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AT HOME SECTION B

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**THURSDAY**

September 8, 2005

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Schools make grade on state report card

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The state of Michigan has spoken, and the word out of Lansing is that Wayne-Westland students are continuing to improve academically.

All but two of the district's 23 schools received an A or B on the state's 2005 Education YES! report cards and only one, John Glenn High School, failed to make adequate yearly progress.

"We're happy, but as a district, we still have a

lot of challenges," said Superintendent Greg Baracy.

According to Baracy, the district is appealing the determination that John Glenn didn't make adequately yearly progress even though it received an Education YES! grade of B.

AYP is the state measurement of student achievement and is a requirement of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. It looks at such things as academic achievement, the number of students taking state assessment tests, graduation rates for high schools and student atten-

dance for elementary and middle schools.

Eighty-eight percent of the state's 3,670 public schools made AYP as did 95 percent of the state's school districts. While the state didn't give out letter grades this year, Wayne-Westland received a yes for meeting AYP as a district.

A school can meet AYP requirements as a whole, but to be determined to have failed if one of its subgroups, such as special education, doesn't meet requirements.

Baracy said the John Glenn situation is similar to the failing status given Wayne Memorial

High School last year and that the district has filed an appeal. Unlike Wayne High, he believes the appeal will go forward and that the district will prevail.

"We believe we will win the appeal," he said.

"It involves one subgroup that we feel the state did not calculate properly."

The Education YES! report card is the state accreditation system and is based on student achievement on state assessment tests as well as

PLEASE SEE GRADE, A7



Plymouth resident Jim Cole looks over a 1947 Woody station wagon, dubbed Sweetwood, during the inaugural Hines Park Car Show and Cruise.

Organizers rate Hines cruise success

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

One down and many more to go. That's the estimation of Joe Langa, following a successful kickoff of what he envisioned as the grand finale of the car cruise season.

Working with the Wayne County Parks and Recreation, Langa and the Rolling Thunder Car Club of Redford, staged the daylong car show in the field next to the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center on Hines Drive just south of Ann Arbor Trail on Aug. 27. It culminated with a six-mile car cruise from Ann Arbor Trail to Outer Drive.

"All in all, it wasn't a bad day," said Langa, a Redford resident. "Compared to most shows, if you run one and get 30 percent of the cars the first year with rain, you've successfully got it launched."

"The key was the park, everybody liked it. It was a very choice location for the show and a lot said they'll

PLEASE SEE CRUISE, A6



Fred Vargas of Livonia walked off with the Best of Show Award for his 1958 Chevy Impala.

Pop concert benefits state's 'citizen soldiers'

It will be a star-spangled evening Saturday when Randy Blouse and his American Liberty Pop Singers present a concert benefiting the Michigan National Guard.

Organized by the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church, the concert will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at the church, 37775 Palmer, Westland.

The American Liberty Pop Singers,

directed by Randy Blouse, will be in concert 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, as a benefit for the families of the Michigan National Guard.

The church heard about the plight of the families of the state's "citizen soldiers" from the guard's chaplain, Lt. Col. Herbert Heavner, and has begun doing fund-raisers to benefit the Guard's Emergency Family Fund.

Heavner will be at Saturday's performance to talk about what the Michigan National Guard is doing and its needs, said church member Mary Rose Cartwright.

"They have families and children and weren't expecting to go overseas and now we have 200 down south," said

PLEASE SEE CONCERT, A7

Westland firefighters head south to help with disaster effort

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Two Westland firefighters are on their way to the Gulf Coast after being selected as one of 1,000 two-person teams by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Fire Chief Michael Reddy Jr. and firefighter Kelly Eggers left Tuesday for Atlanta, Ga., after receiving word Sunday that they had been selected for what will be at least a 30-day assignment as a community relations response team.

"It certainly is a great thing to be able to send a team," said Deputy Chief Kevin Riley. "It's a benefit to send a team. The knowledge that they will bring back is a benefit to us, especially if we ever have a disaster."

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli agrees.

"I think it's positive twofold for the city," she said. "We are a part of the effort to assist the victims of the hurricane, it's another way for the city to help. And they will bring back information we will be able to use to better prepare for an emergency."

PLEASE SEE DISASTER, A3

Teen faces hearing on robbery charges

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland teenager faces a court hearing today on charges he robbed two pizza delivery workers.

Christopher Lee Allen, 19, is expected to learn today whether he will face trial amid accusations he committed two robberies within seven days.

The first robbery happened on the night of Aug. 23, when a bogus pizza order was called in and the delivery driver was robbed at gunpoint.

That incident occurred at Ravencrest Condominiums, on Newburgh south of Marquette, police Sgt. David Heater has said. The driver was robbed by a masked gunman.

The second robbery happened about 10:45 p.m. Monday, Aug. 29, in the 400 area of Farmington. In that holdup, a masked bandit also held up a pizza delivery worker, police Lt. James Ridener said.

No shots were fired during either incident.

To protect their evidence until the case is heard in court, authorities didn't want to release certain details of what led them to naming Allen as a suspect.

Allen was arraigned Friday in front of Westland District Judge Gail McKnight on two counts of armed robbery.

He was jailed in lieu of a \$100,000 cash bond as he awaits a preliminary hearing scheduled for today in front of McKnight. A not-guilty plea was entered in court.

If convicted, Allen could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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Coming Sunday
on the PINK page



What
is
Kate
Richard
up to
now?

Beebo Cup's back

Benefit soccer competition set to kick off for second year

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The 2005 Beebo Cup in Livonia calls for kids to show off their soccer skills and for the community to join together.

Set for Saturday, Sept. 24, at Churchill High School's soccer field, this is the second year of the Beebo Cup, a soccer skills competition planned in the memory of Bruce "Beebo" Lantto. Lantto, an active member of the Livonia community, died in 2003 of a heart attack. He was 47.

This year the event will benefit the family of a Stevenson High School soccer player whose father died earlier this summer, according to Laura Thomas, event organizer and co-founder of the H.O.N.O.R. Foundation (Helping Our Neighbors Overcome & Recover).

"We're sharing the event with Stevenson to benefit (his) family," she said.

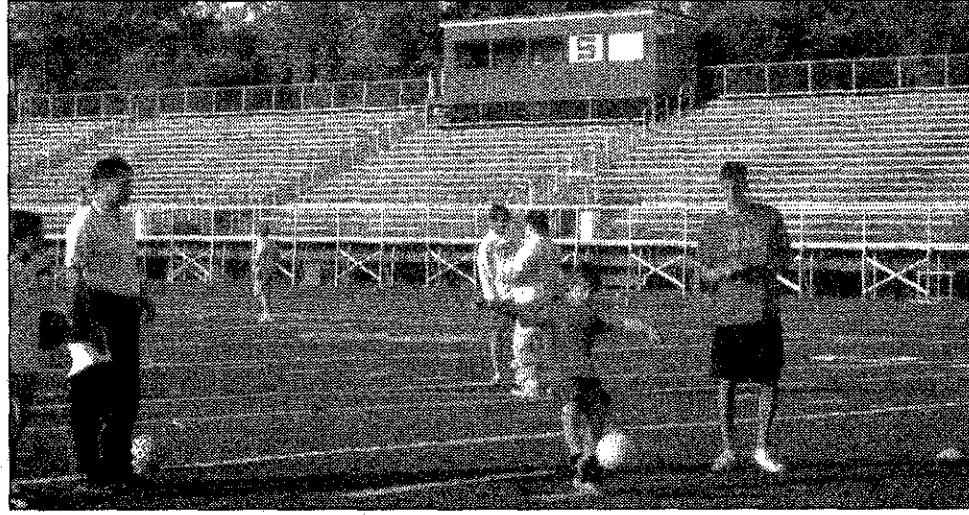
The H.O.N.O.R. Foundation was created by Laura and her husband, Gary Thomas, in 2003 to assist individuals going through a difficult time by creating an event that is more than a fund-raiser.

"The mission is to help people through times of difficulty," she said, "to rally friends and the community around them. I always feel passionate when I talk about it. It's what I believe in."

Children of all ages are welcome to participate. Events are divided into age brackets for kids 6 and under, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15. The Beebo Cup lasts from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Soccer skill stations include competitions in passing, shooting, dribbling and shot speed.

New skills this year include juggling and corner kick. There will not be a raffle this year, but organizers said chances are good the dunk tank will return.

Participants will also receive food and



Competitors have their soccer skills tested during the fund-raising Beebo Cup Event, which will be Sept. 24.

beverages, as well as free admission to the soccer skills final competition held at the Churchill vs. Stevenson junior varsity and varsity soccer games on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at Stevenson High School.

This year's Beebo Cup will expand beyond the Livonia community. Soccer clubs in nearby cities Canton, Plymouth, Redford, Westland, Farmington and Novi are all invited to participate.

"People are very willing to help," said Thomas, a Stevenson graduate. Volunteers from junior varsity and varsity soccer teams at both high schools will be on hand to run the stations and assist the young soccer players. This year the event is capped at age 15.

"I love the idea of kids playing on the high school soccer field," said Thomas. Not only are the youngsters excited to be on the field, she added, but the younger players have a chance to meet the players and

coaches.

Through the H.O.N.O.R. Foundation, which also organizes a charity softball tournament each year, the Thomases have met people across the community who share their dedication to volunteerism.

"I have found people just as passionate about helping people in need," said Thomas.

The cost to participate in the Beebo Cup is \$10 per person, or \$125 for a team. Checks may be made payable to the H.O.N.O.R. Foundation.

To register send your name, address, telephone number, age and gender to Beebo Cup, 19428 Gill Road, Livonia, MI 48152. Registration forms are available through many area soccer coaches or by contacting Gary or Laura Thomas at (248) 476-8163.

scasola@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2054

Parisian store mixes shopping, education

SCHOOL, SHOPPING COLLIDE

Laurel Park's Parisian store is preparing to host its semi-annual Celebrate Education event to support local schools and school-related programs.

The daylong shopping event is set for 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Parisian store at Six Mile and Newburgh roads in Livonia. Area schools and extracurricular education groups can sign up now to benefit from the sale. Schools or groups who participate sell \$5 tickets to the event, and retain all the proceeds from the sale. In turn, ticket holders will receive a 20 percent discount on merchandise the day of the sale.

In addition, anyone wishing to volunteer from a participating school can raise money based on the hours they spend at the store, assisting with on-site ticket sales or putting away merchandise. Volunteers shifts last about two to three hours. The more volunteers who sign up, the more money a group can raise, organizers explained.

"Parisian's Celebrate Education event raises close to \$1 million annually for schools and education charities," said Ken Armstrong, senior vice president of stores. "This event

is one of many community-focused events that Parisian associates are proud to be involved with, continuing our long history of charitable giving."

The previous Celebrate Education event, held in February, drew participants from Livonia, Redford, Southfield, Farmington, Westland, Northville, Plymouth and Canton. More than just schools, sports teams, musical groups, PTO's and more are invited to join the effort to raise money for their needs.

For more information, or to sign your school or school group up as a beneficiary, call Randy Dell or Jill Engel at (734) 953-7500.

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.homecomm.net or call (734) 953-2054.



Madonna hosts evening of arts examining Iraq war

Madonna University's College of Arts and Humanities hosts a free evening of the arts, featuring a new art exhibit, which brings to light the consequences of war and promotes peaceful solutions from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9, at Kresge Hall.

"The entire project is the brainchild of art therapist Nancy Paton who sought to create an artistic outlet for the emotions generated by the war in Iraq," said Kathleen

O'Dowd, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. "She describes the exhibit 'art therapy on a large scale' as well as a means of educating the public about the realities of war."

Paton, a '93 Madonna graduate, has spent the last nine months planning this event, spurred by her distress over the Iraq War. It is her goal to raise public awareness to the atrocities and consequences of war, while promoting solutions

for peace.

"Most pieces were specifically designed for this exhibit," said Paton, who holds a master's degree from Wayne State University. "For now, this exhibit is only set to be seen at Madonna University."

The evening's schedule of events include a 6:30 p.m. Opening Night Program featuring a poetry reading by Pietro Di Giorgio and a musical presentation of "Pie Jesu" performed by Judith Moslak,

assistant professor of music education, and Nancy Delewsky-McCarthy, a vocalist with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra. A reception will be held following the opening of the exhibit.

The exhibit, called War Requiem: A Visual Retrospect of War, opens Sept. 7 and features work from 22 distinguished artists, including a piece by world-renowned sculptor Sergio De Giusti. De Giusti's work has been widely exhibited in both the United States and Europe.

Other artists include nationally known painter Georg Ihos, whose work is displayed at the Providence Hospital Mission Health Center in Livonia; Dennis Guastella, who has had work displayed throughout the Midwest; and photographer Patricia Izzo, whose work has appeared in magazines like Women's Day and Style.

Arts and crafts aficionados looking for the Village Painters' craft show during the Plymouth Fall Festival weekend are going to have to look at a new location.

The Village Painters, a local chapter of the Society of Decorative Painters and their show is a boutique style show using various mediums of painting such as acrylics, oils and watercolor, host their ninth annual craft show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

The Painters share the park that day with Greenmead's bi-annual flea market. Admission to the craft show, set at the Victorian Judge Alexander Blue's House on the Greenmead property, located at Eight Mile and Newburgh.

The artists are recycling old furniture into beautiful treasures for the home.

Along with hand-painted furniture, there will be seasonal decorations such as Halloween and Christmas decorations, seasonal wall hangings, painted ornaments, garden accessories, glassware, baskets and more.

A collection of prized decorative art will also be on display for your viewing.

During the show there will be a raffle of a handpainted quilt chest with an antique quilt, handpainted antique school desk and a handpainted antique sled.

Outside the Judge Blue House will be a free "Learn to Paint" tent, where visitors can stop and paint a piece under the direction of Village Painter members. Face Painting will be available for children.

For more information visit the Painters' Web site at www.villagepainters.net or call (734) 753-5232.

Tickets go on sale for Senior Celebration

The 11th annual Western Wayne County Senior Celebration Day will be held Friday, Oct. 14, as hosted by state Rep. John Pastor, R-Livonia, and state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia.

"Our area is home to a great number of seniors, and this fun-filled event is just one way to give back to them and to our community," Pastor said.

The event, also organized by Senior Citizen Achievement Needs, a local nonprofit organization for seniors, will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Burton Manor, located at I-96 and Inkster Road in Livonia. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at senior centers in Garden City, Livonia, Redford Township and Westland.

This year its major sponsor is Angela Hospice of Livonia.

"This is my seventh year of involvement with Senior Celebration," Toy said. "What I love about this event is that not only is it a really fun time, but it's also a great value."

Admission includes a hot meal, door prizes, games, health screenings, exhibitor booths featuring samples, novelties, and other information, and a free cloth bag to carry away all the goodies.

Purchase tickets early, as only 1,200 tickets will be sold.

For more details, call (517) 373-1707 or (517) 373-3920.

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From Kool-Aid to boots, people pitch in to help with disaster relief

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Westland doesn't have a lot of vacant hotel rooms to offer to the Hurricane Katrina evacuees, but city officials are expanding their efforts to help provide for them.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and Community Development Director Jay Gilbert have begun the task of identifying housing sites that could be made available to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

"We're looking for landlords with vacant rental units that are willing to work with us," said Cicirelli. "It's just such a sad thing down there and there's people who still don't want to leave their homes."

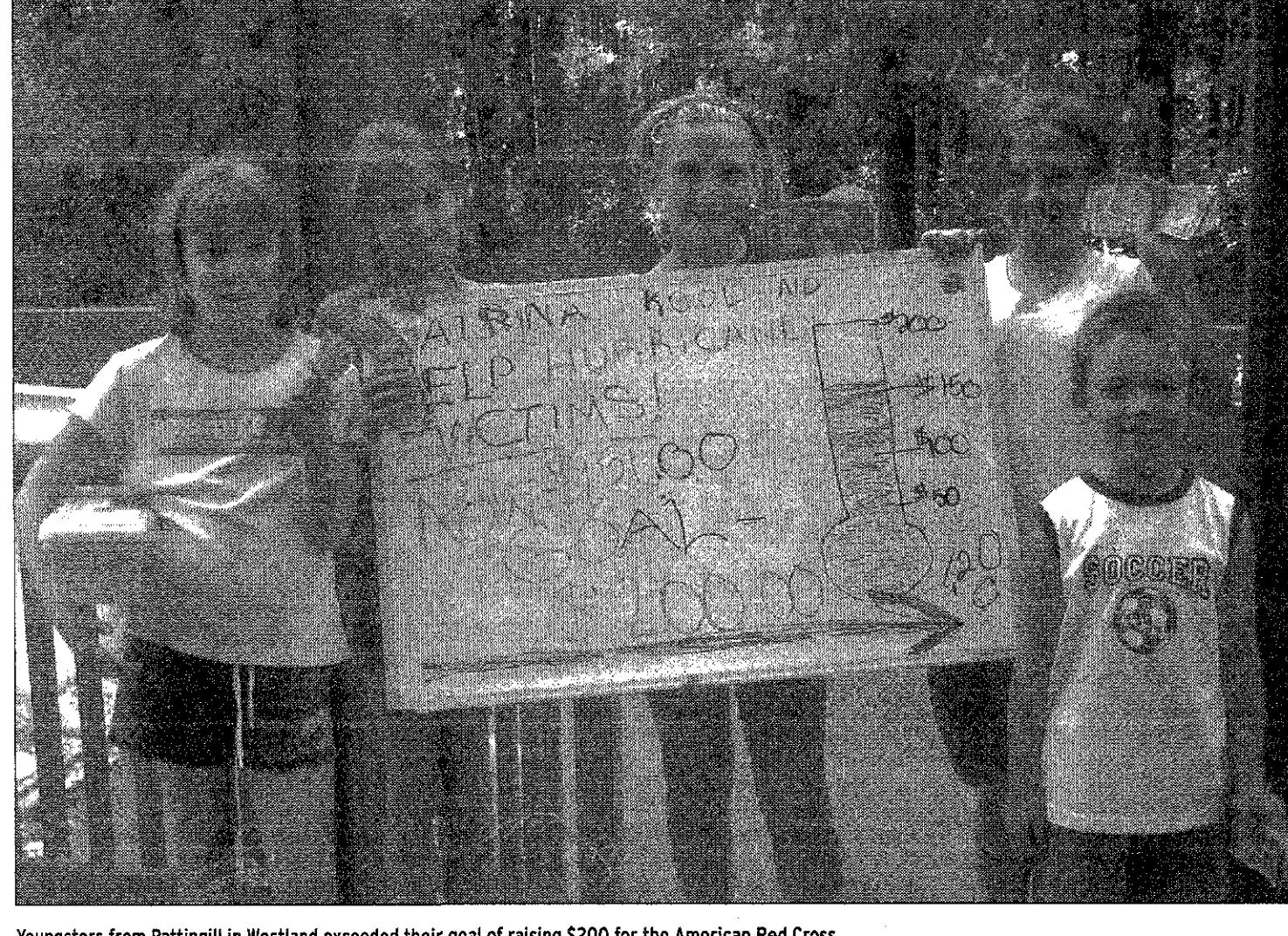
The mayor began the quest after being contacted by the U.S. Congress of Mayors asking its members to look for housing sites.

The search is just one of several things taking place in the city.

Until 6 p.m. today, Westland firefighters will be at major intersections in the city, collecting money for disaster relief.

In a scene reminiscent of 9/11, members of the Westland Fire Department will be holding out the boots to passing motorists to fill with donations.

This isn't the first time firefighters have used their boots to raise money. They did it in 2001, raising thousands of dollars for the victims of the 9/11



Youngsters from Pattingill in Westland exceeded their goal of raising \$200 for the American Red Cross.

terrorist attacks.

The boot drive comes just a week after the mayor established a local fund to collect monetary donations from citizens, corporations and charita-

ble organizations.

Response has been good, according to the mayor, who said her staff is now looking into a collection drive after receiving calls from residents

with bedding materials they want to donate.

"This is going to be an ongoing process," Cicirelli said.

Across town, Westland Shopping Center will be the

scene of a fund-raiser Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Former Detroit Red Wing and four-time Stanley Cup champion Johnny Wilson will be bringing the Stanley Cup to

the shopping center where fans can get their picture taken with the Cup for a donation of \$10 per photo. Wilson will have the cup at the Fan Zone.

All proceeds from the photos will go directly to the Salvation Army to help the hurricane victims. Photos will be processed on the spot, so fans can take their photos home with them that day. Other monetary donations also will be accepted.

Call the shopping center at (734) 425-5001 for more information.

No personal cameras or photos will be allowed due to time constraints.

Also around the city, people young and old alike are doing what they can for the victims. While patrons of the Elias Brothers Big Boy restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter, filled a backroom with donations that will be trucked to the disaster area, a group of youngsters who live on Pattingill manned a Kool-Aid stand for two days last weekend, raising \$238.55 that will go to the Red Cross for the Katrina Relief Fund.

The group included Samantha, Jaclyn, Mitchell Richter, Brenda Hillebrandt, Lindsay Spencer, Brittney Tobangwra, Andrew Benyo and Michelle Levy.

"It definitely gave them a warm heart to see there are generous people in Westland," said parent Deanne Richter.

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DISASTER

FROM PAGE A1

gency here in Westland."

Eggers has been a firefighter for two years, while Reddy is a 13-year veteran of the department. He also is the city's emergency manager, which the mayor said played into the Westland team being selected by FEMA.

The agency had sent out word that it needed the teams through the International Association of Fire Chiefs and

International Association of Fire Fighters on Sept. 1. The initial request were for career firefighters, but it was expanded to include volunteer firefighters. However, FEMA canceled its request on Tuesday after meeting its goal.

The teams will assist residents affected by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in going about the process of getting federal assistance. They also will distribute information, provide minimal first aid and take reports.

FEMA requested that team members be physically fit, self-sufficient and capable of working in difficult conditions for an extended period of time while sleeping on the ground and eating military MREs.

Those accepted were asked to bring carry-on baggage only - backpacks were recommended - including a basic medical kit, sleeping bag, personal hygiene necessities, medications, insect repellent, sunscreen, rain gear and a flashlight and batteries.

"It's not going to be pleas-

ant," said Cicirelli. "My hat goes off to them for doing this."

Riley said the two men will most likely be in Atlanta one-two days before being sent to another staging area. While in Georgia, they will receive their government ID.

"A majority of the teams will go out on their own and make contact as many people as they can," Riley said. "In the field, they'll carry what they need on their backs. They'll be right out there in the devastation."

"It's a massive effort to person-to-person contact with the people who need the help the most."

In its announcement, FEMA officials said "the concept is that the team will be able to work independently under tough conditions, being provided only food, water and perhaps rustic shelter."

"We cannot guarantee that you will have a vehicle or a means to transport or store gear," officials said in a prepared statement. "FEMA will provide you with FEMA

shirts. Remember that you may have to carry with you everything that you bring for the entire time."

While Reddy is away, Riley will be in charge of the department. However, the chief does have his cell phone with him and will be calling in from time to time. When those times will be is unknown.

"I've got a friend with relatives down there and the calls are hit and miss," Riley said.

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Hurricane Katrina victims, survivors getting help

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

As the death toll continues to rise in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, local people are rushing to aid those in need in the southeastern United States.

Trinity Health, the health system including St. Mary Mercy Hospital and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, donated \$100,000 to the American Red Cross. In addition, Trinity Health will match all employee donations up to an additional \$100,000. As of Tuesday afternoon, associates had donated a total of \$40,410.

"We have just been flooded with calls," said Kevin DiCola, manager of corporate communications and public relations. Officials from their 45 hospitals in seven states, none down South, were looking at how to coordinate volunteer efforts with the American Hospital Association and Department of Health and Human Services.

Health and Human Services is establishing 40 250-bed federal medical shelters, he said, which are offering triage and stabilization.

A bake sale at St. Mary Mercy in Livonia assisted hurricane victims, said Julie Sproul, vice president of mar-

keting. A number of St. Mary Mercy staff members have responded through monetary donations and/or by volunteering to provide medical assistance. To date, more than \$1,200 had been collected, with donations being received throughout the month and beyond.

About 12 St. Mary Mercy staff members (mostly nurses) have volunteered to travel to the affected areas to provide medical support. St. Mary Mercy Hospital is coordinating these relief efforts through Mercy Health Network, the organization of Trinity Health and Catholic Health Initiatives, and State Regional Disaster Organizations. Staff members will be deployed both short term and long term, and continue to receive their regular salary and benefits while serving.

To donate to the Katrina Relief effort at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, contact the Foundation Office, (734) 655-2980.

At Garden City Hospital, officials contacted the American Red Cross and Salvation Army about assisting. Both will be at the hospital Sept. 15 to accept donations, and employees are helping through their churches and other efforts as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The area to the right was submerged, but not all of New Orleans was flooded.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Helping displaced university students prompted a decision from Eastern Michigan University officials to enroll students. "Currently, we have about 10," Courtney McAnuff, vice president for enrollment services, said Sunday. "I'm sure we'll get more by the start of classes on Wednesday."

Some of the students, all undergrads, will live on campus, he said. The EMU effort

has been on the fly, seeking to assist whenever possible with such needs as clothing and books. Students will pay in-state tuition, and university officials are working with the federal government's Sallie Mae to secure interest-free student loans. The idea is for students to return to their home universities to graduate when that's possible.

"It is a challenge," said McAnuff, who agreed it will be difficult for students to con-

centrate on schoolwork. One former EMU basketball player, Ryan Perlman of New Orleans, and his mother lost their home.

"It's just such a heart-rending situation," McAnuff said. "I think everybody wants to help when they can." He anticipates students will do much to help the relief efforts as classes start this week. In addition, university faculty members are helping with academic research lost to the hurricane.

A group spent Labor Day weekend gathering donated supplies in a tractor trailer parked at the rear lot of the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth through Friday, Sept. 9, to receive donations. For information on the project, call Mercyworks, (734) 414-9783 or visit www.mercy-works.net for cash donations.

said.

"Bryan Smith is just a fantastic guy," David said of the pastor at Geneva. "I just want to thank everyone for their effort." Some girls from the community held a car wash Sunday and raised several hundred dollars for fuel money, he added.

Another truckload will leave Sunday, Sept. 11, and donations are needed: nonperishable food, clothes, shoes, diapers, formula, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap and other toiletries. The truck will be parked at the rear lot of the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth through Friday, Sept. 9, to receive donations. For information on the project, call Mercyworks, (734) 414-9783 or visit www.mercy-works.net for cash donations.

MONEY NEEDED

The American Red Cross and Salvation Army continue to encourage monetary donations to help Hurricane Katrina efforts. The number is (877) SAL-MICH for the Salvation Army, or checks can be sent to the organization at 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 49075 ("hurricane relief" in memo). For the Red Cross, call (313) 833-2664, visit www.semredcross.org to donate securely online, or send a check to the American Red Cross-Southeastern Michigan Chapter, P.O. Box 441280, Detroit, MI 48244-1280 ("NDRF" in the memo).

Young drivers involved in more car accidents

Drivers between the ages of 16 and 24 make up about 16 percent of the driving population but were involved in 26 percent of all traffic crashes in 2004, according to a recent study by the Insurance Institute of Michigan (IIM). By comparison, 55- to 64-year-olds represent 14 percent of all drivers and were involved in 9 percent of all roadway crashes during 2004.

Crashes involving young people also tend to be more deadly. Among licensed drivers, young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years old have the highest rate of fatal crashes relative to other age groups. In fact, the risk of being involved in a fatal crash for teens in Michigan is more than two times greater than drivers age 55 to 64.

Immaturity and inexperience

are the two main factors leading to the high crash rate among teens. Michigan's graduated licensing law, which includes a phase-in program for teen driver licensing, has been successful in reducing teen motor vehicle accidents. The number of young drivers in all crashes has declined from 163,239 in 1999 to 151,168 last year.

However, more crashes and more serious injuries result in increased insurance premiums for young drivers, according to Pete Kuhnmuensch, executive director, Insurance Institute of Michigan.

There are ways for young drivers to save on their auto insurance:

Drive carefully. Most traffic tickets and at-fault accidents will automatically increase rates;

Select a car carefully. Cost, repairability and performance characteristics are determining factors in the cost of insurance;

If you have an older car, consider dropping both Collision and Comprehensive coverage;

Ask about special discounts. Some companies offer discounts for good grades, safety features or for insuring two or more cars with the same company.

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Corner of North Adams Road and Walton Street, and at Laurel Park Place, 10000 Middlebelt Road, at the corner of Newsome Road and Six Mile Road.

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CRUISE

FROM PAGE A1

look for it next year."

Seventy-four cars registered for the show and 60 percent showed up for the show despite a late morning downpour. Even with the rain, 42 cars remained on site while others left for shelter only to return when the sun came out, Langa said.

One of the late comers was a 1923 Model T, which joined the likes of a 1930 five-window coupe, 1951 Mercury, plenty of Cadillacs and a "very rare" 1947 Woody station wagon. The best of show honor went to a 1958 Chevrolet Impala, owned by Fred Vargas of Livonia.

The closest participant lived in Westland just two blocks from the park, while the furthest participant came from Indiana.

Up here for the Woodward Dream Cruise, he saw the story in the *Observer* and decided to stay. According to Langa, "the guy said the park was entirely different than any other cruises."

The show ran from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., followed by an hourlong cruise of the parkway. The show and cruise was held on a day when Hines Drive is closed to vehicles. County officials extended the closing time one hour to accommodate the cruise.

Langa spent seven years getting county officials to agree to the show and cruise. There were a few minor problems - "nothing that couldn't be handled the day of the show" - but by and large, they were impressed, Langa said, adding that discussions have already started for the second annual cruise on the same weekend next year.

"It's not cut in stone, but it also looks like the show will be moved from Nankin Mills to the baseball diamonds at Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail," he added. "We're discussing the potential of having up to 800 cars. We were looking at 100 cars this year and had 74. If we hadn't had rain, we would have had 150 cars."

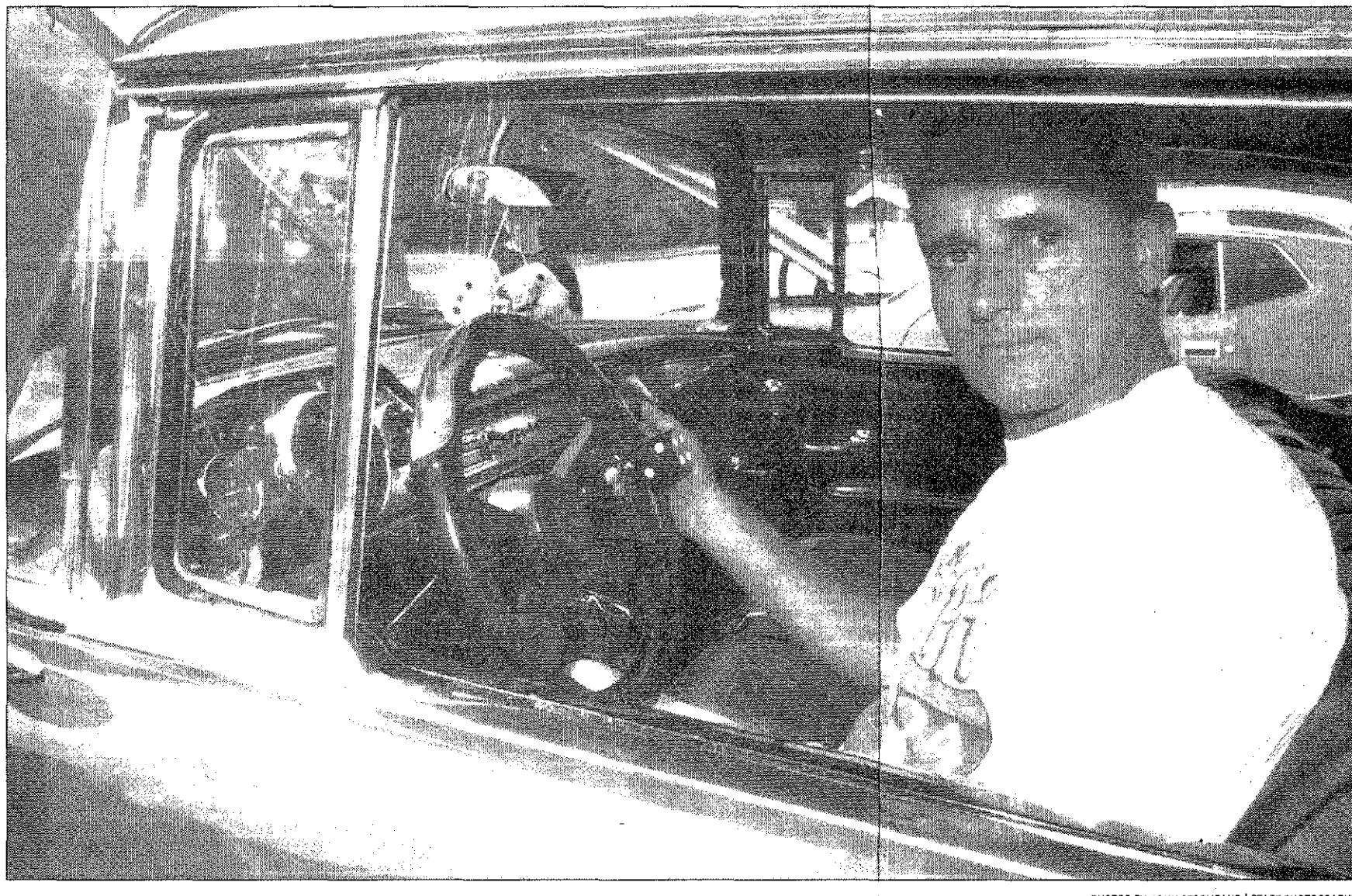
"I would say next year 400-800 cars wouldn't be out of reach. Once we expand to that, we're looking at a full cruise."

And people have already begun putting their names on the show's mailing list. Langa estimates a list of 300-400 for year two.

Car enthusiasts interested in getting on the mailing list can call (313) 533-6397.

"The first one is always the toughest, but it's in our back pocket," Langa added. "We're going uphill now."

smason@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2112



Bob Dickey of Farmington Hills, formerly of Livonia, brought his 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air to the show.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Larry Modresky (left) of Rochester Hills and his brother Paul of Westland show off their 1972 Gulf Green Chevelle.



Tom Watkins of Northville and his parrot, Jasper, look over the cars as they ride by the car show. Watkins was taking advantage of the park's Saturday closure to vehicular traffic to do some bicycle riding.

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GRADE

FROM PAGE A1

other performance indicators such as curriculum, teacher quality and family involvement.

Six schools – Hamilton, Madison, Kettering, Roosevelt-McGrath and Walker-Winter Elementaries – received an A from the state, while another 14 – Glenn as well as Wayne Memorial High School, all four middle schools and Schweitzer, Elliott, Hoover, Lincoln, P.D. Graham, Patchin, Taft-Galloway and Vandenburg Elementaries – received B's.

And two schools – Hicks and Jefferson-Barns – received the lowest passing grade, C.

Baracy said the good grades are the result of a combination of things, including a "hard-working teaching staff" and a lot of parental support.

He also praised the district's

administrators who are able to analyze and break down the information to determine where there are "holes" in the program and identifying students who need assistance.

"Our staff has worked hard, our administrators have worked hard and our parent involvement has been bigger than ever," Baracy said. "We're happy with the direction our schools are taking."

No Child Left Behind requirements are changing when and which students take the state assessment tests. Beginning this year, youngsters in third-eighth grades will be tested every year in at least English language arts and mathematics. Fifth- and eighth-graders also will be tested in science and sixth-graders in social studies.

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Wayne-Westland Players Guild and Players Guild of Dearborn. He also toured Europe with the Ford Chorus and June 1997 performed at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

His American Liberty Pop Singers is a nonprofit corporation organized to foster an appreciation of American music. Their concert will feature patriotic music like *O Canada, Star-Spangled Banner, An American Trilogy and Liberty*.

The concert is free of charge, however, a freewill offering will be collected. The offerings will be matched by the Thrivent for Lutherans.

For more information, call the church at (734) 722-1735.

CONCERT

FROM PAGE A1

Cartwright. "They need a lot of help and as a church, we felt the need to do so."

Blouse is a graduate of John Glenn High School and the University of Michigan where he majored in music and trumpet performance. He has worked for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools since 1973 and teaches trumpet and piano privately. He is the current director of music at Good Hope Lutheran Church in Dearborn Heights.

He has been involved extensively in musicals with the Croswell Theater in Adrian,

YWCA needs volunteers

The YWCA of Western Wayne County is on the lookout for to help out at the Inkster-based organization.

The YWCA needs volunteers for custodial/janitorial work, after-school programs, office/clerical work and for help with events surrounding its 50th anniversary.

"Volunteers really are at the heart of our organization," said Karen Murphy, YWCA chief executive officer. "Without volunteers, we would not be able to have so many of our programs."

People who have a few hours to spare and are interested in volunteering, can call (313) 561-4110, Ext. 20, for more information.

Tough economy? Local firm keeps on growing

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

While the news of employee layoffs or company cutbacks continues, one Livonia recruiting firm has seen nothing but growth.

Stephen A. Lowisz founded Qualigence in 1999 not realizing just how fast his company might expand.

In the past 18 months, the locally based business has more than doubled its staff, going from 13 employees to 40.

There are no signs that growth is slowing, Lowisz said he anticipated the space issues will arise again soon in their location at 35200 Schoolcraft.

"We've moved five times in six years," said Lowisz. Each time the business outgrew its offices. Lowisz said even after 9/11 when most companies were losing business, Qualigence kept right on growing.

"It's almost as recession-proof as you can get," he said.

Qualigence is a recruitment research and professional search business. The firm not

only staffs local companies and national corporations with qualified candidates they are seeking, but also augments the services offered by the human resources departments within other businesses.

Lowisz, a Canton resident, has been in the business of recruitment for 16 years. He has since developed a way of doing business that he said sets Qualigence apart from other recruitment firms.

Qualigence – a combination of the words "quality" and "intelligence" – divides its efforts into research and recruitment. Recruiters work directly with corporations in need of hiring new employees.

Rather than seeking out people who are actively looking for a new or different job, Qualigence targets those "passive candidates" who fit the job description.

"We don't use electronic media," said Lowisz, noting services like Monster or Hot Jobs Web sites. Instead, researchers search for people who have demonstrated the necessary skills and seem to

meet the culture of the business which is looking to hire. Qualigence developed its own "methodology" to meet these criteria.

"It's truly 'What's the best fit?'" Lowisz said.

Another difference at Qualigence is the way their own employees are compensated. Rather than a head-hunter or recruiter who receives commission when he or she places a new employee, Qualigence recruiters are paid hourly for their work on a project.

Lowisz said that ensures that the candidates Qualigence finds will be best-suited and have the proper experience for the job.

"We're the pioneers in what we do and how we do it," he said.

Lowisz is looking for the same qualifications and that "best fit" as he continues to hire within Qualigence. The company has actually had to turn down projects recently because there is more work than there are employees to complete it.

Kim Schachinger, vice president of marketing, said there

is enough work to warrant hiring many people at once. But Qualigence is looking at its growth carefully and only hiring people who can be effectively trained at one time, before beginning their work.

"Our reputation is precious to us," said Lowisz.

The company, which also has offices in both Cincinnati and Richmond, Va., boasts 97 percent client retention. Its clients include DaimlerChrysler, Bank of America and Limited Brands.

"The customer is our client," said Schachinger, a Farmington Hills resident. "We're really in a position to better people's lives."

Schachinger is spreading the word about Qualigence, participating in national trade shows, as well as in local organizations. The company has also taken on volunteer efforts with the Motor City Blight Busters. "This is my heart and soul," said Lowisz. "This is what I like to do."

scasola@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 953-2054

INFORMATION CENTRAL

It's been a long, hot summer. As it winds to a close, it's perfectly normal to find your thoughts drifting to that most time-honored of autumn pastimes ... the career change.

OK, maybe that's not true. But September is International Update Your Résumé Month (<http://www.updateyourresume.com>).

And really, isn't it about time you took a look at your tired old résumé and gave it a good spring cleaning? I mean, um, fall cleaning.

Most résumé experts recognize three standard formats:

■ The chronological résumé lists your employment history in reverse order, each position followed by a short list of your accomplishments there.

■ The functional résumé lists the things you excel at, with specific

examples, and only then provides a cursory job history. This format is good for frequent job changers, those who have significant gaps in their employment history, or those who have been out of the job market a while.

■ The combination résumé is a little of both. If you can pull it off, many experts suggest using this format.

In *The Résumé Makeover* (650.142 MAR), John Marcus says that employers generally give a résumé only a brief scan, "perhaps 10 seconds," before deciding whether it's worth reviewing further.

There's disagreement as to whether or not to include a summary of qualifications to catch employers' attention. If you do decide to use it, it should appear early in your résumé, just after your career objective, and

should sum up your skills and qualifications.

In *Winning Résumés* (650.142 RYA), Robin Ryan suggests that you never lie on your résumé. ("Overselling is a red flag," she quotes one employer saying.)

And Martin Yate, in *Résumés That Knock 'em Dead* (650.142 YAT), maintains that you should never include a list of references ("Most employers will assume that references are available anyway," he writes).

But this is just the tip of the résumé-writing iceberg. Before you ask yourself *Is It Too Late to Run Away and Join the Circus?* (Marti Smye, 650.142 SMY), consider stopping into the library and reading a bit further on how to write a great and effective résumé. We'll even suggest a few titles for you.

Library Web site: 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12. Discover the library's new Web page. Find out about new features and expanded information available at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Teen Internet class: 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. Register at the Reference Desk.

Free workshop: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27. Come to a free workshop on getting your home organized, office, and family organized. Presented by Alana Martin, a professional Organizing Consultant. Register at the Reference Desk.

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

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Livonia woman, soldier take steps to help Iraqi kids

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Just over three weeks ago, Livonia native Erin Vader signed up to be a Soldier's Angel, to correspond with military members serving in Iraq. Already, she's adopted one soldier and began regularly writing to 28 more.

Making that connection was something she'd wanted to do for a long time.

"I really just wanted to be involved," said Vader, currently a junior attending Bowling Green State University. "I just wanted to help."

When she stumbled on the Web site, Vader was connected with Sgt. Gilbert Zepeda, a California native now serving near Baghdad. Soldier's Angels typically mail out one letter and one care package a week. But her commitment has far surpassed that.

"He e-mails me six times a day, most days," she said. "We also have an MSN group and a huge message board system."

When she found out Zepeda's birthday was coming up, she sent a call out for birthday cards on the message board and has received 20 of them so far.

Almost immediately after "adopting" the soldier, Vader discovered a project he's spearheaded which aims to provide Iraqi children with sandals and shoes.

FINDING ANSWERS

"One day while on patrol, I asked myself, what, if anything is being done for the children... some of whom may become the leaders of this country," wrote Zepeda in an e-mail to Vader. "We all ask the questions, point the blame, but rarely do we come up with the answers."

His answer was Soles for Souls. Zepeda said he plans to "shoe every child I come across."

He's begun by collecting sandals and shoes for children ages 1 to 15, Vader said. Shoe drives are going on around the country, particularly in California, Texas,

Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Louisiana.

On Aug. 2, Zepeda wrote in an e-mail: "During the month of August, the temperature reaches a maximum of 140 degrees. Children, especially between the ages of 1 and 5 years old, are observed walking or running, barefoot, on dirt or asphalt roads.

"Help me show the children of Iraq that someone does care... Help me help the children with a comfortable step in the right direction."

Vader's desk job in the dormitory at Bowling Green State University allows her plenty of time to send e-mail and work on spreading the word about Soles for Souls. She's already contacted more than 300 churches in hopes for support. Later this month she will speak to members of St. Priscilla Church in Livonia, seeking the congregation's participation.

"I just think it's really important to support our troops, in spite of politics," said Vader, a Clarenceville High School grad-

uate. "People are losing their lives for us. They are watching their comrades die for us. The children are innocent."

Vader, now seeking a bachelor's degree in political science, said it's important the children in Iraq witness our generosity and compassion. "We should show it to them, rather than preach," she said.

She's received photographs of children who have received footwear. "They were so cute," she said. "They are great pictures. He takes them himself. I wasn't sure a sniper could take good pictures."

"They all look pretty happy. You don't see this stuff on the news."

Zepeda said "the amount of happiness it brings to a child's heart to know that someone cares" has been very rewarding.

He said it was a joy to receive so much help from people he'd never met. To donate children's sandals or shoes, contact Vader directly. Send e-mail to evader@bgnet.bgsu.edu or call (248) 444-5023.

A Charles E. Abney

Abney, 81, formerly of Canton, died Aug. 23.

B Elizabeth M. Angle

Angle, 102, formerly of Birmingham, died Sept. 4.

C Betty M. Baessler

Baessler, 82, of Farmington, died Sept. 2.

D William M. Brennan

Brennan, 86, of Livonia, died March 12.

E John J. Burger

Burger, 89, of Clawson, died Aug. 31.

F Marilyn A. Campbell

Campbell, 66, of Westland, died Aug. 28.

G Everett L. Ferrier

Ferrier, 94, of Rapid River, formerly of Garden City, died Aug. 25.

H Darlene Ann Gerstenbrand

Gerstenbrand, of Westland, died Aug. 29.

I Shirley Holton

Holton, 79, of Commerce Township, died Aug. 29.

J Grace LaMotte

LaMotte, 89, formerly of West Bloomfield, died July 2.

K June Lucile Cook McDole

McDole, 94, of Beverly Hills, died Sept. 1.

L Albert L. Mix Jr.

Mix, 71, formerly of Livonia, died Aug. 31.

S Edward Allen "Eddie" Sawicki

Sawicki, 23, of Albion, died Aug. 16.

T Betty Louise Seabaugh

Seabaugh, 80, of Rancho Bernardo, Calif., died Aug. 22.

W Lucille Josephine Schneider Winger

Winger, 82, formerly of Garden City, died Aug. 29.



CITY OF GARDEN CITY ORDINANCE #06-001

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 154 ZONING OF TITLE XV LAND USAGE OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY AND ADD SECTION 154.460 CONDITIONAL REZONING.

THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY HEREBY ORDAINS:

That City Council shall enact an ordinance permitting conditional rezoning as follows:

Section 154.460 CONDITIONAL REZONING

A. Intent.

It is recognized that there are certain instances where it would be in the best interests of the City, as well as advantageous to property owners seeking a change in zoning boundaries, if certain conditions could be proposed by property owners as part of a request for a rezoning. It is the intent of this Section to provide a process consistent with the provisions of Section 4g of the City and Village Zoning Act (MCL 125.584g) by which an owner seeking a rezoning may voluntarily propose conditions regarding the use and/or development of land as part of the rezoning request.

B. Application and Offer of Conditions.

- An owner of land may voluntarily offer in writing conditions relating to the use and/or development of land for which a rezoning is requested. This offer may be made either at the time the application for rezoning is filed or may be made at a later time during the rezoning process.
- The required application and process for considering a rezoning request with conditions shall be the same as that for considering rezoning requests made without any offer of conditions, except as modified by the requirements of this Section.
- The owner's offer of conditions may not purport to authorize uses or developments not permitted in the requested new zoning district.
- The owner's offer of conditions shall bear a reasonable and rational relationship to the property for which rezoning is requested.
- Any use or development proposed as part of an offer of conditions that would require a Special Land Use permit under the terms of this Ordinance may only be commenced if all of the Special Land Use requirements for the proposed use or uses, as outlined in Sections 154.415 through 154.417, are met.
- Any use or development proposed as part of an offer of conditions that would require a variance under a variance under the terms of this Ordinance may only be commenced if a variance for such use or development is ultimately granted in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.
- The offer of conditions may be amended during the process of rezoning consideration provided that any amended or additional conditions are entered voluntarily by the owner. An owner may withdraw all or part of its offer of conditions any time prior to final rezoning action of City Council provided that, if such withdrawal occurs subsequent to the Planning Commission's public hearing on the original rezoning request, then the rezoning application process shall be terminated and the applicant shall re-file a new application.

C. Planning Commission Review.

The Planning Commission, after public hearing and consideration of the factors for rezoning, may recommend approval, approval with recommended changes, or denial of the rezoning; provided, however, that any recommended changes to the offer of conditions are acceptable to and thereafter offered by the owner.

D. City Council Review.

After receipt of the Planning Commission's recommendation, the City Council shall deliberate upon the requested rezoning and may approve or deny the conditional rezoning request. Council's deliberations shall include, but not be limited to, a consideration of the factors for rezoning. Should

Council consider amendments to the proposed conditional rezoning advisable and if such contemplated amendments to the offer of conditions are acceptable to and thereafter offered by the owner, then Council shall, in accordance with Section 4 of the City and Village Zoning Act (MCL 125.584), refer such amendments to the Planning Commission for a report thereon within a time specified by Council and proceed thereafter in accordance with said statute to deny or approve the conditional rezoning with or without amendments.

E. Approval.

- If City Council finds the rezoning request and offer of conditions acceptable, the offered conditions shall be incorporated into a formal written Statement of Conditions acceptable to the owner and conforming in form to the provisions of this Section. The Statement of Conditions shall be incorporated by attachment or otherwise as an inseparable part of the ordinance adopted by Council to accomplish the requested rezoning.
- The Statement of Conditions shall:
 - Be in a form recordable with the Register of Deeds of the County in which the subject land is located or, in the alternative, be accompanied by a recordable Affidavit or Memorandum prepared and signed by the owner giving notice of the Statement of Conditions in a manner acceptable to City Council.
 - Contain a legal description of the land to which it pertains.
 - Contain a statement acknowledging that the Statement of Conditions runs with the land and is binding upon successor owners of the land.
 - Incorporate by attachment or reference any diagram, plan or other documents submitted or approved by the owner that are necessary to illustrate the implementation of the Statement of Conditions. If any such documents are incorporated by reference, the reference shall specify where the document may be examined.
 - Contain a statement acknowledging that the Statement of Conditions or an Affidavit or Memorandum giving notice thereof may be recorded by the City with the Register of Deeds of the County in which the land referenced in the Statement of Conditions is located.
 - Contain the notarized signatures of all of the owners and accessory parties of the subject land, including all known potential buyers, preceded by a statement attesting to the fact that they voluntarily offer and consent to the provisions contained within the Statement of Conditions.
 - Upon the rezoning taking effect, the Zoning Map shall be amended to reflect the new zoning classification along with a designation that the land was rezoned with a Statement of Conditions. The City Clerk shall maintain a listing of all lands rezoned with a Statement of Conditions.
 - Upon the rezoning taking effect, the use of the land so rezoned shall conform thereafter to all of the requirements regulating use and development within the new zoning district as modified by any more restrictive provisions contained in the Statement of Conditions.
 - The approved Statement of Conditions, Affidavit, or Memorandum giving Notice thereof shall be filed by the City for recording with the Wayne County Register of Deeds.
- Compliance with Conditions.

- Any person who establishes a development or commences a use upon land that has been rezoned with conditions shall continuously operate and maintain the development or use in compliance with all of the conditions set forth in the Statement of Conditions. Any failure to comply with a condition contained within the Statement of Conditions shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance and be punishable accordingly. Additionally, any such violation shall be deemed a nuisance per se and subject to judicial abatement as provided by law.
- No permit or approval shall be granted under this Ordinance for any use or development that is contrary to an applicable Statement of Conditions.

G. Time Period for Establishing Development or Use.

Unless another time period is specified in the Ordinance rezoning the subject land, the approved development and/or use of the land pursuant to building and other required permits must be commenced upon the land within 12 months after the rezoning took effect and thereafter proceed

diligently to completion. This time limitation may upon written request be extended by City Council if (1) it is demonstrated to Council's reasonable satisfaction that there is a strong likelihood that the development and/or use will commence within the period of extension and proceed diligently thereafter to completion; and (2) Council finds that there has not been a change in circumstances that would render the current zoning with Statement of Conditions incompatible with other zones and uses in the surrounding area or otherwise inconsistent with sound zoning policy.

H. Reversion of Zoning.

If approved development and/or use of the rezoned land does not occur within the time frame specified under Subsection G above, then the land shall revert to its former zoning classification as set forth in MCL 125.584g. The reversion process shall be initiated by City Council requesting that the Planning Commission proceed with consideration of rezoning of the land to its former zoning classification. The procedure for considering and making this reversionary rezoning shall thereafter be the same as applies to all other rezoning requests.

I. Subsequent Rezoning of Land.

When land that is rezoned with a Statement of Conditions is thereafter rezoned to a different zoning classification or to the same zoning classification but with a different or no Statement of Conditions, whether as a result of a reversion of zoning pursuant to Subsection H above or otherwise, the Statement of Conditions imposed under the former zoning classification shall cease to be in effect. Upon the owner's written request, the City Clerk shall record with the Register of Deeds of the County in which the land is located a notice that the Statement of Conditions is no longer in effect.

J. Amendment of Conditions.

- During the time period for commencement of an approved development or use specified pursuant to Subsection G above or during any extension thereof granted by City Council, the City shall not add to or alter the conditions in the Statement of Conditions.
- The Statement of Conditions may be amended thereafter in the same manner as was prescribed for the original rezoning and Statement of Conditions.

K. City Right to Rezone.

Nothing in the Statement of Conditions nor in the provisions of this Section shall be deemed to prohibit the City from rezoning all or any portion of land that is subject to a Statement of Conditions to another zoning classification. Any rezoning shall be conducted in compliance with this Ordinance and the City and Village Zoning Act (MCL 125.581).

L. Failure to Offer Conditions.

The City shall not require an owner to offer conditions as a requirement for rezoning. The lack of an offer of conditions shall not affect an owner's rights under this Ordinance.

M. Fees Schedule.

The City may establish a fee schedule for the application, processing and implementation of a request for rezoning under this Ordinance.

REPEALER

Any section of the City Code in conflict herewith is hereby repealed.

SAVINGS CLAUSE

Any prosecution, civil suit or other court proceeding which is pending on the effective date of this Ordinance and which arose from any violation(s) of any Ordinance repealed by this Ordinance, or a prosecution which is started within one (1) year after the effective date of this ordinance arising from any violation of any Ordinance repealed by this Ordinance that was committed prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, shall be tried and determined exactly as if the Ordinance had not been repealed.

SEVERABILITY

The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Ordinance hereby adopted shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts.

DATE OF EFFECT

This Ordinance shall become effective on September 8, 2005.

JAYLEE LYNCH

Mayor

Adopted: August 29, 2005

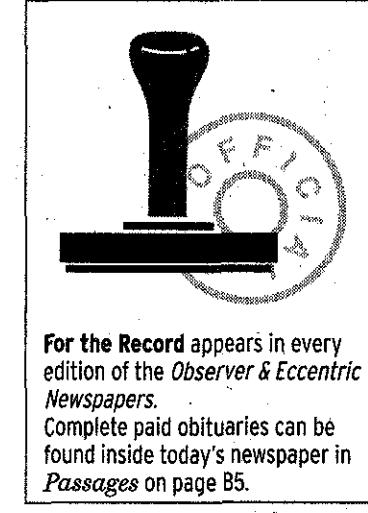
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ALLYSON BETTIS

City Clerk-Treasurer



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page B5.

Observer OPINION

A10 (W)

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, September 8, 2005

www.hometownlife.com

OUR VIEWS

Library card: Do you have yours?

Our apologies to Capital One, but we just have to ask: What's in your wallet?

Some credit cards, your driver's license, car registration and insurance, a few dollars? Betcha you don't have the "smartest" card around.

We're not talking about a bus card. We're talking about the card that can take you around the world and to the moon and beyond. We're talking about a library card.

September is national Library Card Sign-up Month. Observed every September since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month is meant to remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. This year's theme is: "The Smartest Card. Get It. Use It. @ your library."

Studies have shown that children who are read to in the home and use library services perform better in school and are more likely to use libraries as a source for lifetime learning.

Consider this: The William P. Faust Public Library in Westland has more than 156,000 books, not to mention thousands of audio materials and videos and hundreds of periodical subscriptions.

With the new school year just starting, we encourage students and their families to get library cards at our very own public library on Central City Parkway north of Ford.

The process is simple and takes just a few moments. There's no credit check, no monthly payment, no interest ... well, just an interest in a world of opportunities.

So ... what are you waiting for?

Communities open their hearts to Katrina victims

Lost in the torrent of stories detailing the terrible atrocities in the wake of Hurricane Katrina are the less obvious but, we think, more important stories of people doing everything they can to help.

Though no one should be surprised, such was certainly the case in our communities, where individuals, civic organizations and private businesses combined to pour out their hearts — and empty their wallets — in an effort to help those left with nothing in the aftermath of perhaps the biggest natural disaster in U.S. history.

We're bound to miss some of the efforts here, and for that we apologize in advance. However, it bears mentioning that:

■ The Plymouth Salvation Army took in more than \$10,000 in walk-in donations in the first few days after the hurricane. That's without any sort of targeted campaign; that money came simply from people walking in the door wanting to help.

■ Livonia shoe store Foot Solutions is collecting new and used athletic shoes to be sent to Katrina survivors.

■ The kids on Pattingill Street in Westland — Samantha, Jaclyn, Mitchell Richter, Brenda Hillebrandt, Lindsay Spencer, Brittney Tobangwra, Andrew Benyo and Michelle Levy — managed a Kool-aid stand for some six hours Saturday and raised \$151 to donate to the Red Cross.

■ In Canton, Expedite Right Freight Co. worked with neighbors to fill a truck of goods to take to the victims, getting help from Geneva Presbyterian Church with the collection site.

■ The Big Boy Restaurants in Garden City and Westland are gathering up supplies. And in Garden City, Republic Services is providing containers to gather up everyday items to support evacuees (we refuse to call them refugees) who are coming to Michigan.

■ Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli has established a fund to collect money for disaster relief.

A crisis like this always seems to bring out the worst in some people, as the presence of looters and muggers in New Orleans can attest. However, trying times also always seem to bring out the best in people, like those in surrounding areas who offered their homes to the homeless.

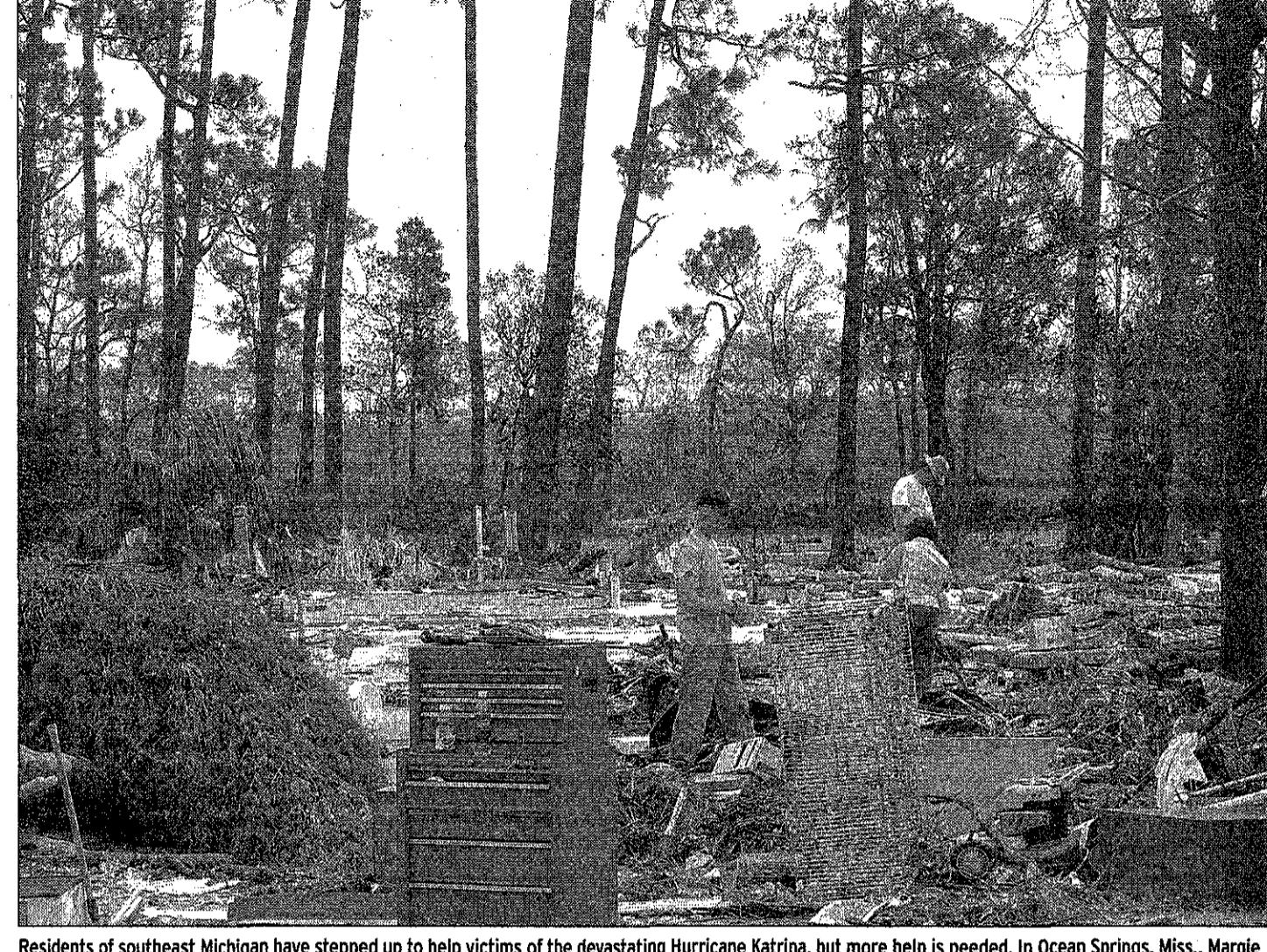
Those stories always make the national press, and people like that seem to find their way onto the *Today* show.

But other heroes never seem to get the same attention, and they help provide at least some of the backbone to relief efforts in cases like these.

Those heroes are in the Rotary clubs, and they walk through the doors of the Salvation Army, and they host baked goods sales and stand at their lemonade stands for six hours. They collect books and gather shoes and they go door-to-door asking for pennies.

They don't care whether they are interviewed on TV by Katie Couric or get honored with a plaque. They simply want to help other people.

Perhaps that should be the textbook definition of "true hero."



Residents of southeast Michigan have stepped up to help victims of the devastating Hurricane Katrina, but more help is needed. In Ocean Springs, Miss., Margie Mardiros and two friends walk through what's left of the Mardiros' house. Mardiros is the daughter-in-law of former Livonia city assessor Ron Mardiros.

LETTERS

Response is unacceptable

This is totally unacceptable! I am embarrassed and outraged that fellow Americans died and are dying due to the delayed response of the federal government. When this country decided to fight in Iraq, it was swift and decisive. Yet despite getting warnings as early as the previous Thursday that Katrina was headed to New Orleans — a city particularly vulnerable to flooding — nothing decisive was done for days!

How could America — the country that allegedly represents what other countries should aspire to — allow this to happen to those that cannot fend for themselves? Someone please tell me that we have at least the same amount of care and compassion for our own people as we do for those that we help abroad!

We have also damaged our standing in the world with this debacle — our credibility and world political clout have taken a blow. Our allies are shocked and our enemies are snickering. And why does it appear that offers of help from other countries isn't being coordinated and accepted?

Mr. Bush and his administration need to recover from the initial poor response and show the world once again that America always comes through — even for our own people.

Darryl Johnson
Westland

Ashamed of effort

Dear President Bush, Secretary Michael Chertoff and Under Secretary Michael D. Brown:

As an American, I am ashamed with the job DHS and FEMA is doing to help the refugees in New Orleans. The excuses I've heard on TV are simply unacceptable. Your one and only job is to be prepared to help out in this type of emergency and you have failed the people of this country.

Every ordinary citizen that had access to a TV in the days preceding hurricane Katrina's landfall was able to understand that this was going to be a disaster of historic proportions, so I cannot understand your agency's lack of mobilization. My expectation as an American citizen is that you have experts monitoring potential disasters and when they become imminent they can proceed to mobilize the resources of federal, state and local governments. Once the storm subsided you should have had your experts in house at the state and county emergency response centers to determine what was needed and been able to direct pre-positioned relief supplies and personnel to those that are in need.

I am especially outraged at the lack of assistance provided to the hospitals in the region. They are doing heroic work and you can't even get them food and water, much less evacuate the patients to working facilities.

If I were your boss I would fire you. Oh, that's right, you work for me as a citizen of this country. Trust me, I will not forget this when it comes time to elect the next president.

Ron Hasselbach
Garden City

Good excuse for invasion

I wonder if the Bush administration and Congress will use hurricane Katrina as an excuse to attack Cuba and Venezuela and remove their leftist leaders. After all, the storm did come from that general direction of the hemisphere.

Castro and Chavez may even have a stockpile of hurricanes at their disposal. Time to invade for the sake of invasion.

Damn the storm clouds! Full speed ahead!

John Byk
Garden City

Bankes isn't qualified to serve

Regarding the *Observer* story Bankes calls for probe of ballot effort, by Dan West:

Lyn Bankes, member of the state Board of Canvassers, in spite of her previous experience in government and future mayoral ambitions in the city of Livonia, is obviously not qualified to serve the people.

Attempting to justify her dereliction of duties as a member of the board, by abstaining to vote on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, she demonstrates her inability to obey the law and make hard and unpopular decisions.

Her rationale goes like this: "Legally, as a member of the state Board of Canvassers, I did not have the right to turn it down." In my conscience as a human being, I could not vote for it."

She ignores the fact that as any other citizen of the state she will have the right to vote expressing her human being feelings during the election.

Instead, she chooses to abuse her position of privilege to deprive the rest of the citizens of the state of their constitutional right to express their opinion in free elections.

Everybody wants to legislate regardless of whether he/she sits in a judicial position or pile of manure, ignoring the fact that, that is the legislator's responsibility.

We must not allow individuals with such a confused state of mind to assume positions of leadership for which they are obviously not qualified.

Romulo A. Prieto
Plymouth Township

that will not only reduce our dependency on foreign oil from the unstable regions of our globe, but it would also create many new jobs both in the fields and in the manufacturing sectors.

The problem is the lack of refineries, just as it is with gasoline (and electricity, also). The leftist, Socialist environmentalists will not allow us to build what we need because these factories would supposedly produce too much pollution.

These "Earth in the Lurch" types will not allow us to tap into our domestic oil supplies in the distant parts of Alaska and would prefer to see the internal combustion engine disappear ... which may happen someday, but affordable fuel cell technology is at least 20 years away. What will a gallon of gasoline cost by then?

If Iraq was just a "war for oil" as they once claimed, would it not be more likely that with our own sources of energy many of our beloved men and women in uniform would be home instead of serving in the Middle East?

James Kidd

ASE master automobile technician

Livonia

President needs to answer us

The president owes not only Ms. Sheehan an answer, he owes the American public an answer on what is really going on. Gas prices have climbed to the highest ever and there is no talk of why. Each day more troops are being killed, yet it is not publicized as major news. Why? Why does the media go to such lengths to keep such items out of the news? I can't believe that. If a Democratic president were in office, these types of stories would be covered on every station, every paper — you would never hear the end of them.

America wants our president to answer and take action to stop this insanity.

Christine Strock

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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QUOTEABLE

"If we provide the vehicle for their donations, I know the people of Westland will be able to make a difference in one of the worst natural disasters to ever hit the United States."

— Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, about the establishment of a local fund to raise money to help those devastated by Hurricane Katrina

WESTLAND Observer

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Varjabedian Attorneys has shattered a 30-year tradition among injury attorneys in Michigan. That tradition is the one-third attorney fee in injury cases. This is the usual fee charged by attorneys in Michigan. For 30 years the Michigan Supreme Court has allowed attorneys to charge one-third of the settlement, after costs are deducted. Thus, if your case settles for \$1 million (after costs are deducted), the one-third fee is \$333,333.

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