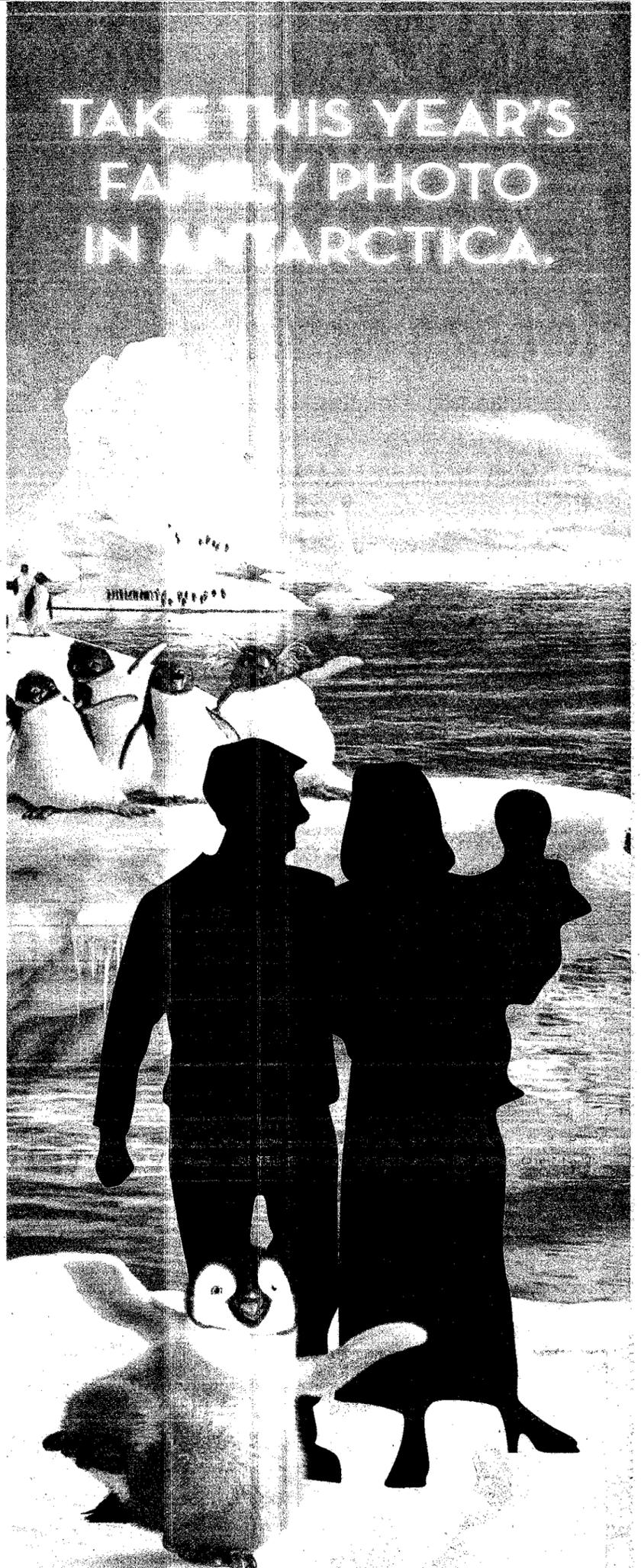
Ron Remschel, SANS Inc. president, said, "We're pleased to bring the benefits of the Sony technology to Madonna faculty and students."

Madonna University's SLS department has taught sign lan-

guage and interpreting courses since 1975. Sign language majors choose to major or minor in sign language to pursue careers in sign language interpreting and deafness-related professions. Both Deaf and hearing students are enrolled in Madonna SLS courses.

Students in the SLS program at Madonna include those with no incoming experience or knowledge, those having Deaf parents or Deaf children, as well as those majoring in other programs, i.e., social sciences, gerontology, nursing and education.

Although intended primarily for use in the SLS program, the Sony digital language lab also will be used in the foreign language and the English as a second language programs. "It's all a matter of scheduling," said Rust.

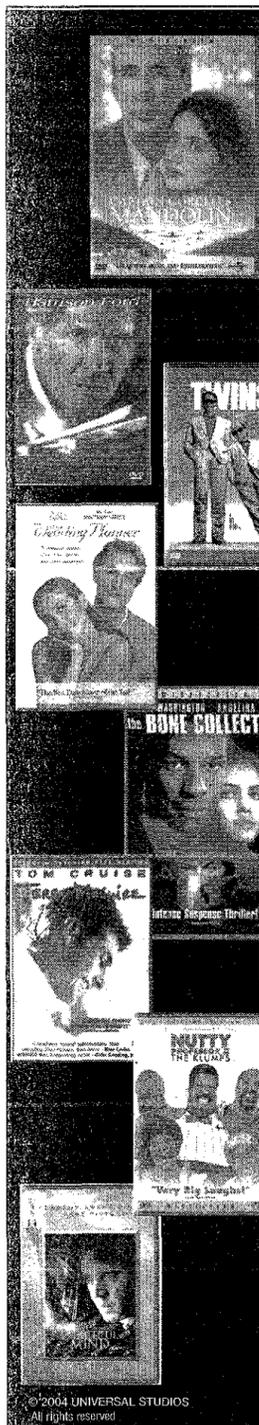


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