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WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY
May 22, 2005

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Cost cutting ups district's bottom line

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools will finish the current budget year on a good note. Revenue is up while expenditures are down.

According to Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for business, revenue for fiscal 2005 is up \$419,000, while expenditures are down a whopping \$1.1 million.

"Even though we've had adjustments and this is great news relative to November, we're still at about a \$5 million deficit for current which was planned and is slightly better than how we started out the year," Martin said.

While the numbers are less than those compiled for a budget amendment approved by the board in November, the message is the same: better than expected revenue and less than anticipated spending.

Last June, the district had projected spending \$121.1 million while taking in \$111.2 million in revenue. It also planned on using more than half of its \$18.5 million surplus to cover a \$9.9 million revenue shortfall.

It will finish out the budget year with spending at \$117.7 million and revenue at \$113 million. The bottom line will be a \$16.2 million surplus, according to Linda Kempton, senior

executive director of business and operations.

"We did a lot of belt tightening and cost cutting to get to \$16 million and there's more we still need to do," she said. "We were in a healthy position when this started. We've done cost containment of \$10 million in two years, and the news still isn't good on the horizon."

Contributing to the better than expected revenue increase were:

- \$200,000 from the Medicaid fee service delivered through Wayne County RESA. The money represents "catch up in prior years of money owed to the district by the federal government," Martin said.

- \$150,000 more for the district's special education center program. According to Martin, as the program grows, so do expenditures and revenue generated by the 1-1/2 mill county-wide tax levy.

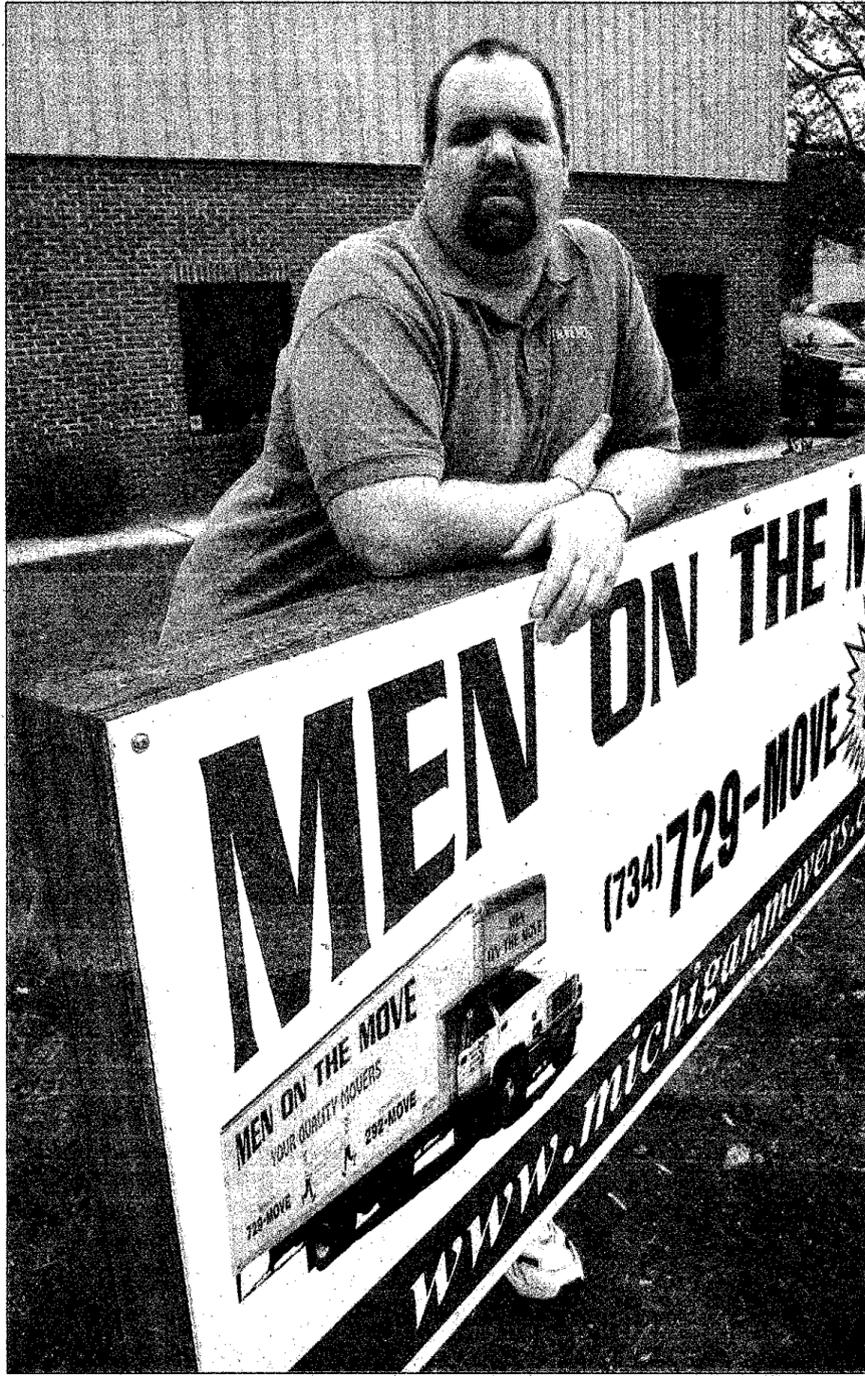
- \$60,000 in interest income generated by increases in rates in the third and fourth quarters of the year.

The decline in expenditures were the result of several things, including:

- \$950,000 due to a support group opening left unfilled and a reduction in overtime across the district.

- \$500,000 due to the lower cost health plan nego-

PLEASE SEE BUDGET, A4



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Change the first E to an A and you have Gary Bulson, man on the move and the 2005 Westland First Citizen.

A man on the move

Bulson shines as city's 2005 First Citizen

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Gary Bulson jokes that he won the Trifecta when he learned he had been named the 2005 First Citizen.

The award, co-sponsored by the Westland Observer and Westland Chamber of Commerce, fits in nicely with two other honors he has received - the 2002 Business Person of the Year from the Westland Chamber of Commerce and the Westland Citizen of the Year in 2003.

"I'm just one out of a basketful of good eggs," he said. "It humbles me to receive an award like this, because there are so many great people in the community."

Bulson will receive this year's award at the Westland Chamber of Commerce Spring Awards dinner reception Tuesday at Joey's Comedy Club in Kicker's All American Grill in Livonia.

Westland resident and business owner Dan Green, who wrote a glowing nomination of Bulson,

PLEASE SEE CITIZEN, A4

Centenarian credits Lord for longevity

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

When asked what it feels like to be 100, Lucy Hack has the perfect answer.

"I don't know, I've never been there," she said, crediting her longevity to "the good Lord's will."

"Whenever he wants me, he'll call me," she said.

Hack reached the milestone on May 11, celebrating the occasion with her immediate family at a party at the First Baptist Church in Wayne.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lucy Hack (center), who just turned 100, is visited by her grandson, Bob Staples, and daughter Caroline Staples at the Westland Convalescent Center.

PLEASE SEE BIRTHDAY, A6

Westland man faces trial in shooting case

A Westland man will face trial for charges that he fired a gun at a van while his girlfriend and their two children, ages 1 and 2, were inside.

Charles Edward Withers, 24, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison, if he's convicted in Wayne County Circuit Court.

He was ordered to stand trial after he voluntarily waived a preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court - a decision that averted pretrial testimony.

Withers is accused of opening fire on the van about 2 a.m. Wednesday, May 4, on Belding Court, near Glenwood and Venoy. No one was injured.

He faces trial on three counts of assault with intent to murder, three counts of assault with intent to commit great bodily harm, three counts of felonious assault and one count of felony firearms.

Withers is accused of firing on the van after a domestic dispute escalated, according to police. He is jailed in lieu of a \$200,000 cash bond as he awaits trial.

Withers is accused of fleeing the scene after the shooting incident, but he later arranged to turn himself over to police at the Ford-Wyoming drive-in theater in Dearborn.

He has denied being on Belding Court or firing the shots.

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Hundreds of thousands of ravers hit Detroit this week to celebrate electronic music



PLACES AND FACES

Special meeting

The Wayne-Westland Board of Education will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, May 23, in the district's administrative offices, 36745 Marquette, Westland.

On stage

The Walking N' the Light Ministries of Westland, Face to Face Outreach Ministries of Inkster and Ambassadors for Christ Holiness Temple of

Detroit will host a performance by the Gamma Delta Kudos of Flint at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, May 26, at the Walking N' the Light Church, 35248 Palmer just east of Wayne Road, Westland.

A group of 40 African American male middle school and high school students, will do dance, rhythm, stepping, public speaking and songs as part of the program for young people.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. The program is free of charge. The group, sponsored by the

Phi Delta Kappa teachers sorority, also appeared in Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11. For more information, call Thurman at (734) 728-3080.

Fund-raiser

Westland residents can buy frozen pizza, home-style fudge, gourmet coffee samplers, cookie dough, mixed nuts and such things as light bulbs and trash bags without making a trip to the grocery or hardware stores.

Beginning Monday, May 23, representatives of AmeriFund will be calling homes in John Glenn High School community on behalf of the Instrumental Music Boosters as part of a special fund-raiser.

The class offering the aforementioned products and more will be made between 4 and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday for about three weeks. The main goal of the campaign is to complete fund-raising for new band uniforms, according to booster and campaign director Barry Hensel.

"Meijer's of Westland has been super generous to us and this goal, donating close to 90 percent of the amount needed," Hensel said. "Through other local corporate donations and fund-raisers like this, we will be able to complete our amount needed and be using our new uniforms this fall season."

The proceeds will help cover

the costs of rain gear and accessories. All products are guaranteed and will be delivered to homes free of charge.

Summer program

Westland Bowl in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department will offer free bowling for kids June 1 through Aug. 20.

Kids up to 18 years of age will be able to bowl one free game per day during summer hours with a participation card, available at the bowling center, 5940 N. Wayne Road.

The centers also is offering a free family bonus package on Saturdays. For more information, call Westland Bowl at (734) 722-7570.

Skating party

Walking with Faith Inc., a team of more than 100 walkers and volunteers who walk in the annual Multiple Sclerosis Walks, will hold a "Kids FUN - RAISE for Multiple Sclerosis" skating party 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 16, at Skate Land West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland.

The cost will be \$10 per person with rentals of \$1.50 for roller skates and \$5 for inline skates. There will be 50/50 raffles, and a PSP raffle. Tickets cost \$1 each or 3 for \$5.

For more information, call Alecia Harris at (313) 999-5259.

Dance center offers free class, local auto dealership gets a facelift

TAKE A STEP

AIM Dance and Fitness Center has opened its doors in Westland. Stop in before May 27 to take advantage of one free introductory class in the dance discipline of your choice.

Classes include Ballet, Rhythm Tap, Jazz and Hip-Hop. The center caters to dance students of all ages.

"The opportunity to bring our unique and authentic forms of Hip-Hop and Rhythm Tap to the area is very exciting," says Alicia Smith, artistic director. "We are open to all ages and look forward to training dancers in all disciplines."

Smith is a certified member of Dance Masters of Michigan and a member of the General Board of the Cecchetti Council of Michigan. Students can take advantage of courses for health benefits or work toward performance.

"Alicia's qualifications and advanced certifications are of great value to us here at AIM Dance and Fitness Center," said Angela Smith-Maggott, managing director. "We are very proud to have a presence in Western-Wayne County and look forward to being warmly received by the community."

Prices range from \$15 for walk-ins to \$50 for enrollment in fall courses. Summer sessions for children or adults will run from June 20 through Aug. 13 at a cost of \$75.

Children ages 6-12 may enroll in any of six one-week summer camps at \$125 per week.

AIM Dance and Fitness Center is located within the Wayne Road Plaza at 902 South Wayne in Westland. For more information, call (734) 721-7210.

MOVING FORWARD

Livonia Chrysler Jeep, at 30777 Plymouth, is just about to get a facelift. The Livonia business is part of a company-wide effort meant to give all Chrysler dealerships the same look, according to General Manager Dave McDonald.



"If you're driving down the road, you'll be able to identify us," he said. The branding of Chrysler dealerships will impact this location inside and out. Already, the showroom, offices and service center have undergone remodeling, making it brighter, cleaner and more up-to-date.

"The exterior of the building has been completely re-painted," said McDonald. In addition, doors have been replaced and floors have been refinished. "It's a much more sterile, friendly, brighter environment," he said.

The dealership was built and opened in its current location in 1979. McDonald said other than the normal upkeep, it "still had the appearance of a dealership in the 1960s outside."

The 33,000-square-foot building is housed on 4.3-acres property on Plymouth Road between Middlebelt and Merriman.

"It's been a great place to do business," said McDonald.

The Livonia Planning Commission approved plans to revamp the business and McDonald will soon go before the City Council for approval. If all goes well, work will begin within 30 days and be complete within three months.

Livonia Chrysler Jeep is open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The Service, Parts and Body shops are open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday and 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@oe.hometownlife.com or call (734) 953-2054.

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County puts parks millage on August ballot

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Commission voted 12-3 last week to place a .25-mill county parks tax renewal on the Aug. 2 ballot, despite a strong push for a November election date.

The .25-mill parks tax, which generates \$10.2 million and costs \$18.75 annually for a county resident living in a \$150,000 home, expires the end of 2005. Voters narrowly approved the parks tax in 1996, renewed it in 2000 and will decide whether to renew it a second time.

Commissioner Phil Cavanagh, whose district includes Redford, Garden City and Dearborn Heights, spearheaded an effort to get a new tax, rather than a renewal, on the November ballot. He cast one of the dissenting votes, along with commissioners Laura Cox, R-Livonia, and Gary Woronchak, R-Dearborn.

Cavanagh said he knew that it would be an uphill battle. A tax renewal must contain the same ballot language as previous ballots and requires only a 51 percent majority vote. A new tax proposal would require a two-thirds supermajority vote.

Cavanagh's proposal would have required that 50 percent of all revenues generated be

given back to individual communities.

"Why can't we put it before voters in November and feel really good about what we're asking," Cavanagh said. Many municipalities in Wayne County have become "donor communities" for the tax and feel slighted when they get little back.

The tax was originally intended to make improvements in three areas - Fort Wayne and Chandler Park, both in Detroit, and Elizabeth Park in Trenton.

Since 1996, an \$8 million water park was built on the Chandler Park site, and improvements were made to Fort Wayne and in Elizabeth Park.

Alan Helmkamp, assistant Wayne County executive, said that the county will reimburse communities holding August elections that were not already holding primaries. This could amount to \$400,000, since only a few communities are holding August primaries, including Westland and Detroit.

"We are going to reimburse the election day costs," Helmkamp said, adding that state law would be followed in reimbursing communities for costs including election workers and polling place rentals, when public polling places are not available.

'We're trying to raise the level of the millage above the radar screen.'

Tom Yack
Supervisor, Canton Township

The Conference of Western Wayne addressed the parks tax at its May 13 meeting. Representatives from the council's 18 communities did not reach a consensus on the tax, but agreed to ask Wayne County commissioners to consider holding the election in November instead of August.

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack said he supported Cavanagh's 50/50 proposal and supported a November election.

"We're trying to raise the level of the millage above the radar screen," he said, referring to a November election having a better turnout.

Commissioner John Sullivan, whose district includes Canton, cast one of the majority votes. He said a letter presented by Wayne County assuring that election costs would be reimbursed to communities not holding primaries was a deciding factor.

"My vote was contingent on that," he said.



FILE PHOTO

Sharing the love

The Pet-a-Pet Club honored its founder, Ruth Curry of Redford Township, (shown above getting a smooch from Neil) last week for her 20 years of service. During a club meeting at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills, Curry was presented with special pins and letters from President George W. Bush and Congressman Joe Knollenberg, plus a watercolor of her 13-year-old golden retriever, Murphy. "I was so honored," she said. The group, a nonprofit made up of people and their pets who visit nursing homes and senior centers, needs volunteers for sites in Livonia, Farmington, Westland and Garden City. To volunteer, call Curry at (313) 535-0410.

DEATHS

B
Robert O. Bice died May 24.
Dorothy Louise Bozyk, 88, of Westland, died May 17.

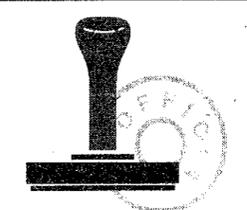
C
Rhea M. Cook, 75, of Royal Oak, died May 15.

D
Michael W. Dinda, 59, of Madison Heights, died May 12.
Clover McGregor Downs, 91, formerly of Southfield and Birmingham, died May 19.

F
Charles "Doug" Fisher, 65, formerly of Royal Oak, died May 1.

L
Beverly (Rowell) Little, 86, of New London, NH, died May 16.

R
Sandra L. Rise, of Clarkston, died



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life in Passages on page C5.



May 18.

W
Wayne Weeks, 84, of Redford Twp., died May 19.

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Concession stand target of break-ins

Thieves have again broken into a Central City Park concession stand where food and drinks are sold during sporting events.

"I think whoever is doing this is very heartless," said David Ladenberger, owner of the business, Spotty Dogs, that sells the concessions.

Some of the money from the concession stand is used to support Westland recreation

programs.

Thieves have broken into the concession stand three times — most recently last weekend, Ladenberger said.

"They take food, candy, pop and other supplies," he said. "They take from the children of Westland."

Spotty Dogs sells hot dogs and other items during baseball games, other sporting events and city functions, such

as a City Hall-area garage sale, Turn Off the Violence night and a fishing derby in the park.

The concession stand is located in the ball diamond area of Central City Park, behind the Bailey Recreation Center.

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

CITIZEN

FROM PAGE A1

said he is the kind of person Westland public officials go to if they have a project and they want it done right.

"He's the type of guy who is always there for people," explained Green, saying that the "size of his heart" sets him apart from others.

Bulson was one of the founding members of the Westland Business Owners Association and the SPARK Foundation (Sports, Parks And Recreation for Kids), raising money for local park programs. He's currently the vice president of SPARK.

He also served on the Westland Festival Committee for 10 years, as well as the Salvation Army Advisory Council. His impact on both groups made tremendous impressions on the people who saw him at work.

"Prior to his arrival, the festival had live entertainment three of the five days they were open," Green said. "Using the same budget and his resources he was able to extend the entertainment to all five days. This allowed for entertainment from a variety of genres and increased summer festival attendance."

"He has also implemented several other original ideas that have increased the popularity of the festival."

INNOVATIVE GUY

Bulson is credited with developing "innovative projects" while serving on the Westland Chamber of Commerce to help raise more than \$5,000 to send underprivileged children to summer camp, Green added.

While the accolades are flattering, Bulson said, others should be praised.

"One person can't do all these things alone," Bulson said. "There are so many people who have helped me. I might be holding a flag and I'm in the spotlight at a certain time, but there are other people helping me who deserve credit."

Bulson is currently involved with the Westland Jaycees and the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

"He (sees) a need in the community and sets forth to fill that need," said Green, the owner of American Power Wash in Westland. "There is no area of voluntary service Gary hasn't or wouldn't have his hand in. He is one of the most giving citizens we know."

Bulson, 36, grew up in upstate New York and moved to Michigan in 1985. He moved back to New York for a short time in 1987 to graduate with his friends from Averil Park High School in New York.

Returning to Michigan, he worked as a porter for three years at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth and went on to work for Fairlane Furniture Restorers, also in Plymouth.

He entered the U.S. Army in 1990, was discharged due to a health problem in 1991. When he returned to Michigan, he landed a job with Two Men and a Truck.

Finally, in 1993 he and a friend, Gary Wrigley, started Men on the Move in Westland.

"Men on the Move is known in Westland as a very community-oriented business," Green said. "They repeatedly make donations to organizations focused on improving our community."

Bulson stands out among the crowd, according to Westland City Councilman Michael Kehrer, who is quoted in Green's nomination.

'TAKES CHARGE'

"Gary Bulson is a different

kind of young man," Kehrer said. "At times he simply mystifies me."

Anytime city officials need someone to help with an event, Gary Bulson's name is mentioned, Kehrer said.

"This young man takes charge," Kehrer added. "When I say he is the one we call, I mean he is the one that will get it done. What greater resume is there for a young man when city leaders not only assume he is the one involved, but they hope he is, because they know the job will be done completely and enthusiastically."

Bulson said of all the honors he has received over the years, the one that stands out among the rest was in 2003 while he was serving as president of the Westland Jaycees. The local chapter was ranked first in the country among other Jaycee chapters of the same size.

"When I won my last two major awards, both were by surprise," Bulson said.

The day of the Business Person of the Year award ceremony, his mother had recently been diagnosed with cancer and he dedicated the award to her.

"There was no time to reflect or to think about a speech," he added.

This time, he said, is different and he wants to make sure he does a thorough job.

Married for 14 years to Brenda, he has a 17-year-old stepson, Jeremy, and a daughter Allison, 12. They have lived in Westland since 1993.

"I think one of the dedications I will have this time is to my family, because of all the time I do spend away from them to volunteer," he said. "One time, I came home from work, we had dinner and the kids said, 'What meeting are you going to tonight, dad?'"

Bulson said he and Brenda have talked about moving to another community, but they decided they didn't want to leave Westland. He recently sold his home in Westland and bought a new home in the community.

Bulson said he has cut back his volunteer work slightly since recently having a heart valve replacement, but in the next breath he said he will continue to volunteer wherever he's needed.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

tiated for teachers and administrators.

\$230,000 due to workman's compensation costs coming in considerably more favorable than anticipated.

The district also saw its Social Security and retirement costs drop due to a lower salary base, Martin said.

Other changes in the budget reflect a decision by the board to move up textbook purchases in light of the ongoing financial crisis at the state level.

The district bought some \$1.1 million in new books for social studies, science and physical education as well as new science kits during the year.

In the special funds, debt service was modified to reflect a board decision to refund \$81 million in previous bonds in December.

"It will save taxpayers \$3.8 million over next 15 years," Martin said.

Superintendent Greg Baracy added that the district has had no increase in state school aid for three years and has been "prorated through executive orders \$1 million a year ago and almost \$1 million the previous year."

"I don't know any organization or company that can operate under those kinds of conditions," he said. "It gives you an idea of the financial burden the state of Michigan has shifted to school districts across the state."

School officials will bring the 2005-2006 budget to the

'I don't know any organization or company that can operate under those kinds of conditions. It gives you an idea of the financial burden the state of Michigan has shifted to school districts across the state.'

Greg Baracy superintendent

board next month, and according to Kempton, the revenue shortfall is being projected at \$5.5 million.

"By 2006, we expect to end with just over \$10 million balance," she added.

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TITLES & TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- MONSTER-IN-LAW (PG-13)
11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20, 9:20
- FRI/SAT LS 11:20
- MINDHUNTERS (R)
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
- FRI/SAT LS 11:40
- ENRON: THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM (NR)
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
- KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (R)
1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 9:55
- HOUSE OF WAX (R)
12:55, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:45
- THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (PG)
11:25, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:25
- FRI/SAT LS 11:45
- THE INTERPRETER (PG-13)
11:30, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40

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ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk
Publish: May 1, 15, 22, 29, June 12, 19, July 3, 17, 24, 31, August 7, and 21, 2005



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 Cory Bildeau, Brandon Bleau, Hailey Blevins, Kelsey Blevins, Chekodtah Bobee, Daniel Bombach, Cody Bone, Gregory Bosell, Leslie Botts, Ariel Bowman, Christina Bowman, Joshua Bradford, Jessica Brown, Natalie Brown, Codie Buege, Jordan Burgess, Courtney Burns, Norman Butler, Ashley Carey, Amy Carter, Quintin Cheek, Ashley Cimino.
 Brittany Cobb, Jared Coleman, Shelbi Coniam, Ashleigh Cornell, Nicholas Cornell, Robert Costello, Chelsea Craig, Amanda Mominnee-Crumi, Kevin Curylo, Mona Darwish, John Davis, Jeffrey Dean, Brittney Dejack, Hayden Derr, Charly Dillard, Marques Dismuke, Eda Djellil, Zachary Donbrock, William Donner, Carolyn Doyle, James Dutchak, Samantha Dye.
 Jessica Eaves, Katy Ellis, Michael England, Angela Ennis, Zachary Ernat, Alysia Escobar, Erica Escobar, Brianna

Everett, Tyler Femat, Shayne Fitzgerald, Audra Flores, David Ford, Zachary Ford, Ardale Foster, Dominique France, Cody Fredericks, Alex Fucik, Austin Fucik, Jennifer Galunas, Shelyn Giacchina, Melissa Gizel, Magen Glass, Brooke Graham.
 Lauren Green, Cameron Greig, Alissa Groth, Stephen Guinn, Ashley Guldner, Eric Haase, Emily Hall, Maria Hall, Christopher Hammel, Michael Haner, Kaitlyn Hanlon, Matthew Hansen, Meghan Hartman, Joi Hearn, Shannon Hesch, Bailey Hessler, Joey Hickman, Brandon Hicks, Steven Hickson, Jamie Higgs, Joshua Higgs, Corey Hinton, Brandi Holbrook.
 Leya Holloway, Robert Horton, Bryan Hubbs, Alicia Hudgins, Kelly Hudson, Jennifer Humbach, Ashley Hunt, Brittany Hylton, Cody Iannetta, Christie Iler, Jacquelyn Isenhardt, Inas Ismail, Aaron Jackson, Shelby Jackson, Andrew Janos, Chelsea Jenkins, Paris Jones, Cassandra Jordan, Kory Kalnasy, Eun Ho Kang, Chelsea Kangas, Cameron Karaim, Adam Karson.
 David Kautz, Victoria Keelean, Alexander Kelly, Patrick Kemp, Nolan Kennedy, Catherine Khan, Chapin Kibitewski, Corissa Kijek, Aubrey King, Tyler Kinloch, Richard Kleitch, Cassondra Knaub, Jenna Kollar, Nicholas Kostora, Christopher Kovacs, Nicholas Koveleski, Stephen Kulkowski, Timothy Lawler,

Timothy Lerford, Tara Leleniewski, Olivia Leleniewski.
 Ashley Lenczewski, Marissa Letellier, Michelle Levy, Zachary Lloyd, Jay Locust, Cody Longuski, Krystal Lowrey, Monika Lubas, Areanna Luckett, Megan Luke, Alicia Lustig, Jessica Lyp, Richard MacDonald, Robert Madden, Kyle Maier, Rachel Marken, Kathryn Martin, Zachary Martin, Misha Martinez, Jonathon Mason, Dearna May, Joseph May, Michael Mayes.
 September McCoy, Shannon McFadden, Brendan McIntyre, Courtney McKinney, James McMaster, Brittany Meister, Rebecca Meister, Rachel Michelsen, Nikole Milewsky, Leanna Miller, Leslie Mills, Megan Mizzi, Eric Mlynar, Conner Monroe, Brian Monty, Katherine Moran, Jacob Morris, Jonathan Mullinix, Allison Murphy, Steven Murphy, Andrew Mustunis.
 Andrew Myers, Paris Myrtolli, Asra Najam, Sidra Najam, Ashley Noeyack, Stephen Novak, Kevin O'Brien, Caitlin Orsette, Kristina Ostrowski, Sean Parker, Sapan Patel, Nicole Paul, Anthony Pavlich, Marissa Pawlowski, Danielle Peel, Rachel Peel, Michael Penhollow, Erin Perry, Casey Peterson, Montae Peterson, Brittany Pingle, Justin Price, Amanda Prough.
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Robinson, Ryan Robinson, Kallie Roby, Emily Rockafellow, Michael Rogers, Jordan Rohraff, Rachel Romanek, Anthony Rudd, Kristoffer Rufino, Emily Saavedra, Gerald Salter, Andee Samborski.
 Cassie Sanders, Nicholas Schirmer, Robert Schurig, Asif Sheikh, Joshua Shewmaker, Cara Sieczkowski, Edwin Silva, Sukhjit Singh, Monica Smarsh, Steven Smith, Tiffany Smith, Steven Snyder, Briana Southard, Cecily Sparks, Kellie Spehar, Ashley Sportsman, Shelley Sportsman, Bryan Staples, Austin Storm, Jessica Suarez, Quentin Swasey, Ashlee Szabo.
 Kharla Pear Tanap, Amanda Tate, Jordan Taylor, Melanie Teschke, Krunal Thakkar, Katelyn Thebeau, Dylan Thomas, Andrew Thorne, Jacob Toarmina, Amanda Toney, Stacet Truskowski, John Tuftnell, Sommer Tuttle, Taylor Tuttle, Malcom Tyms, Jeremy Vandegriff, Louissa Ann Villaroman, Meghan Wall, Miles Watson, Al Wells, Larry Wells.
 Brittney Whited, Chelsey Whitt, Kristina Witanen, Dayra Williams, Tiffany Williams, Samatha Wilson, Anthony Wilton, David Wilton, Kayla Wiltshire, Tyress Wimberly, Alaina Witt, Alexander Wojnar, Scott Woodruff, Evan Woody, Margaret Wright, Kelsie Yax, Roxanne Young, Alejandra Zarate and Jillian Zemla.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parents' Night out

Parents can leave children with Hoop Stars Basketball and Academic Tutoring and the Parks and Recreation Department Friday, June 3, for a night of fun and exciting activities and have a night to themselves. Children will be able to choose two activities to take part in - basketball, cheerleading, math games and arts and crafts.
 The night out is for children in first-eighth-grades. Orientation, where participants will be split into activity groups, will be 6-6:15 p.m., with the first activity at 6:15-7:45 p.m., followed by a pizza dinner at 7:45-8:30 p.m. and the second activity 8:30-10 p.m. The cost is \$20 per

student; preregister by May 3. Enrollment is limited. For more information call Ron Levin at (248) 496-3268.

Flag Day Ceremony
 Join with Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, the Westland Civitan Club, the VFW and many others in memory of the first patriots whose vision gave birth to United States at a Flag Day ceremony at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 14, at the flagpole in front of the Bailey Recreation Center and behind City Hall on Ford Road. Rain location will be under the awning of the Bailey Center. The ceremony includes the pledge of allegiance, and a sing-along of patriotic songs.

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Heinz Ketchup 99¢ 24 oz bottle
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BIRTHDAY

FROM PAGE A1

"It was neat seeing all the old pictures of her and her parents," said her daughter Caroline Staples of Wayne. "There was a photo of her parents from the 1890s and a picture of her in school from 1911. That picture was pretty neat. It was a one-room schoolhouse and there were five siblings in there at one time."

Hack grew up on a farm between Mayfield and Peducah, Ky., at a time when washing clothes meant a trip down the hill to the stream where they were washed on a washboard and hung on a nearby line to dry.

Oil lamps provided lighting, and the family's "set of wheels" was a buggy that they road in to church and to school.

She came to Detroit when she was 17 and got a job with Fisher Body. She met and married in the late '20s-'30s, but it ended in divorce 15 years later.

Single with two children, Staples and her sister Betty Farris, Hack got a job at Dodge

Main where she worked on the assembly line and asked for jobs done by the male employees so she could make enough to support her family.

"It was when they had men's and women's classifications and men made more money," said Staples. "To support us, she asked to go into the men's classification to get better pay. They told her she could if she could keep up."

"She worked her tail off to support us."

Hack eventually was laid off after a lengthy strike. She was given \$1,000 and had to forego her pension. She then waited on tables and "did things like that" to support her family, according to her daughter.

Hack recalls helping put wings on airplanes although her memory is fuzzy as to when and where. She does remember the main boss asking her boss how she was doing.

"He said I was good, but slow and the main boss said, 'Good, that's how I want her to work, good and slow.'"

Hack lived on her own until she was 98. She had lived in Detroit,

then moved to a senior apartment in Mt. Clemens. Her independence ended when a stroke left her with a weak right leg.

She stayed with Staples for awhile before moving to the Westland Convalescent Center where Staples visits her every day and her grandson Bob Staples is a frequent visitor.

While she worked hard to care for her daughters, she also helped those in need. She once gave a lady \$200 to have her house painted and provided another person with a lawnmower.

And a legacy to her family is her caring touch.

"Even growing up I remember her sitting next to me, holding my hand and rubbing it," Bob said. "She always rubs your hand to comfort you. She still does it today. It's been that way for 45 years."

Hack was the second youngest of six children. She has outlived her parents, who died in their 80s, her siblings, most of whom died in their 90s, and all of her nieces and nephews. There were a few relatives who lived to 100 and an uncle who died at age 106.

She remembers something she and her brothers and sisters were told when she was a young child and laughs.

"We had a fortune teller tell us we were all going to live to 75 years," she said.

As for being called by God, Bob says he hopes it isn't soon. "You're not done giving yet," he said.

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Visual Arts Association holds spring show

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Quality is key to the Visual Arts Association of Livonia's spring show, according to member Dorothy Amberger.

From the 46-art works on display at Livonia City Hall, 49-members originally submitted 95 entries. Juror Daniel Keller, a muralist and teacher in the Detroit area, not only selected a variety of painting, photography and drawing, but the winners as well. First place went to Karen Glidden, second to Mary Rochelle Burnham, and third to Regina Dunne. The Livonia Arts Commission award was given to Livonia artist Sherry Eid for "Dapple's Dram, a pastel of a workhorse taking a refreshing drink from a fire hydrant.

Not to be missed is Betty Lewis' photograph of koi fish and Janith Rolston's mixed media work featuring fresh produce for which she won an honorable mention.

The show continues to May 27.

"I really love the red abstract. That excited me a great deal," said Amberger. "I'm impressed by the quality of work in the show. So many artists brought work that the juror had a lot of work to



Livonia artist Sherry Eid won the Livonia Arts Commission award for this pastel titled 'Dapple's Dram.' The work was inspired by a photograph taken in New York City.

choose from and took the best."

Award winners like Glidden take classes from Visual Arts Association of Livonia teachers including Edee Joppich at the Dickens Center. Day and evening classes and work-

shops offer instruction in painting, drawing, relief printing, and other media.

For more information about the classes or becoming a member, call (734) 432-5976 or (248) 478-9166.

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Make it a date for annual holiday parade

Vietnam veteran Bruce Robertson offered a reason why local residents should turn out for a Westland parade next Sunday that will honor veterans.

"How do you like your freedom? How do you like the way you can turn around and say anything you want to in this country?" he asked. "Some of

our veterans gave their lives, and some are still serving now."

The parade will start at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 29, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, on Wayne Road south of Ford.

It will move north to Ford and then west to Westland City Hall.

Robertson, parade coordination officer, said the event will

include, among others, veterans groups, auxiliary members, scouting groups, elected officials and ROTC groups from Garden City High School and Wayne Memorial High School.

Anyone who wants to watch the parade is encouraged to line up along Wayne or Ford roads prior to 1 p.m. on May 29.

USDA GRADE A Head LETTUCE 99¢ ea.	USDA GRADE A Great on the Grill-Fresh Fryer DRUMSTICKS 77¢ lb.	INSPECTED SEAFOOD For Cocktails Extra Large - Tail on COOKED SHRIMP \$7.99 lb.	GROCERY DEPT. Better Made Assorted POTATO CHIPS 2-\$4.00
ASPARAGAS \$1.98 lb.	BOB'S OF CANTON 31210 W. Warren (at Merriman) Westland 734-522-3357 Memorial Day 9 am - 6 pm HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 9 am - 8 pm • Sun. 10 - 6 pm PRICES GOOD May 23rd thru May 29th		GROCERY DEPT. Bush's Assorted BAKED BEANS \$1.99 25 oz. Can MADE FRESH
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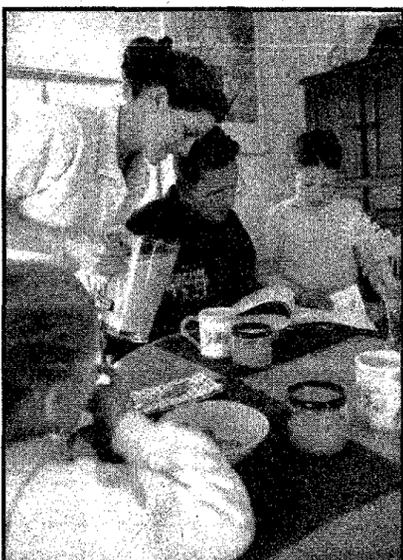
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CORRECTION

Due to a printing error, a Char Broil grill on page 10 of our May 22, 2005 advertising circular is mistakenly priced at \$79.99. While grills are available at that price, the grill shown in the ad is actually on sale for \$167.99.

We apologize for the error and any inconvenience to our customers.

VALUE City

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Wine lovers happy with decision, wonder what state holds in store

By a 5-4 vote Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion in *Granholm vs. Heald*, overturning as unconstitutional Michigan's liquor laws that give preferential treatment to Michigan wineries, allowing them to ship wine direct to consumers and disallowing wineries in other states to do the same. The highest court of our land found Michigan's laws discriminatory.

Regular readers of our *Focus on Wine* column, published in the Thursday Taste section of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, may recall

that we, 11 consumers and Domine Alfred, a small California winery, filed *Heald v. Engler* in March 2000, a suit that we won in the 6th Circuit Appellate Court.

Disliking that outcome, the state of Michigan — with intervening defendants the Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association — petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case, which then acquired the name *Granholm v. Heald* and was enjoined with a similar case from New York state. Oral arguments in the case were presented Dec. 7, 2004, before the Supreme Court.

Although we are pleased with the Supreme Court's ruling, we are alarmed, and you should be too, that Nida Samona, head of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) has been reported in news media as stating she "would urge the state's Legislature to prohibit all direct sales."

Ms. Samona also said she viewed such a measure as the best way to police sales to minors.

Since Ms. Samona heads only an enforcement agency, her remarks are troubling in a number of ways. She does not make

or change alcohol legislation in this state. In her position, she is out of line in exercising opinions on outcomes of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Granholm v. Heald*.

Ms. Samona's remarks indicate that she did not read the Supreme Court majority opinion written by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, in which he wrote, "the state provides little evidence that the purchase of wine over the Internet by minors is a problem. A recent study by the staff of the FTC found that the 26 states currently allowing direct shipment report no problems with minors' increased access to wine."

As head of the MLCC, Ms. Samona should be aware that a Michigan winery has never been cited for shipping wine to minors.

Let's assume that a majority of legislators and Gov. Jennifer Granholm hold Ms. Samona's opinion and seek to enact legislation that bans both in-state and out-of-state wineries from shipping wine direct to consumers. This would destroy Michigan's burgeoning wine industry, now 42 wineries strong, and lead to several more years of litigation at taxpayers' expense.

Instead, Michigan should look at increased direct wine sales as a source of much-needed tax revenue. In a time when Gov. Granholm and the Legislature have not discovered ways to boost the state's economy through encouraging expanded business growth, would they even consider destroying one that is agricultural-based and along with it agritourism, gaining in popularity in the state? Do our leaders in Lansing believe that putting the Michigan wine industry at a disadvantage is the solution?

If you say "no way," or "Michigan would never stand for that," as an editorial in the May 17, 2005, *Detroit Free Press* indicated, then you misjudge the lobbying power of the Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association, one of the most influential lobbying groups in Lansing.

Wholesalers form a \$32 billion

Although we are pleased with the Supreme Court's ruling, we are alarmed, and you should be too, that Nida Samona, head of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) has been reported in news media as stating she "would urge the state's Legislature to prohibit all direct sales."

lion cartel that does not care if it destroys Michigan wineries. In the past, wholesale middlemen have supported legislation creating state-sanctioned wine distribution monopolies that triggered our lawsuit and should arouse you to consumer outrage.

The U.S. Supreme Court has in its opinion indicated that states are part of an economic union where discrimination is not tolerated. Even if you don't drink wine, you need to care about the impending change in direct wine shipping laws and contact the governor and legislators now to ensure a free and open economy in this state — one that promotes growth, not stifles it.

Contact Gov. Granholm at (517) 373-3400, or through the Web site www.michigan.gov/gov by clicking on "contact the governor" and Michigan legislators through the Free the Grapes Web site www.freeenthegrapes.org by clicking on "contact your state legislators."

Troy residents Eleanor & Ray Heald write the Focus on Wine column for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and are nationally published wine writers.



Ray and Eleanor Heald

Coordination needed to link railway alternative to highways

Rising energy costs, declining oil resources, air pollution, one of the country's most overweight populations ... it all adds up. We need an alternative to the Detroit way — everybody in their SUVs clogging up the highways.

Jim Bailey of Redford wants to create a trail system, an alternate pathway to work, to shopping, to school, to wherever. Bailey, a registered nurse at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital, has been thinking about alternate methods of transportation for a long time and has been trying to get others thinking and acting.

"What I'm advocating is something that should have been done 20-30 years ago. The writing was on the wall back in '75, '79 when you had long lines at the gas pumps," he said.

Bailey isn't the only one advocating for trailways. He said he's talked with several communities. Some have started to develop trails, others are investigating the possibility, others are pleading poverty. Bike shops and bicycle clubs have also taken up the cause. But, Bailey said, what is needed is coordination that will link trailways from community to community, a real alternative to highways.

And, he says, the first step is the simplest.

In a letter to the *Observer* Bailey wrote, "The initial part of this project would be to get the communities to identify the specific economic and work areas in their community that they think the trail system should service."

This phase of the project is simple and ends up drawing lines on a map. The latter

phases are more complex, but by then I would advocate linking up to efforts already being done in other geographic areas and expanding them so they act on a regional basis."

As a Redford parks commissioner, Bailey had worked on a trail system for Redford, but didn't get the support he needed. Because for Bailey it isn't about "recreation" it's about transportation.

While Bailey supports the Rails to Trails program, he said what he is advocating isn't "recreational" bike trails, but rather multi-use alternative pathways that will take people to work, school and shopping.

"Recreational trails meander here and meander there; no one is going to do that to shop or go to work. It's the shortest distance between two points," he said.

He said Rails to Trails routes might serve like freeways that take people from town, but trailways will be needed within the towns and linking towns not along the railway.

He also doesn't want to see trails limited to walkers and bikers. He said electric scooters or some unforeseen new method of transportation might also make use of the trails as an alternative to highways.

He also argues that on-road trails should veer away from heavily traveled roads in favor of parallel, less-traveled streets and roads.

In his letter, Bailey outlined some of his goals.

1. The shortest route between two points.
2. Design for alternative means of transportation, whatever that may be, now and for 20 years down the road.
3. The trail serves economic, residential and work areas, for maximum effect, in order to encourage day-to-day use.
4. Trails are based on biological systems, i.e. lungs, skin, etc. The trails need to



Hugh Gallagher

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

We want to hear from you. What do you think of the trailways idea? What would you like to see in your community? Send me your ideas by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net or by mail at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150.

be mainly away from heavy vehicle traffic because of the toxins generated.

5. Minimization of causes of delays along the length of the trail.

In September, Oakland County, which has moved well along in developing a trail system linking Rails to Trails routes, will be holding a conference on trail systems. Bailey said he would like to see it become a regional conference that would "head everyone in the same direction."

Now it's up to you. What do you think? Is this a practical alternative, does it offer at least some relief from the freeways-for-everybody mentality?

As someone who has ridden a bicycle all my adult life, I find the idea of useful trails attractive. A few times in my work career I have lived within biking distance of my work. Now I don't and neither do many others in this spread out metropolitan area.

But there are so many times when this is exactly what is needed, and all it takes is a little coordination and a vision to pursue alternatives.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149, by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279.

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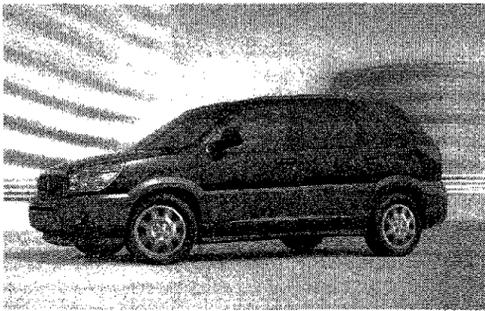


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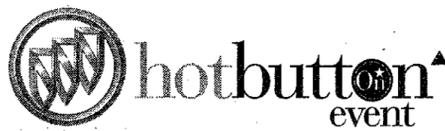
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