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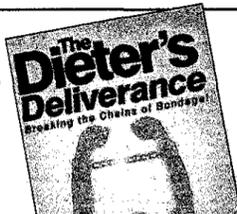
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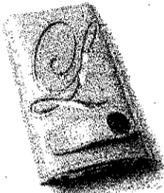


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WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY
December 11, 2005

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'An awesome responsibility'

'I was very surprised because we're in such hard economic times, but I'm also very grateful because the board recognized our sustained excellence over a period of time. I'm thrilled, all of us are thrilled.' Principal Susan Kelty



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Madison Elementary Principal Susan Kelty is joined by members of the teaching and support staffs in showing off the Lighthouse School Award the school received from Wayne-Westland school board in recognition of its academic excellence.

Academic excellence earns Madison Elementary board's Lighthouse Award

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Principal Susan Kelty is a realist. With student test scores already exceeding state averages there was no way her school would ever receive a Golden Apple for improving academics.

There just wasn't enough points available to show the kind of dramatic improvement in test scores that the award recognizes.

But the work of her teachers, staff, stu-

dents and parents didn't go unnoticed.

Monday evening, flanked by many of her teachers, Kelty accepted the school board's inaugural Lighthouse School Award, recognizing Madison Elementary School for its academic achievement.

"I was very surprised because we're in such hard economic times, but I'm also very grateful because the board recognized our sustained excellence over a period of time," Kelty said. "I'm thrilled, all of us are thrilled."

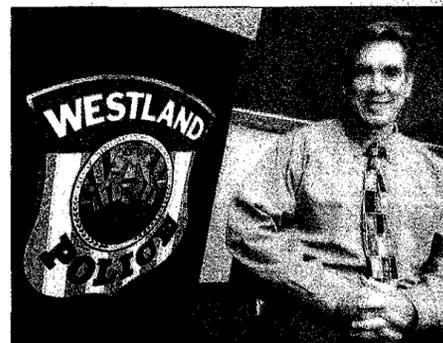
This is the third time in two years that

the school board has instituted awards recognizing school achievement.

In 2003, it revived a state program of awarding Golden Apples for schools that achieve a 60-point improvement on state tests over a three-year period and took it one step further this fall with an Encore Award for schools that repeated the 60-point gain.

According to Superintendent Greg Baracy, this award addresses the successes

PLEASE SEE AWARD, A7



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's a bittersweet time for Westland Police Sgt. Tom Harris who is retiring after 19 years with the department.

'Cop's cop' credits mom with success

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Tom Harris admits he could easily have ended up on the wrong side of the law.

He grew up in a Detroit housing project where the harsh realities of life led many youngsters astray. His divorced mother, Eleanor, raised him without a father since he was 6.

His struggling mother received government assistance and worked as a waitress to provide for Harris and his sister, Melinda. She was a strong woman.

"Without her influence, I might have been headed in the wrong direction," Harris said. "She kept on me."

Harris, 48, spoke candidly about his life during an interview, as he prepares Friday to end 19 years with the Westland Police Department. He rose to the rank of detective-sergeant during a career that began as a military police officer nearly three decades ago.

He's moving near Phoenix, Ariz., with his wife, Denise and their two daughters, Carlyn, 10, and Camryn, 6. But, it's an emotional parting for Harris and his colleagues.

PLEASE SEE COP, A7

Court orders evaluation in attempted murder case

A Westland woman accused of trying to suffocate her blind mother will have to wait to learn whether she will stand trial.

Diane Paul, 62, was scheduled to appear Thursday for a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court on attempted murder charges involving her 84-year-old mother.

However, the hearing has been postponed until Paul can undergo a psychiatric evaluation to determine whether she is competent for court proceedings, authorities said Thursday.

Paul is accused of trying to suffocate her mother with a pil-

low at the house they shared on Glen Street, near Wayne and Avondale.

A police investigation indicated that the Nov. 25 incident may have happened because Paul mistakenly believed she had somehow messed up her mother's benefits from Medicaid and Social Security. Police said Paul feared that, without the benefits, her mother would suffer.

If Paul is ruled competent, then her preliminary hearing will be rescheduled. If she stands trial and is found guilty, she could face penalties ranging from probation to life in prison.

Goodfellows expand fund raising to 'bulbs' sale

The Westland Goodfellows don't have a tree, but has plenty of bulbs for one.

Borrowing a fund-raising page from other organizations, the Goodfellows have the paper bulbs available at businesses around the community, hoping shoppers will buy one along with their other holiday purchases.

"When a patron comes into one of our participating stores, they'll be asked at checkout if they would like to make a donation to the Westland Goodfellows," said Rod Curry, director of fund-raising programs. "The donation is for a nominal amount, it depends upon what's in the patron's heart."

The paper Christmas bulbs come in three colors - red, green and white - and have room for shoppers to write their names. Completed bulbs are on display in the participating stores.

This is the third year the Goodfellows

The paper Christmas bulbs come in three colors - red, green and white - and have room for shoppers to write their names.

have sponsored the Christmas bulb program and a "significant fund-raising source."

The bulbs are on sale at stores in Westland and Garden City. The Westland locations include Bray's Hamburgers, Norman's Market, Le'Cakery Bake Shop, Hair Media, Strykers Bar & Grill, Wayne Lawn & Garden, Westland Dog Food, Palace Supermarket, Sak 'N' Save, Harlow Tire & Service, Wayne/Palmer Mobil, China Star Palace, Ken's Country Produce,

Toarmina's - Cherry Hill, Toarmina's - South Wayne Road and Town & Country Bowling Center.

In Garden City, the bulbs are on sale at Rock of Ages, 31015 Ford, and Fouad's Styling Station, 33205 Ford.

The bulbs have been printed by US Print prints and cut out seniors at the senior Friendship Center.

"They have done this since the program's inception," Curry said.

For businesses that want to help, but don't want to sell the Christmas bulbs, the Goodfellows have added a donation canister with the Goodfellows logo on it. This is the first year the Goodfellows have used canisters.

"We're hoping that they also will become a significant fund-raising source for us," Curry said. "I urge people who happen on our Christmas bulbs or canisters to make a donation."

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Festival



AROUND WESTLAND

Christmas dinner

Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church is inviting the community to a complementary Christmas dinner 3-7 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the church 29066 Eton St., Westland. Reservations can be made by calling (734) 721-2557 by Dec. 14. Transportation also is available upon request.

Senior dinner dance

The Wayne Ford Civic League is hosting a senior dinner dance noon Sunday, Dec. 18, at the hall, 1645 N. Wayne Road. There will be a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee and pop and dancing to the music from Solitaire. Participants must be 60 years or older to attend. Tickets are \$8 for league members and \$10 for non-members. Memberships are on sale year round and are only \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. Call (734) 728-5010 for more information.

NAACP meeting

The NAACP Western Wayne County Branch will have its annual *Let's Get Acquainted* meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Smith Chapel A.M.E. Church, 3505 Walnut St., in Inkster. The meeting is open to those who want to become involved in or learn more about the NAACP and the local branch. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. For more information call (734) 223-1739.

Holiday party

Westland senior citizens are invited to the Holiday Extravaganza, a Christmas party, at the Westland senior Friendship Center, Thursday, Dec. 15. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., with the "fabulous feast" will be served at noon. There will be a chance to have pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, dancing to the music of the Tommie James Trio and gifts galore. Tickets cost \$8 for members and \$10 for guests. They're available at the Friendship

center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

One-stop shopping

How would you like to get all of your holiday shopping done at once while getting free babysitting for the kids? No, it's not too good to be true. It's the Holiday Shopping Night at Taft-Galloway Elementary School, 4035 Gloria, Wayne, on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

The sale will be 6-8 p.m., and admission and babysitting is free. In addition to a bake sale and book fair, there will be handcrafted items like blankets, jewelry, scarves and ornaments. Vendors include Creative Memories, Longaberger, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Dee's Purses, Arbonne, Pampered Chef and Home Interiors.

Cancer fund-raiser

A bowling fund-raiser is planned to help 62-year-old cancer victim Henry Grim experience his dream of going to Disney World. Grim always dreamed of going to Disney World, but work and other obligations stood in the way. Now, the Belleville resident, who was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2000 and who is currently on hospice care, finally has a chance to realize his dream.

His family is hosting a bowling benefit noon to 4 p.m. today (Dec. 11) at Westland Bowl, on Wayne Road north of Ford. All proceeds will finance Grim's trip. Tickets are \$20 and include three games, pizza and shoe rental.

Surplus food

The city of Westland will distribute surplus federal food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, at the Dorsey Community Center, where city residents north of Michigan Avenue should pick up their food.

Residents south of Michigan Avenue always pick up their commodities on the third Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annopolis between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt.

Seniors in Taylor Towers should call their building manager for information about their day of distribution.

Food distributed in December will include beef stew, apple juice and instant potatoes. For more information call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services.

Christmas play

Inspire Theatre presents its final performance of its Christmas musical at 3 p.m. today (Dec. 11) at Dearborn Evangelical Covenant Church, 18575 Outer Drive, between Ford and Cherry Hill, Dearborn.

Tickets are \$10 with a portion of each ticket going to local charities. For information or tickets, call Len Fisher at (734) 751-7057.

Share the warmth

Westland Shopping Center and Cotton Incorporated, the marketing and research company representing upland cotton, are sponsoring the Share the Warmth program to help those affected by this year's hurricanes.

Shoppers can present receipts from cotton merchandise purchases totaling \$150 or more to the Westland Shopping Center Customer Information Center between now and Dec. 23, and a new cotton blanket will be donated to the Salvation Army on the participating shopper's behalf. The cotton blankets will be distributed to those affected by the hurricanes.

For more information, call the center's Customer Information Center at (734) 421-0291.

New Year's Eve

Tickets are now on sale for the Ushers Club's annual New Year's Eve dinner dance at Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. Tickets cost \$20 each and include reserved seating, party favors, snacks, mixers, beer, a three-meat buffet with side items, dancing to the music of The Goldtones and pizza shortly after midnight.

Tickets are limited and none will be sold after Dec. 27. To order them, call Sharlene or Curt Frizzell at (734) 425-6819.



Lenny Bulutis (from left), Rex Treharne, Jerry Baez (from Longhorn Steakhouse) and Pauline Dimouski from LeCakery Bake Shop show off the awards they won at the Holiday Taste Fest.

'One of the best'

600 turnout for annual Holiday Taste Fest

About 600 people with a holiday appetite sampled food from a variety of restaurants during the annual Holiday Taste Fest, sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

The event, held Tuesday at the Hellenic Cultural Center, was a remarkable success, chamber President Lori Brist said. "It was one of the best ones we've ever had," she said.

The chamber added 50 more tickets after it reached the 500 mark, but the number of people who ultimately were involved was closer to 600, Brist said.

Holiday Taste Fest serves as a fund-raiser for the chamber and for the Joseph Benyo Scholarship Fund, in honor of the late community volunteer who served Westland in many capacities.

Taste Fest gave participants an opportunity to sample everything from prime rib to dessert cake as they enjoyed entertainment provided by Miss Helen's Westland Dance.

Providing food samples were Toarina's Pizza, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Fire



Vangjel Manushi of Souper Sandwich Carver Vangjel Manushi carves roast beef for guests with the help of owner Lucy Biggs.

Mountain, Le Cakery Bake Shop, LongHorn Steakhouse, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Max & Erma's, Red Robin, Souper Sandwich Carver, Westland Big Boy, UNO Chicago Grill, Applebee's, La Shish, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center culinary arts program, the Hellenic Cultural Center's cooking staff and, from Canton, Taj Mahal.

This year's culinary excel-

lence award went to LongHorn Steakhouse, which served such food as prime rib, salmon, ribs and chicken, Brist said.

The restaurant is located on Warren west of Wayne, near Westland Shopping Center.

The most creative table went to Le Cakery Bake Shoppe, which provided a cure for those who still had a sweet tooth after sampling the dinner food.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY

To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org

You can access this information at the Garden City Library or City Hall during regular Business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk

Publish: December 11, 18 and 25, 2005

CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

December 19, 2005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, in the Council Chambers, at 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on December 19, 2005 at 7:10 p.m. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following proposed Special Land Use:

SLU 05-007, Merriman Road Baptist Church proposed parking lot expansion. The applicant (church) is proposing to add approximately 25,650 square feet (.58 of an acre) of parking lot onto the west side of the south side parking lot (south side of John Hawk). The subject property is zoned R-1, One Family Residential. Accessory parking lots for Religious Institutions are a Special Land Use in the R-1 District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: Mayor/Council, c/o City Clerk, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
Treasurer/City Clerk

Publish: December 11, 2005

Center's program earns national certification

The Automotive Collision Repair Program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland has earned national certification from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) for adhering to their strict code of standards and service.

"I'm very pleased with the outcome. It was a great process that made us, as an educational institution, meet strict industry standards," said Scott Heim, automotive collision repair instructor.

To become NATEF certified, the automotive program went through a lengthy and thorough self review before completing a two-day visit from NATEF representatives.

They checked student service standards, equipment, facilities, learning resources available and delivery of instruction.

The instructor also has to be certified in his field.

The program will maintain its certification for five years. The William D. Ford Career Technical Center joins 17 other automotive collision repair programs currently certified across the state.

The programs provide training on the equipment that is actually used in the repair industry.

The automotive technology program is already NATEF certified.

Both programs meet high national standards.

WESTLAND Observer

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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

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Vintage store opens at Livonia Career Tech Center

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

It may be the newest option in holiday shopping around Livonia. Fashion students attending the Livonia Career Technical Center have opened and created a vintage clothing store called Intenzione. The concept – succinctly described as “reconstructing fashion” – started as a joint effort between Chelsea Peabody, a Churchill junior, and Tony Gabry, a Franklin senior.

Beginning about three months ago, the students embarked on a project to both construct a new store space, within the school, and reinvent the clothing and accessories they would sell in that space. The merchandise ranges from painted-on jeans to patched vintage T-shirts, jeweled candles to hand-sewn scarves.

Gabry, who handled the store set up, said the onset of the project involved a lot of planning, and putting ideas on paper. Then, students had two weeks in which to scour vintage and resale shops for merchandise they could transform and sell for profit.

Peabody, who directed the design of that merchandise, said students worked on their items in class and at home. Starting with what their teacher, Pat Wright, calls a shoestring budget of \$200, students created a store full of goods.

The project posed a challenge, as well as giving students an opportunity for hands-on fashion merchandising experience.

“We’re only here for the first third of the day,” said Gabry. He said that has made it difficult to keep “people on the same path.” There was a definite vision for the store, and its creators are working to maintain that vision, even as they return to their home schools for the rest of the day.

Intenzione is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Dec. 19. The public is welcome to shop from 2-4 p.m.

but should remember to sign in at the office before proceeding to the store.

Already, Wright said, they’re making a substantial profit at the store. She hopes future fashion students will continue the tradition and create their own store to sell goods. This is the first year students have had the opportunity to do so.

And students from other tech center programs have all been invited to stop by for a visit.

Mary Trotter, who teaches the medical assistant class, brought her students in for a shopping break on Thursday. “I think Mrs. Wright is doing a fabulous job. My students

were thrilled to come down here and shop.”

The store itself came about with assistance from other programs. For example, shelving was created by Building Trades students.

“There are 70 students,” said Wright. “Everyone did something to help.”

Intenzione has already brought in more than it cost to open. All profits will go back into the program.

Students sign up to work in the store before or after school, or during lunch. On

Tuesday, Dec. 13, and Thursday, Dec. 15, the store will host family days.

Peabody said the project has focused her on her career path. “I like the marketing aspect more,” she said.

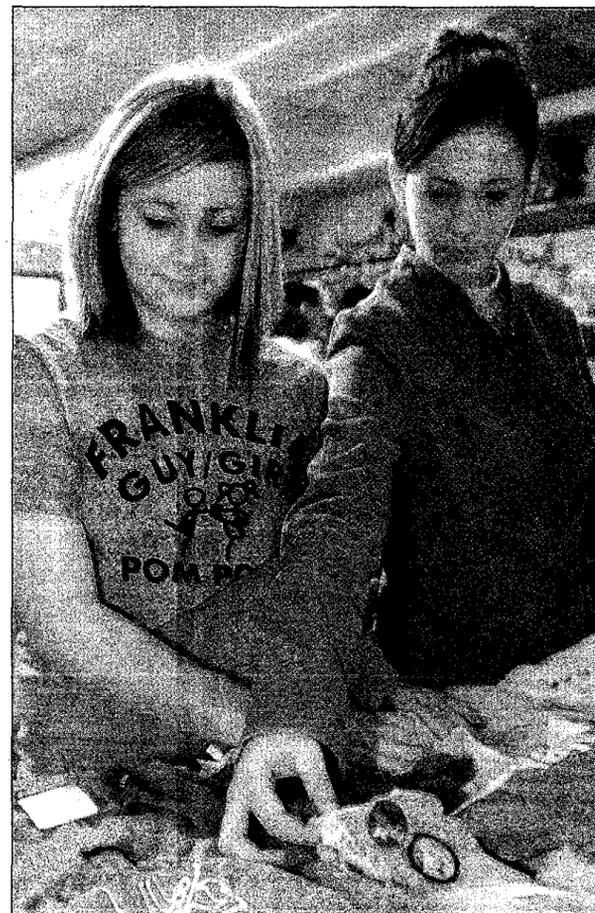
Gabry determined that he prefers to focus on “the visual merchandising of a store, what the store itself looks like.”

The reception by customers has been positive. Alli Hrushka found the perfect item, a scarf, at Intenzione Thursday. “It’s easy to get to since I go to school here,” she said.

Intenzione is located inside the Livonia Career Technical Center, at 8985 Newburgh Road. For more information, call (734) 744-2816.



Stevenson High School seniors Stacy Bajas (left) and Mandy Greenman sort through merchandise at Intenzione, a student-created store.



Franklin High School juniors Jessica Lomas (left) and Kaylyn Stanton look over some of the vintage clothes for sale at Intenzione, a new store located inside the Livonia Career Technical Center.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

It's December already! Some people have spent the past year preparing for the holidays – purchasing gifts on sale in July, making afghans, knitting sweaters, buying Christmas cards and writing holiday letters ahead of time.

Others of us procrastinate. We have trouble thinking of gift and decorating ideas or we simply don't have the time. Well, it's never too late!

Here at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland we have books, magazines and videos that can help you with your last minute gifts and decorations.

Leslie Linsley wrote *Quick Christmas Decorating Ideas* and *The Night before Christmas Craft Book*. We also own *Quick & Easy Christmas Crafts*, *One Hour Christmas Crafts* and *Holly-Jolly Crafts Under \$10*.

You might want to take a look at *Best Holiday Crafts Ever* or *Crafts to Make in Winter* by Kathy Ross, *Classic Crafts and Recipes for the Holidays* by the editors of *Martha Stewart Living*, *Glorious Christmas Crafts* by Diane Weaver or *Better Homes and Gardens Easy Bazaar Crafts*.

Origami for Christmas by Chiyo Araki, *Better Homes and Gardens Christmas at Home* by the Fireside and *Treasures for the Christmas Tree* by Carol Taylor round out our collection.

The CD-ROM, *Holiday Celebrations*, features decorations, crafts and cooking for many different holidays. The children's video, *Out of the Box*, offers unique crafts, songs and stories that honor Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. The December *Crafts 'n Things* magazine holds an abundance of bright holiday ideas.

Kwanzaa Karamu: Cooking and Crafts for a Kwanzaa Feast and *Kwanzaa Crafts: Gifts and Decorations for a Meaningful and Festive Celebration*, along with *Hanukkah Crafts* and *Hanukkah Fun: Crafts and Games* round out our holiday collection.

Holiday music is available at the library. Not only do we have numerous collections of holiday sheet music and holiday music on CD, we also have one or two books of Christmas sheet music for each individual musical instrument.

The Public Library of Westland welcomes your questions both in person and by telephone.

Financial Planning Seminar: 7 p.m. Dec. 13.

Join us for a free Financial Planning Seminar, presented by Credit Union One. Get practical advice on many aspects of money matters from a professional money manager.

Microsoft Word for Beginners: 10:30 a.m. Dec. 17. Learn the basics of Microsoft Word – a word processing program that lets users create a variety of documents, including letters and resumes.

Internet 101: 2 p.m. Dec. 17.

For the very beginner, what the Internet is and how to get there.

Internet 201: 2 p.m. Dec. 22.

An “inside look” at Internet search engines.

Potpourri Craft: 10:30 a.m. Dec. 17.

Learn how to make a potpourri sachet, one that you can use or give as a present. Ages 8 and up are welcome. Register at the Children's 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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Aspiring musician to perform at area boxing match

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Music might as well be a family affair when it comes to the Ansaras of Redford Township.

And their rising star is known simply as Stevie Soul. A 2005 Thurston High School graduate, Stevie "Soul" Ansara and his brother, Billy Ansara Jr., have joined forces to produce a sonic style that practically defies description. Based on Stevie's distinct brand of vocal percussion and integrating Billy's background in music production, they're forging ahead blending genres of hip hop, jazz and soul.

The sound recently caught the ear of representatives at Winlane Sports and Entertainment. Stevie Soul is the first musical act to be included at Winlane, a management company which historically promotes athletes and models.

As Soul's father, Bill Ansara, explained: "He opened his mouth and things started to happen."

With the support of Winlane, Stevie Soul will make his very public premiere - performing between bouts at The Night of Olympians professional boxing event at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The event is set for 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.

"I'm excited," Soul said. "I'm kind of waiting for this break."

Stevie Soul will also perform during the "Superbowl of Boxing," another event set for Saturday, Feb. 4, at The Palace. The event coincides with Superbowl XL in Detroit.

"I love it," Soul said of the opportunity. "I've been working hard."



Billy Ansara Jr. runs Sandman Entertainment and is devoting his time and production skills to working with his brother, Stevie. The Ansaras live in Redford Township.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevie 'Soul' Ansara jams at Sandman Entertainment studios in Livonia while preparing for an upcoming performance at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Soul said he can make roughly 12 different sounds while beatboxing. He started experimenting with his voice when he was younger during family trips to Northern Michigan. Exposed early on to Middle Eastern styles of music, he started "humming it and drumming it" in the car. He admits these sounds were initially a bother to family members, including his brothers Billy and Jimmy.

But Billy Ansara Jr. now sees those sounds for what they are, in his words "raw talent." And talent he can work with, as a deejay and music producer.

"He has beatbox skills," said Billy Ansara. "I'll make melodies and we'll develop it into a full song."

As brothers, they're work is seamless. "He takes the words right out of my mouth," said Soul.

Ansara agreed: "We balance

each other."

Even more than a musician, Soul said he's a performer. And his music is best experienced in a live setting. He said he's been a performer "ever since I had the opportunity to get on a microphone."

He doesn't think twice about getting up in front of an audience. But performing does take preparation. Soul said he does breathing exercises and often prays before he takes the stage.

Inspired by everyone from Ray Charles to The Roots, Stevie Soul said his music begins with a drum beat, and is layered with melodies.

He started recording in a basement studio in the family's home.

About two years ago, Billy Ansara Jr. had grown his production company - Sandman Entertainment - to a point where he sought studio space elsewhere. Now located in

Livonia, Ansara's production skills at Sandman Entertainment is devoted full time to Stevie Soul.

And their father, Livonia native Bill Ansara, is busy managing Stevie Soul. The entertainment industry isn't new to either Billy or Stevie. They've done acting and modeling work locally. Soul currently attends the International Academy of Design and Technology. And they run NO. IV Cigar Cafe at Novi's Fountain Walk.

Meanwhile, Soul has kept busy preparing for his upcoming performances at these boxing events. He's customizing his 20-minute set to be as aggressive as the sport of boxing itself.

Soul's audience ranges from ages 8 to 80 - there's something in it that everyone relates to, he said. When compared to other vocal percussionists, his



Drawn to rhythm at an early age, Stevie 'Soul' Ansara has honed his skills as a vocal percussionist. His use of drums accompanies his talent.

music stands out because it incorporates an array of cultures.

"The live show is definitely where it's at," said Soul. For free tickets to the upcoming Pro Boxing at the Palace event, featuring Damian Fuller, Mary Jo Sanders and

Anthony Dirrell, as well as a performance by Stevie Soul, contact any of the following: The Livonia Family YMCA at (734) 261-2161, Sandman Entertainment at (313) 350-8797, or call (734) 525-1700.

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State sets emergency rules for utility billing to prevent shut-offs

Westland residents who will have trouble paying home heating bills that are about to increase close to 50 percent won't be left out in the cold this winter. The Michigan Public Service Commission has issued emergency rules to govern the billing practices of utility companies, in response to the considerable energy cost increases predicted.

"This winter, people are going to be paying double and triple what they were just three years ago to heat their homes," said state Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia. "We really need to be watching out for our seniors and other vulnerable residents this winter and doing everything we can to help."

The emergency rules, which will be effective until March 31,

2006, require utilities to give all customers longer to pay their bills this winter. They also outline strict guidelines for utility companies to work with low-income families and senior citizens to prevent shut-off during the winter months.

"As soon as someone knows that they are going to have trouble paying their bill on time they should contact their utility com-

pany," Toy said. "Especially under these new special rules, the utilities are ready to work with customers who need assistance."

In October, the Public Service Commission also released \$41 million from the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund created by the Legislature to seven organizations including the Michigan Department of

Human Services, The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) and the Salvation Army to assist low-income utility customers with their bills.

Experts estimate Michigan residents will see a 40 to 50 percent increase in home heating costs this winter compared to last year. However, they also point out that this is lower than the 70 percent increases pre-

dicted in other states.

"Michigan is fortunate to sit on large natural gas reserves which can supply a good portion of our state's natural gas needs," said Toy, whose 9th District also includes Redford, Garden City and Westland.

Residents can visit www.michigan.gov/bewinterwise. Residents may also call (800) 292-9555.



REGISTRATION

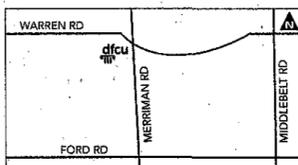
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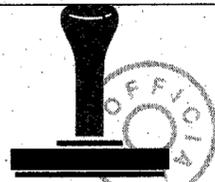


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For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page C4.

B
Geraldine E. "Gerry" Bradley
Bradley, 65, of Oxford, formerly of Alpena, died Dec. 7.

C
Jack H. Carr
Carr, 98, died Nov. 29.

D
Frances Corbell
Corbell, 72, died Dec. 8.

E
Vivian Marcella Erwin
Erwin, 93, of Canton, died Dec. 6.

F
Florence C. Griggs
Griggs, 92, died Nov. 28.

L
Albert J. Luibrand
Luibrand, 87, formerly of Plymouth, died Dec. 4.

M
Donald E. McLain
McLain, of Clarkston, died Dec. 6.

N
Austin J. Miller
Miller, 82, of Boulder, Colo., formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 3.

O
Frances C. Muenchinger
Muenchinger, 99, of Birmingham, died Oct. 22.

R
Anthony "George" Retsel Jr.
Retsel, of Waterford, died Dec. 2.

S
Thomas Dexter Strong
Strong, 73, formerly of Plymouth, died Dec. 4.

W
Elsie K. Watson, died.

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AWARD

FROM PAGE A1

of schools in the top 10 percent in the district.

"I'm extremely pleased, very excited and very proud to introduce the Lighthouse School Award recipient," he said. "Madison is one of the top performing schools in the state. It has sustained three years of MEAP scores above state averages in reading, writing, mathematics and science, and not many schools can make that claim. It also has met all the criteria of No Child Left Behind and Adequate Yearly Progress."

Those are two of the three criteria developed for the Lighthouse School Award. The third is that it cannot overlap a Golden Apple Award.

"It's a great award, but an awesome responsibility to lead the way," said board President

Frederick Weaver in presenting the award.

Kelty credits the entire Madison community for its academic success. Referring to the saying about it taking a whole village, she said in Madison's case it encompasses everyone.

"This wouldn't have happened without the hard work of the teachers and their dedication to the students," she said. "We have great kids, but what makes it a good school is the parents. A day doesn't go by that we don't have a parent volunteer in school, and we have a very active PTA."

Like the other school board awards, the Lighthouse School Award comes with a check for \$10,000 as well as a banner that will be delivered to the school by week's end.

The money will come in handy. Madison is not a Title 1 school and has to write grants for many of the extras for staff

and students. Kelty has an idea of how she would like to spend the money, but in actuality it will be determined by group consensus.

"The way we do things at Madison is by shared leadership," she said. "We will come to a consensus on how to spend the money. I really firmly believe it is because of shared leadership and shared decisions that we have maintained our excellence."

"We come to a consensus, then the teachers own it and the parents own it."

And now the Madison community owns the district's first ever Lighthouse School Award.

"You deserve it," said Trustee Steve Beecher, who taught at the school for more than 23 years. "You guys, year after year, you do it and we appreciate it. Madison is our best kept secret."

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COP

FROM PAGE A1

"Tom has accumulated a wealth of knowledge during his career," Police Chief Daniel Pfannes said. "This knowledge, in combination with Tom's seemingly tireless work ethic, has led Tom's peers to consider him to be one of the police department's core employees."

"Tom Harris is a cop's cop," Pfannes said, "and he is without doubt a member of an elite group of law enforcement officers that is endearingly referred to as 'The Real Police.'"

Although his mother pushed him toward success, Harris had other influences that kept him in line. Eleanor Harris recalled how her son played tennis, baseball, hockey and football. He also ran track and, for awhile, was a young boxer.

"I talked him out of boxing," his mother, a Westland resident, said. "It was too dangerous."

Harris's involvement in track continued as late as 2002, when he coached the sport for a season in Garden City.

Without a father figure, Harris also was inspired around age 12 by a neighborhood man - an Eastern Michigan University professor - who hired him for odd jobs and became a mentor.

GIVING BACK

Harris' way of repaying the favor has been to serve as a volunteer mentor for several years in the Westland Youth Assistance Program, helping troubled boys ages 7 to 15 by spending quality time with them and encouraging them toward positive behavior.

"He has done a fantastic job," program Director Ronalee Bowman said. "He's a terrific guy."

Harris has had ties to Westland since he was a teenager, when his mother moved the family from Detroit. Harris was a 1975 graduate of John Glenn High School.

He took college classes for a year before dropping out and joining the U.S. Army, where he took an aptitude test that indicated he was suitable for a law-enforcement career.

His stint as a military police officer was followed by other short-term law-enforcement jobs. But he found his niche in 1986 in

Without a father figure, Harris also was inspired around age 12 by a neighborhood man - an Eastern Michigan University professor - who hired him for odd jobs and became a mentor.

Westland, where he has worked in such capacities as patrol officer, undercover narcotics officer and detective sergeant.

JOB DANGER

Harris recalled one attempted undercover drug bust turned sour, in which he and now-Lt. James Ridener managed to get away from a house where a dealer was holding a gun.

"We busted them later in a different way," Harris said.

Harris actually enjoyed the dangerous job of narcotics officer and the drug raids that came with it.

He also worked as team leader of the police department's Tactical Response Unit, and he remembered one tense moment of trying to capture a gunman who was threatening violence after stopping his car in a major city intersection.

Harris was standing near the suspect's car when the man fired through a window, fortunately hitting no one.

"I'm glad Tom is getting out of that kind of work," his mother said. "It's becoming more dangerous."

Harris has helped solve many crimes, but one he is most proud of involved sending four young men to prison after a teenage drug dealer was shot dead at his house during a botched robbery. It was a classic "cold case" when Harris started investigating.

Even in Arizona, Harris isn't likely to leave behind his dedication to law enforcement. Since he is only 48, he said he may consider trying a career as an intelligence analyst, possibly with a federal agency. He also plans to make time for such hobbies as golf.

"It's a very sad time, a bittersweet time that I'm leaving," Harris said. "I'm leaving relationships that I've forged for 20 years with people. I know a lot of great people here, and I will miss them."

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Transplant crowns dentist's new life

New liver gets doctor talking about benefits of organ donation

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

For the first 71 years of his life, Dr. John Cameron had it pretty good — college at Indiana University and the University of Michigan, four years in the U.S. Air Force and a 35-year dental practice in Connecticut before returning to his home state.

Three years ago, he began noticing his energy levels wane, and he started having small memory lapses — signs he has since learned are symptoms of liver disease.

A year later, the folks at Henry Ford Hospital, where he was being treated, listed him on the organ donor registry and the long wait began for a new liver.

"When the liver kicked in, everything seemed to be moving in slow motion," said Cameron, 74, a Plymouth resident. "I'd been practicing 40 years, and I think the Good Lord was trying to get my attention."

Though doctors still don't know what happened to his liver — Cameron calls it "cryptogenic cirrhosis," which "just means we don't know" — but he knew he was sick. When doctors started talking transplant, Cameron wavered.

"After all, he could still drive, he could still walk and be active, could even manage the occasional flight of stairs. Still, there was the looming specter of a major operation, one that lasts 8-10 hours.

"I had mixed feelings, because it's a biggie," Cameron said. "I thought maybe I'm better off riding this thing out."

He got into a transplant support group at Henry Ford Hospital, and that experience wound up changing his life — forever. Talking to people who'd been there, who'd walked that road, changed his mind about the surgery.

"There's nothing like talking the talk with people who have been there," Cameron said. "I



Dr. John Cameron of Plymouth, who had a liver transplant eight months ago, said he doesn't have 'the foggiest idea' what caused the problem.

went from a 'maybe' to a 'let's go for it if the opportunity comes.'"

It was a big decision for a kid from small-town Michigan.

Cameron grew up in Tecumseh, where his graduating class numbered 45 students. Unlike many of them, he had the opportunity to go to college, and his parents convinced him dentistry would be "a good profession for me."

Off he went to Indiana University, where he did his undergraduate work, and U-M, where he did his dental training. After giving Uncle Sam four years in the Air Force, Cameron wound up in his own practice in Connecticut, where he stayed 35 years.

He came back to Michigan in 1995, working as an independent contractor. Life was good until three years ago, when he discovered he was sick and faced the question of surgery.

"I was doing fairly well, but I was slipping," Cameron admitted.

He spent two years on the list, during which he had time to study the statistics, which didn't necessarily tilt in his favor: Last year, just 9 percent of liver transplants in Michigan went to patients 65 or older.

However, waiting was an unattractive option. As of Nov. 1, more than 2,800 people were on the waiting list for an organ transplant, nearly 400 of

them waiting for livers. In that same time, 77 people died while waiting, according to statistics compiled by Gift of Life-Michigan, the state's organ and tissue donation program.

"That's really the crux of our job," said Amy Olszewski, Gift of Life-Michigan's government liaison. "There shouldn't be anyone dying waiting for an organ transplant."

That didn't turn out to be a problem for Cameron. A 19-year-old man in the Flint area sustained massive head injuries — Cameron doesn't know any more than that — and hospital staffers convinced his mother to take part in the organ donation program.

Hours later, Cameron was

being prepped for surgery. As he went through the process, he said, two things became apparent to him. First, he was sure the transplant would work. Second, he knew for certain he would become a spokesperson for Gift of Life-Michigan.

Since his surgery, Cameron has been just that, including taking the initiative to set up a Gift of Life table during the Art in the Park festival in Plymouth this summer. He met Gift of Life volunteer coordinator Kim Zasa just a couple of weeks after his surgery, and she came away impressed with his ability to rebound.

"It is amazing in itself for him to have gone through major surgery and bounced back so quickly," Zasa said. "He told me, 'Give me anything you need me to do.' He's very energetic, and he's got a very strong desire to talk about his story, knowing that is what might be the emotional trigger to get people thinking about transplant and donations."

Cameron has no idea what caused his liver disease, whether it could have been the result of a "needle stick" while treating a patient or the result of a blood transfusion, and he no longer spends much time wondering "why."

He also spends little time dealing with feelings of guilt anymore, feelings he admitted were fairly prevalent early on. "At first I tried to resolve that, 'why me?' question," Cameron admitted. "There's really nowhere I can go with that. I trust there's a higher purpose, and I don't deal with the guilt."

"They say 85 percent of the energy around us is negative," Cameron added. "I've tried to focus on that other 15 percent, and it seems to be working."

For more information on organ donation, visit the Gift of Life-Michigan Web site at www.giftoflifemichigan.org or call (800) 482-4881.

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PRESCHOOLS

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

Willow Creek

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Newburgh and Wayne Road in Westland, is a nonprofit co-op preschool for tots, 3 and 4 years old. It serves Westland, Canton and surrounding communities. The Moms and Tots program meets Friday mornings. Three-year-olds meet Tuesday and Thursday and four-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning and afternoon sessions available. For more information, call Lucy Arunachalam at (734) 453-5959.

Preschool program

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has registration for preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 419-2635.

McKinley

Looking for a great preschool? Choose McKinley Cooperative Preschool at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Nondiscriminatory and fully licensed, the program is open to youngsters ages 2-4. Morning and afternoon classes are offered. For information, call (734) 729-7222 or visit the Web site at www.mckinleypreschool.org.

Charter school

The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills and offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

Methodist

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is now enrolling for the 2004-05 school year. Four-year-olds attend on Mondays and Wednesdays; three-year-olds attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call the preschool office at (734) 728-3559. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9-11:30 a.m.

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POF05060614

U.S. policy in the Middle East inconsistent with our ideals

Why do they hate us? This question has been posed by many, including the president of the United States, who seem as perplexed about the attitude of the Middle East toward the United States as the people who live here. We, in the U.S., have failed to grasp why other people from so far away would want to harm us.

The easy answer is to characterize the Middle East population as one homogenous, dangerous and ignorant group of people who envy our free society. This simplistic answer is based on stereotype, ignorance or lack of honesty instead of the obvious one that has yet to be uttered.

The tension between our two societies does not stem from their envy of our free society, nor is it because of our democracy. In fact, many surveys conducted in the Middle East clearly state that Middle Eastern people would like to replicate our democratic system into their society. The contention between us and the people of the Middle East is how we conduct our foreign policies in their region. When in the Middle East, we either assume the role of bully or support the tormenters of the local population.

Having been born and reared in the Middle East until the age of 15, I can assure you that what we hold dear in the U.S. is different from what is practiced in the Middle East. We try to live by maintaining our constitutional idea of established justice, domestic tranquility, general welfare and the blessing of our liberty.

However, when it comes to the Middle East, our country has directly and indirectly abandoned our principles to support tyranny and the disfranchising of the Middle East population. As a nation, we have backed unelected rulers who exploit and brutalize their citizens. We invaded Iraq and supported the occupation of Palestine. Our tactics have suspended the people's rights and due process. When dealing with the Middle East, we act as authoritarians. Our foreign policies seem to align themselves with brutality.

Even with our perplexing foreign policies, most people in the Middle East still value the American people and their generosity. They look at us as an ideal society that has accomplished tremendous successes in our brief history as a nation. A recent survey of public opinion in the Middle East found most have the same value system as we do in the United States.

To shed some light on the United States' destructive policy in the region, just take a minute and walk in the same shoes of the people who live under the American occupation in

Iraq and the Israeli occupation in Palestine. Suppose the tables were turned and we in Michigan had a foreign power exert authority and occupy our state.

Then this foreign power decided that the people of the state of Michigan had to stay within their cities. They are forbidden from traveling anywhere and only when curfews are not imposed at will and frequently prevented from going to work or to visit other members of your family. Let's say that this foreign power was now issuing policies that revoke our Rotary, Lions, other civic and religious clubs, proclaiming them outlawed and illegal.

Now as the occupation progresses, we are subject to daily humiliation by (fearful, jittery teenage) soldiers who are pointing a gun at us at all time. To root out trouble, they are now entering our houses at all hours, sometimes forcing us to kneel in front of our houses for hours at the time regardless of the weather.

When we think things cannot get any worse, the new occupation begins launching security raids to weed out insurgents (anyone who disagrees with the occupation), rendering us prisoners of our own homes. You cannot leave the city for any reason, even sickness that may result in death.

There is no school because someone claimed our children's teachers were part of the resistance and now they are imprisoned. These samples are but some of the conditions that the U.S. has either directly imposed or supported in the Middle East in the name of democracy and western enlightenment.

Whether occupation or authoritarian regime, our U.S. foreign policy seems to have the knack for supporting oppressive and destructive regimes. Even the newly celebrate constitutional vote has left many Iraqis disfranchised and unrepresented in their own government.

For years, the people under these regimes have taken their punishment in stride and submitted to a life of misery without much of a fight. Right or wrong, some people in the Middle East, with the help of some of their exploiters, are striking back with vengeance at targets that will devastate us.

I wonder what we would do under the same circumstances? Although we think we are not like them, I predict that some of us would resort to random violence that would devastate our persecutors and their supporters.

Knowing the routes of our conflict in the Middle East, we should now ask an alternative question as to why are we abandoning our democratic and human rights values when dealing with the Middle East. Only when we truthfully examine and reverse some of our policies can we achieve harmonious relations between the east and the west.

Terry Ahwal lives in Canton.



Terry Ahwal

Soapy Williams saw Christianity as a call for government service

He was a fixture at every childhood parade. Long and lanky, he stood a head above everyone else. His large, square head flashed a goofy grin and underneath his prominent Adam's apple was a green and white polka-dot bowtie, his signature. To children he was the governor, but to adults he was known by the undignified nickname Soapy.

Thomas J. Noer's *Soapy: A Biography of G. Mennen Williams* (University of Michigan Press, \$35) is a reminder that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Williams' protean battles with a stridently conservative Republican Legislature are echoed in the current gamesmanship in present-day Lansing. But Williams was an unusual figure in Michigan politics and in the changing Democratic Party of his time.



Hugh Gallagher

Noer, a professor of humanities at Carthage College, writes that Williams and his kind of liberalism have been forgotten in favor of more pragmatic figures like John Kennedy and Bill Clinton. His new biography is a reminder of an often too unyielding idealism.

On his mother's side, Williams was a scion of the wealthy Mennen cosmetics company, the source of his cheerfully informal sobriquet. His father's family had made a somewhat smaller fortune in pickles and real estate. His parents, especially his mother, were staunch conservative Republicans, but the Great Depression made Williams a lifelong New Deal Democrat.

And something else motivated Williams' strong sense of duty and concern for those less fortunate. From his earliest years Williams was a devout Christian. He was a regular attendee at Episcopalian services and he saw public service as doing God's work and fulfilling the gospel of Jesus.

As Noer writes, this strikes an odd note in today's politics: "Williams' fusion of Christianity and politics, the core of his ideology, is also largely absent in contemporary America. Politicians still invoke the name of God, but only the conservative Christian Right still links religion and policy. Few to the left of center dare to claim Jesus as their political model or advocate that the government's goal should be the creation of God's kingdom on earth."

Soapy Williams seemed to emerge from nowhere in the late 1940s to recreate Michigan's stolid Democratic Party as a true liberal party, aligning unions, emerging civil rights groups and other New Deal progressives.

The Princeton rich kid joined forces with Hicks and Martha Griffiths and Neil Staebler to win an upset victory in 1948, mirroring the upset win of Harry Truman for president. Williams would go on to win an unprecedented six two-year terms, but his governorship would be a constant battle.

Noer's book shows the absurdity of having a gubernatorial contest every two years. Williams was campaigning at least a quarter of the time he was in office, when his time might have been better served working through compromises that the GOP was never willing to give him as long they thought they could beat him in the next election. But one thing that Williams was especially good at was campaigning. He and his wife Nancy covered the state. He shook everybody's hand, kissed every baby, ate and danced at every ethnic hall — everyone felt like Soapy was his friend. In his first elections, he had to fight through recounts to win the day, but as time went on he won by wider and wider margins.

These were the Cold War years, and Williams' political views and his support from Walter Reuther and other unions (with the notable exception of Jimmy Hoffa's Teamsters) made him a target for the red baiters. In fact, Williams was vigorously anti-communist. But he was one of the first and the most outspoken Democrat for civil rights. He led his party in the state and nationally toward support for the civil rights movement, often kicking and screaming. In those days, state legislators had no qualms about using racial epithets when discussing the race issue and constantly blocked every civil rights initiative Williams introduced.

His governorship had its successes. The most visible and beautiful is the elegant Mackinac Bridge. But his battles with the Republican Legislature proved overwhelming. The more he suggested social programs (Christian obligations in his view), the more the GOP pushed for business tax cuts and screamed about "socialism." Noer's recounting of these battles shows how they are being played out again in Lansing, though the pragmatic current governor is far removed from Williams' liberal idealism.

At one point, Williams was a leading contender for the presidency, but Michigan's financial problems sank the state into bankruptcy and "payless paydays" that closed out Williams' era with a thud. In 1961, Kennedy gave him a position as an assistant secretary for African affairs, regarded as a lesser appointment. But Williams took his charge seriously and advocated strongly for African self-determination with a controversial "Africa for Africans" statement that set diplomats on edge.

Williams continued to serve — as an ambassador to the Philippines and, for 16 years, as a state supreme court justice. But his finest contribution was as the "conscience of the Democratic Party."

That bowtie symbolized an unswerving dedication to public service and doing "God's work."

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@hometownlife.com or by fax at (734) 591-7279.

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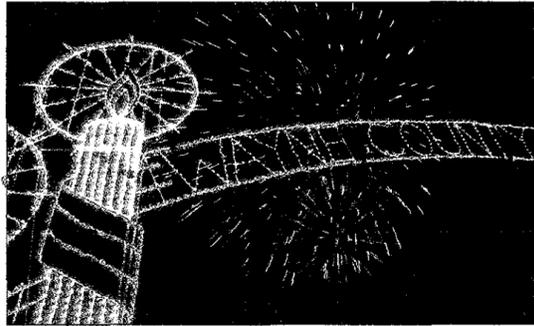
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Ficano officially opens Lightfest 2005



Joshua Barr, 3, enjoys a treat while waiting for Santa. He was at the Lightfest with his mom and dad, Kelly and Tim Barr, sister Ashley, 8, and brother Jordan, 6.



The official opening of the light festival was originally scheduled for two weeks ago, but heavy rains flooded Hines Park. Monday's opening was dry enough for fireworks, but bitterly cold.

Though it's been open since Nov. 17, the Wayne County Lightfest had its official opening Tuesday. The opening was postponed from Nov. 24 when flooding closed Hines Park.

The annual Lightfest features 4 1/2 miles of animated holiday light displays along Hines Drive.

County Executive Robert Ficano had help from New Orleans residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Santa Claus was present Tuesday.

The Lightfest runs 7-10 p.m. daily through Jan. 1, except for Christmas Day. Entry is at Hines Drive and Merriman. A minimum \$5 a car donation is

requested.

Dec. 13 and 20 will be Toy Nights. The community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 donation. Although Lightfest

begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly and will reopen at 5:45 a.m.

For information, call (734) 261-1990.

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Seminar looks at auto future

Four scholars and experts will discuss "The Future of the Automobile" in a seminar at the University of Michigan-Dearborn on Tuesday, Dec. 13. The forum, which is free and open to the public, will be held 4-6 p.m. in the auditorium of the UM-Dearborn Social Sciences Building.

Featured speaker will be Daniel Sperling, an international expert on transportation policy and director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis. Sperling's talk will be followed by a roundtable of scholars and industry leaders including automotive historian and Fulbright Scholar Gijs Mom; retired Daimler-Chrysler executive Gordon L. Rinschler; and Rudi Volti, professor of sociology at Pitzer College.

"These speakers have very distinct and valuable insights in automotive technology and will be able to provide a valuable look at the future directions of the industry," said Jonathan Smith, director of the Science and Technology Studies program and professor of English at UM-Dearborn.

The seminar is one of the products of a new consortium of UM-Dearborn, the Henry Ford, the University of Detroit-Mercy and an international scholarly group, the Society for the History of Technology, to work together on programs to examine the history of technology and its impact on society and culture.

Sperling is professor of civil and environmental engineering and of environmental science and policy at UC-Davis.

Mom, Visiting European Union Scholar in Residence at UM-Dearborn's Center for the Study of the Automotive Heritage, is associate professor in the history of technology at the Technical University of Eindhoven, in the Netherlands. Rinschler, now principal of a private consulting practice, has more than 35 years of experience in the automotive industry. Before his retirement from DaimlerChrysler in 2002, he was responsible for conventional power trains as well as alternatives such as Chrysler's EPIC (Electric Powered Interurban Commuter) electric minivan.

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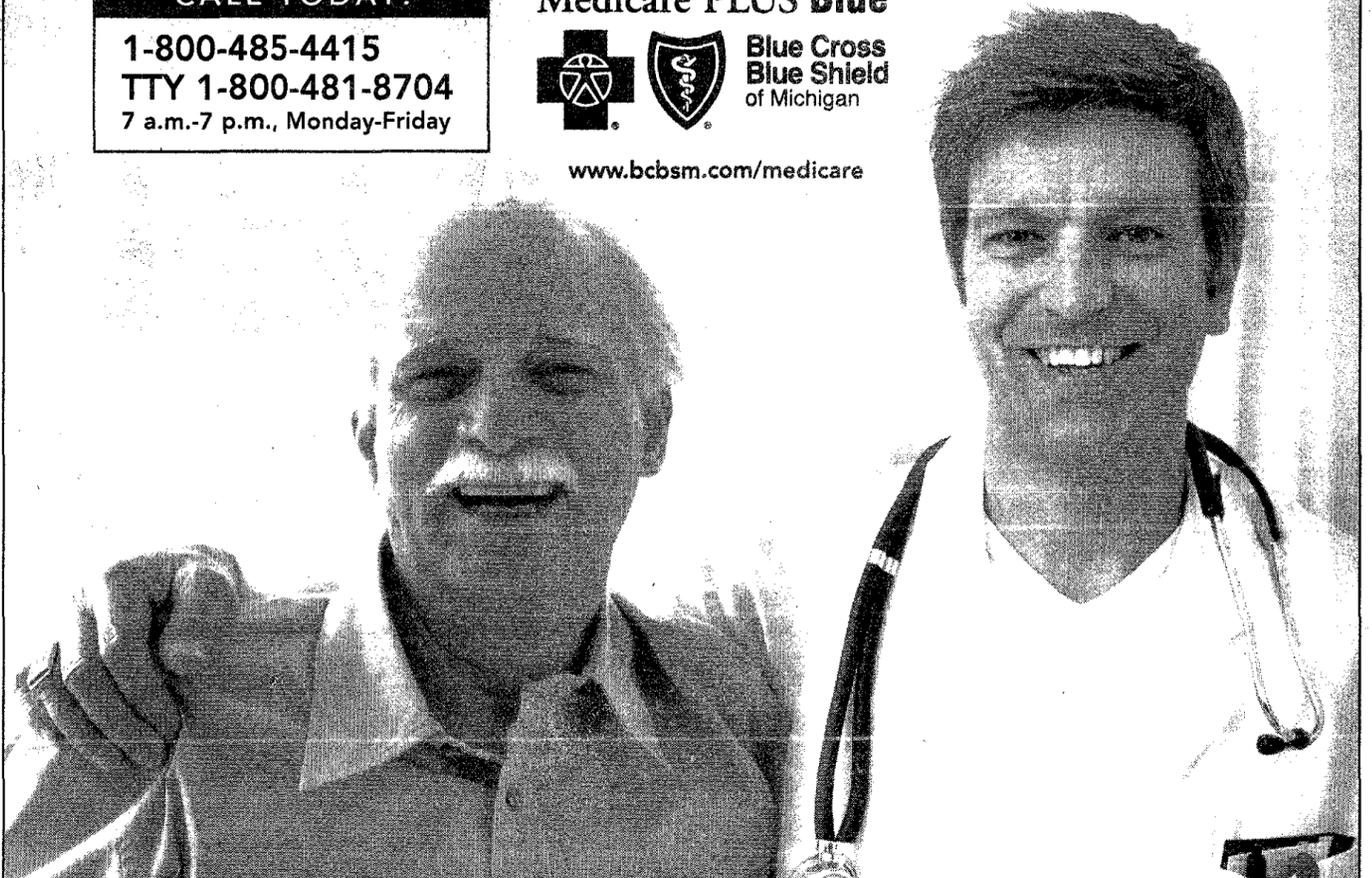
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