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Above and beyond

Work at crash site wins cadet heroism award

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Theresa Barnhart doesn't think that what she did was a big deal, but those around her are of a different opinion.

That's why the sophomore at John Glenn High School will receive the JROTC's highest honor, its Medal of Heroism, at an awards ceremony next month.

"I didn't think it would go this far," said Barnhart who is in her second year of the JROTC program. "I turned in the paperwork to the sergeant major and expected a column in the battalion newspaper."

The sergeant major is Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Brown, one of two JROTC instructors at the school. He's also the person who recommended Barnhart for the award.

"It's the first time in my career as a ROTC instructor that anyone



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Theresa Barnhart is one of two JROTC cadets who have been tapped to receive the organization's highest honor, Medal for Heroism.

PLEASE SEE HEROISM, A4

Z-PAC dinner offers culinary experience

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It's called "A Culinary Experience," a slow motion formal dinner with an international flavor.

Z-PAC, the Wayne Memorial High School's Zebra-Parent Advisory Council, is sponsoring the dinner Thursday, April 27, to raise money for an end-of-the-year dinner for the Class of 2006.

"We're going to take time with each course, explaining what the course is, the food's country of origin and what utensil to use," said Z-PAC member Audrey

Moro. "It'll be informational in terms of etiquette and in experiencing the food itself."

The food will be prepared by Chef Tony Paquette and the culinary arts students at Wayne-Westland's William D. Ford Career Technical Center. The students also will be the servers at the dinner, which starts at 7 p.m.

While the actual menu is still being firmed up, the six courses will include an appetizer, soup, salad, sorbet, entrée and dessert. Bill Brooks, who does the varsity level athletics announcing at the high school, as the emcee for the evening, will

lead guests through the different courses.

The Wayne Memorial music department will provide music for the dinner which will be held at the Wayne Recreation Center on Howe at Annapolis in Wayne.

Tickets are \$45 each with the proceeds going toward a similar slow motion dinner that will be served to the graduating seniors on their last day of high school, May 25.

"We think it would be a nice sendoff"

PLEASE SEE DINNER, A5

Local artist gets 2nd appearance on HGTV

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

When Westland artist Kelly Darke's work was featured last November on a home-and-garden television show, she joked that she had her 15 minutes of fame.

Now, she's getting it again. Darke's work will be shown during a rerun of an HGTV That's Clever show scheduled to air at noon and 5 p.m. Monday, April 3.

"It's really cool. I hope a lot of people get to see it that didn't before," she said.

The show focused mostly on Darke's creation of a unique handbag made with crocheted sterling silver, stainless steel washers, feathers, a leather base and cotton lining.

It also featured some of her abstract paintings.

Darke, 33, was one of three artists featured on the show, which aired last Thanksgiving. The segment took six hours to

film when the crew of *That's Clever* visited her Westland apartment.

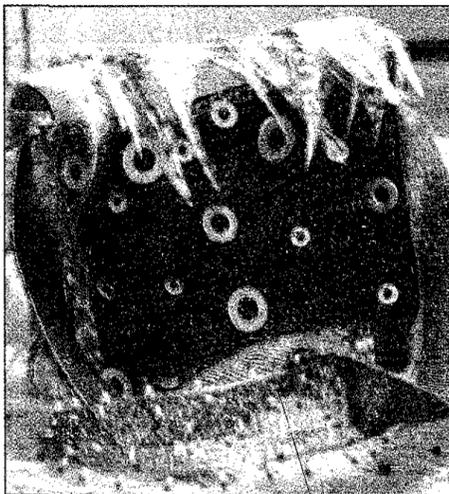
"It was really interesting, and I learned a lot about what it takes to do a show like that," Darke said.

Her art also was featured Jan. 15 in the *Westland Observer*, and her work is shown regularly at Orchard Lake Framing & Gallery in West Bloomfield and at Ornamentum Gallery in Hudson, N.Y., which is run by friends she knew in college.

Darke grew up in Grosse Pointe. She attended college at New York City's Parsons School of Design before receiving her bachelor of fine arts degree, with honors, from Wayne State University.

Some of Darke's work can be seen at her Web site, www.kellydarke.com. She can be reached by e-mail at kelly@kellydarke.com or by phone at (734) 502-7920.

dcclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



FILE PHOTO

Kelly Darke's handbag made of wire, feathers and washers will be featured on the HGTV show.

Law Day court is beneficial for students

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Local authorities believe they can keep some middle school-age students out of trouble by giving them a firsthand look at what happens to lawbreakers.

That's why Westland 18th District Court judges will hold court May 5 at Adams Middle School, where students will see defendants answer to crimes ranging from drug use and shoplifting to assault and battery.

"I view it as another early intervention program where students at the middle school get an opportunity to experience firsthand what the consequences are for inappropriate actions or violations of the law," said Greg Baracy, Wayne-Westland Community Schools Superintendent.

"They see it, they hear it and they feel the emotion of it," he said. "They're at a very impressionable age. I think statistics show that students at that age begin to get exposed to a variety of (illegal) things in our society."

It's all part of national Law Day, and Westland has had some form of it since 1979, when then-district Judge Thomas Smith hosted mock trials and sponsored essay contests.

"It's been here for a long time," said Christopher Raymond, the local court's chief probation officer.

The court started taking its program to John Glenn High School in 1988 and expanded it to Adams Middle School in 1994, Raymond said.

Now, the Law Day program is brought exclusively to the middle school, where judges and school officials believe it may have the greatest impact. Officials also bus in eighth-graders from Wayne-Westland's three other middle schools - Franklin, Marshall and Stevenson.

"The kids at the middle school seem to be a little more receptive to it," 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos said Friday. "I'd say it's the perfect age. These kids are very impressionable. Most of them have been sheltered, and they don't have a clue as to the realities of life."

During Law Day, the students quickly learn that there are serious consequences for such misdemeanor crimes as using drugs, driving drunk, shoplifting and assaulting someone.

"We try to bring in as many cases involving substance

Attorneys hold Law Day contest

The Westland city attorney's office will sponsor its 11th annual Law Day contest. This year's topic: How does the constitutional separation of powers promote democratic values?

The contest is open to students in grades nine-12 who are enrolled in social studies type classes at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools, said Assistant City Attorney Mark McConnell.

Entries should be typed, double-spaced on 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch pages. They should be two or three pages in length.

Entries should include the contestant's name, home address, home telephone number, school and a social studies teacher.

Essays should be submitted by 3 p.m. Thursday, April 13, to Margaret Bryan at Wayne Memorial High or to Thomas Buckalew at John Glenn High.

Entries will be judged on composition and originality.

The winner will be presented an award on Monday, May 1, at a Westland City Council meeting.

abuse as we possibly can," Bokos said.

Students also learn that some offenses, such as shoplifting, can have long-range effects by hurting a defendant's chances of getting a job.

"Would you hire a thief?" Bokos asked.

Bokos and Judge Gail McKnight believe strongly in the Law Day program, but they try to be sensitive to situations that could embarrass local students. They only bring in defendants from other communities, hoping to avoid the potential for a student's family member to appear in the school-based court.

"That makes it a little more palatable," Bokos said, adding that the Law Day program is shown on Westland city cable station WLND. "We don't want to embarrass the students."

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DEATHS

B
James Allen Bigham
Bigham, 59, of Plymouth, died March 29.

F
Elizabeth Ann Fluegel
Fluegel, 45, of Wixom, died March 30.

M
Antoinette M. Munfakh
Munfakh, 86, of Plymouth, died March 29.

S
Charna Bloom Segal
Segal, 50, of West Bloomfield, died March 23.

Chester H. Sowinski
Sowinski, 92, of Rochester Hills, died March 27.

T
Virginia "Jean" Tessmar
Tessmar, 87, of Rochester, died March 27.

Z
Norman A. Zawislak
Zawislak, 59, died March 28.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C4.

Wayne High musicians score at state fest

Congratulations to band and orchestra students at Wayne Memorial High School who walked away with medals in 22 of 23 events at the recent State Solo and Ensemble Festival at Chelsea High School. In 12 of the events, students received the highest medal rating of one.

Heather Daniels (92 percent), Jamie Stevens (92 percent), Bobbi Turner (93 percent) and Jackson (Patrick) Brown (99 percent) received ones for their outstanding proficiency exams, which include a solo/scales/and sight-reading of never-before-seen music.

Brown also was nominated and named to the 2006 All-State Band based on his 99 percent proficiency. He, along with four other baritone players state-wide, were nominated as an outstanding soloist. He will perform at Western Michigan University on May 11-13 at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

Hands-on experience

It is often said that people learn best from hands-on experience.

It's a belief supported by DaimlerChrysler which donated a 2005 Dodge Stratus to William D. Ford Career-Technical Center's AYES's automotive technology department.

"DaimlerChrysler has donated the 2005 Dodge Stratus so that the student technicians get all the educational advan-

tages DaimlerChrysler and William D. Ford Career-Technical Center AYES have to offer," said the school's principal, Ginny Kowalski.

This donation by DaimlerChrysler guarantees that the technicians trained at the Career Tech Center will gain the necessary experience to meet the immediate needs of customers promptly and efficiently, said Charles Irwin, DaimlerChrysler-National Manager of Vocational Education.

It provides further educational opportunities for technicians and helps offer DaimlerChrysler customers a positive ownership experience.

Jump Rope for Hearts

Elementary students in the Wayne Westland Community Schools pulled were jumping for healthy hearts by completing the Jump Rope for Heart in their physical education classes.

Students asked friends and family to pledge them money and then they jumped rope as many times as they could in one minute. Each student jumped in honor of someone they know with heart disease.

Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton raised \$5,296.38. Fourth-grader Dustin Davis collected \$1,007.38. He is one of just a few students in Michigan to raise more than \$1,000.

Vandenberg Elementary School in Wayne participated

for the first time and raised \$2387.00.

Math-a-Thon

Students at Stevenson Middle School in Westland raised \$2,000 with a Math-a-Thon for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A math-a-thon is an educationally based fund-raising program in which students obtain sponsors for the number of math problems completed in special workbooks provided for students in grades K-9.

Through the Math-a-Thon, they are able to help provide a future for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Children with more than 200 forms of cancer and other catastrophic diseases find hope at St. Jude.

"We are very proud of our students for working so hard on the Math-a-thon," said Nancy Schlanser, the mathematics department chair. "With their help, St. Jude Hospital will be able to create new treatments that will benefit the children of our state, country and around the world. I also want to extend our thanks to the Westland community for supporting our students."

Compass learning

Students at Marshall Middle School are getting the directions to success with a new technology program called Compass Learning.

Compass Learning gives the teachers and parents another

tool to help students achieve academic goals. Each student is tested in mathematics, social studies and language arts at the beginning of the school year. An individual program is designed for each student and teachers post lessons and quizzes online at Compass Learning.

Students access the program with their own user name and password.

The program reinforces lessons learned in math, language arts and social studies. Each day students are asked to spend 15 minutes on the computer either at home in or the after school tutoring lab. They play educational games and then take quizzes on their individual areas of study.

Teachers can keep track of their students results and adjust their lesson plans accordingly.

Teachers aren't the only ones who are able to access the students results. Parents can also check to see what skills their students are studying and are encouraged to sit with their child at the computer each day to learn with them.

Robert Van Valkenburg, principal, said the program gives parents a chance to see what their student is learning in the classroom everyday.

Compass Learning is not only another technology tool to help students but also a way to close the gap in communication between students, teachers and parents.



WESTLAND Observer

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Library Week showcases books and more

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

National Library Week's a time for fun at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland.

This year's observance is Sunday through Saturday and has a theme of "Change Your World @ Your Library." Activities will be at the library, on Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford in Westland.

"We have several programs

going on throughout the week," said Marilyn Kwik, department head for adult services.

The kickoff event will be noon today, Sunday, and will feature visit with characters from the Rainforest Cafe. A Habitat for Humanity volunteer also will speak about getting involved with that organization 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8, interior designer Amanda Stodart of Interior Answers will discuss her area of expertise.

Two movie events for families are on tap: a 1 p.m. Sunday, April 2, showing of

Chicken Little, for which children under age 6 must be accompanied by a caregiver 13 or older, and *The Chronicles of Narnia* at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 8, with children under age 10 needing to be accompanied by an adult.

There will be a 7 p.m. Monday, April 3, Family Storytime to include crafts.

"They're going to be making crafts that go to our home-bound patrons," Kwik said.

There will be a weeklong scavenger hunt for all ages, with daily prizes.

"It's going to be a lot of activities, a lot of fun," she said.

"We're here to serve the community and we want to provide as many opportunities as possible."

The library board and Friends of the Library are a great support, Kwik added. Sponsors for National Library Week in Westland include the Friends of the Library along with Canton Cinema, Panera Bread, Emagine, Meijer, Town & Country Lanes, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Lona's, Nautilus Pizza/Subs, Electric Stick, Rainforest Cafe, Country Buffet and Showcase Cinema.

For information, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

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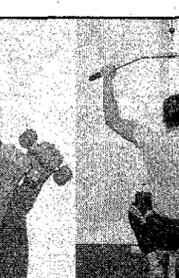
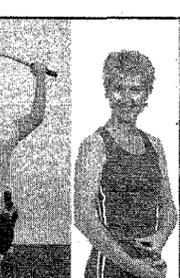


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CORRECTION

A story on the Pinnacle Internet Grade Viewer system should have identified James Gibbons as assistant principal at Churchill High School.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jane Thomas, Bill Brown and Bob Lane are ready to roll out their custom cars for the start of the Westside Rod and Customs Car Club's annual weekly car shows. Brown owns the black English Ford on the right, while Lane is sitting on his Big Mike's custom chopper and owns the Chevelle Super Sport on the left.

Start your engines

Club ready to roll out its weekly car shows

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

A hint of warm weather is enough for car fever set in, especially if you belong to the Westside Rod and Customs Car Club.

The long-established group of car and motorcycle aficionados is ready to rumble into the parking lot of the Romanowski VFW Post on Joy in Westland, the home of the club's weekly car shows.

"People can pull in and park and show off their cars," said Bill Brown, who has a black 1951 English Ford to display when the shows start up Wednesday, April 19. "Everyone's welcome, including tuners, rat rods and monster trucks, restored or original."

The club has been doing weekly car shows for at least 17 years. Most of that time, it called Windjammer's on Farmington Road home, but when the club was told it could no longer use the Consumers Energy parking lot, it found itself having to move.

Its first stop was at the defunct Country USA bar on Merriman in Westland for a few years and then Joy Manor. When the banquet hall closed (it has since reopened), the club found a new home at the VFW just a few doors down Joy Road.

"Something you don't like to do is move around when you do something like this," said club member Jane Thomas of Farmington Hills.

"And because it's a relatively new location, we're trying to get more people to come out," added Garden City resident Bob Lane.

The shows attract between 120 and 300 cars. In addition to chance to mix and mingle with fellow car buffs, there also will prize give-aways and a 50/50 raffle. Members will not be eligible for the prizes, according to Lane.

The VFW post is adding a patio area where members will have food available for people at the show.

The club has members from throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties. Its roster is like reading a map with car owners coming from Brownstown, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Wayne, Garden City, Livonia and Westland.

"The closer car people live to the show, the more show up, but they come from as far away as Milford," Lane said. "Anyone who thinks their car is cool is invited to come."

The cars will run from 5 p.m. through dusk on Wednesdays through mid-September.

"When it starts getting cold and dark early, we call it," said Thomas, who has a 1968

Plymouth Satellite. "But we do try to make it to the end of September."

The car club not only uses the VFW post's parking lot for the car show, some 50 members also meet there during the winter months to plan the next club season.

In addition to its weekly shows, the club also coordinates the annual Livonia Spree car show in June and has a variety of cruises for members during the summer months.

The cruises take members to the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mount Pleasant in May and to Midland in June. There's also an August cruise to the Michigan International Speedway where members have the chance to drive their cars around the oval racetrack.

"The Soaring Eagle is very cool, so is MIS," said Brown, who owns a custom Big Mike's chopper and a 1968 Chevelle Super Sport. "The cruise to Frankenmuth in September also is a popular one."

"We pick a central location and leave together," added Brown, a Garden City resident. "Part of the reason we like to get together is the camaraderie, it's a big social event."

For more information about the Westside Rod and Customs Car Club, call Bob Lane at (734) 522-5263. smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112.

WalkAmerica comes to Hines Park

Walkers will take over Hines Park in Westland Saturday, April 29, to help raise money for the March of Dimes.

WalkAmerica, the popular fund-raising event, will help the March of Dimes fight prematurity - a growing crisis that now affects half a million babies born in the U.S. every year.

The walk is approximately six miles long and will begin and end at Nankin Mills. The family-friendly walk feature a free lunch for all walkers, music and entertainment for children, including crafts and clowns. Pets will be welcome at the site.

The money raised in WalkAmerica supports the

research and programs to find out how to prevent premature births and local programs that give hope and help families who experience it.

For more information about WalkAmerica, or to join the event at Hines Park, visit the WalkAmerica Web site at walkamerica.org or call (800) 525-WALK.

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BONELESS N.Y. STRIP STEAK
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BONELESS PORK TENDERLOIN
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Teen tells police he was 'jumped,' robbed

Robbery
A John Glenn High School student was reportedly robbed of \$7 about 6:35 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Willow Creek Apartments.

Police went to the apartment complex after being notified of a large fight, but most of the youths had fled when officers arrived, according to police reports.

The Glenn student told police that he had been "jumped" by a group of juveniles, but he didn't elaborate. One witness told police that the victim was part of the problem.

The victim told police that

CRIME WATCH

one juvenile chased him in the Willow Creek complex, knocked him to the ground and kicked him.

The victim reportedly refused an order to empty his pockets, but he said his assailant reached into his front jeans pocket and took \$7.

Break-in

A break-in was reported sometime before 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, at Ken's Produce, in the 37100 block of Ford Road.

An employee told police that

someone pried open a door, and police found signs of forced entry. An office desk had been gone through, but most items in the business appeared to be untouched, according to police reports.

Theft of property

Police received reports that someone pried open a garage door of Dave's Engine Shop, in the 8500 block of Inkster Road, sometime between 10:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, and 8 a.m. Saturday, March 25.

The victim told police that yard equipment was stolen. A police report indicated that the door may have been pulled

open by "a vehicle/chain of some sort."

Bowling alley dispute

A Livonia man who was ordered out of Vision Lanes bowling alley in the 38200 block of Ford Road told police that he believed his coat and cell phone had been stolen inside.

The man had been told to leave the bowling alley after a run-in with another man, and he told police that he tried to go inside again to get his coat and cell phone. He told police that he believes the items may have been taken by the man with whom he had the dispute.

HEROISM

FROM PAGE A1

has won the award," said Brown. "Being a part of it is a new experience for me."

Barnhart is being honored for what she did on June 4, 2005. She was at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Canton when an accident occurred on Cherry Hill west of Lilley Road.

According to Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro, Barnhart and her mother Beth ran to the crash scene and "rendered immediate assistance to the occupants of an overturned vehicle."

The car had flipped over and there were people inside, hanging upside down.

Beth helped the driver who had sustained a serious head wound. She placed a bandage on the laceration and helped the driver to safety.

Barnhart crawled inside and stayed with the passengers, keeping them calm until fire personnel arrived. She also helped stabilize the neck of one victim to prevent further injury.

"Theresa's quick action and demeanor assisted in preventing further injuries to the crash victims by providing first aid at a serious injury crash, a response of an exceptional young person," Santomauro wrote in a Dec. 13 report to Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack, recommending Barnhart and her mother for citizen recognition.

"I didn't think about it, I just went in," said Barnhart who ran barefoot through broken glass to get in the car. "I saw the accident and saw how bad it was, so I took my shoes off and ran. I was wearing flip-flops so it was easier to run without them."

According to Brown, Barnhart suffered cuts and bruises to her knees and feet and despite her injuries, she remained calm and was able to assure the crash victims that help was on the way.

"A lot of people were just standing and looking and I thought, 'why are you standing there, you should be helping?'" she said.

Brown found out what

Barnhart did two days later in e-mails from her mother and family friends. When he saw that the Canton Public Safety Department planned to honor the teen, he decided to write it up and send it up the chain of command.

He sent the paperwork off on Nov. 30 and found out Feb. 1 that Barnhart was one of two cadets to receive the heroism award.

"I'm happy they approved it, happy that the Army considered it significant enough for such a high honor," he said. "It recognizes that not too many people at her age would have jumped in like that."

Barnhart credits the JROTC program for the skills she used at the crash scene. She had learned the signs of shock and while the passengers she helped were cold, she determined that none of them were near that condition.

In addition Canton's Citizens Recognition, Barnhart has also been honored by the Wayne-Westland school board.

Board member Cindy Schofield presented the award to Barnhart, telling her that "if I'm ever in accident, I hope some kind soul like you is there to comfort me."

In accepting it, Barnhart thanked school officials for bringing the JROTC program to the high school. She also had a special thank you for Brown.

"I want to thank the sergeant major for teaching me everything I knew and for giving me courage to do what I did," she said.

"I'm very proud of Theresa," said Brown. "She's a fine student, outstanding cadet and a very fine representative of the Wayne-Westland schools."

Brown hopes to have the award in time for the battalion awards ceremony on May 5. The medal will come with a red, white and blue ribbon that she will be able to wear on her JROTC uniform.

"I really didn't think about me, I thought more about helping the man in the car," she said. "It just came naturally. I knew I had to stay calm and help him."

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

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DEARBORN SAUSAGE Fresh Smoked POLISH KIELBASA \$3.29 lb.	BOB'S OF CANTON 31210 W. Warren (at Merriman) Westland 734-522-3357 NEW HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 9 am - 8 pm Sun. 10 am - 6 pm PRICES GOOD April 2nd through April 9th We Accept Food Stamps, We Accept VISA, MC, ATM, E-mail Address: www.bobsincanton.com Thank You!		FRESH HOMEMADE HERE Polish - Italian SAUSAGE \$2.19 lb.
GROUND FRESH HOURLY Ground Beef From GROUND SIRLOIN \$2.19 lb.			CORN FED SELECT BEEF Beef Sirloin TIP ROAST \$2.49 lb.
USDA CHOICE Whole Boneless LEG of LAMB \$4.39 lb.	DEARBORN SAUSAGE The Original Foil Pack Ready to Serve Whole - Half SPIRAL HAMS \$3.49 lb.	CORN FED SELECT BEEF Prime Cut Beef RIB ROAST \$5.79 lb.	FOR BLT'S ORDER EARLY YOUR BUTTER LAMBS - PEROGIES HOLIDAY SAUSAGE CITY CHICKEN - BEEF RIB ROAST - SPIRAL HAM and Any Other Dinner Idea You Want - Thanks
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DFCU Financial has worked hard for 56 years to meet your ever-expanding needs for personalized financial services. We recently mailed our members detailed information regarding a proposed change in legal structure that will better position us to serve members and the community for years to come. Members will still enjoy all of the same great products and services at our convenient branches. We understand that members may have questions and we want them to be as informed as possible. We invite members to contact us at 888-336-2700, visit the nearest branch, or speak directly with the President of DFCU with any questions.

Thank you for placing your trust and loyalty in DFCU Financial. We are looking forward to serving you for another 56 years.



NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS

To the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any land in the City of Westland:

PAR. NUM	PAR. NUM	PAR. NUM	PAR. NUM
001 99 0027 000	043 01 0118 000	062 99 0008 000	083 02 0060 303
001 99 0028 000	043 02 0263 001	063 01 0243 303	083 02 0061 303
001 99 0030 000	043 02 0289 001	063 01 0244 303	083 02 0068 000
001 99 0034 000	043 02 0290 001	063 02 0011 000	083 02 0071 000
003 03 0001 000	043 03 0049 000	064 02 0066 000	083 02 0092 000
004 01 0084 000	045 01 0298 000	065 99 0001 011	083 02 0093 301
004 01 0088 000	045 99 0005 001	067 99 0020 003	083 02 0097 000
005 01 1257 000	045 99 0009 001	067 99 0022 002	083 02 0109 000
005 01 1260 000	045 99 0018 002	068 03 0113 001	083 02 0110 300
005 01 1302 000	045 99 0024 702	069 01 0332 000	083 02 0112 000
005 02 0023 000	048 01 0100 000	070 01 0026 001	083 02 0113 000
005 02 0024 000	048 01 0102 002	070 01 0027 001	083 03 0149 000
005 02 0025 000	048 01 0103 002	070 01 0028 001	083 03 0195 000
005 02 0190 300	048 01 0123 001	070 01 0029 001	083 03 0199 000
005 02 0340 000	048 99 0031 000	070 01 0030 302	083 03 0227 301
005 99 0015 701	050 01 0063 300	070 01 0031 001	083 04 0259 000
005 99 0015 702	051 99 0057 703	070 01 0038 005	083 99 0028 000
006 01 0034 000	051 99 0057 704	070 03 0080 000	084 01 0009 000
006 04 0393 000	051 99 0058 000	073 01 0001 000	084 01 0011 000
010 01 0571 001	051 99 0060 000	073 01 0063 000	084 01 0012 000
011 02 0034 000	052 01 0021 303	073 03 0343 000	084 01 0013 000
013 01 0557 000	052 05 0004 000	073 03 0384 000	084 01 0019 301
013 01 0558 000	052 99 0004 002	073 03 0385 000	084 01 0021 000
014 99 0017 702	052 99 0019 708	073 03 0388 000	084 01 0024 000
015 06 0001 000	053 99 0008 001	073 03 0389 000	084 01 0025 000
015 99 0008 009	053 99 0009 701	073 03 0390 000	084 01 0029 301
020 99 0007 007	054 99 0009 001	073 03 0393 000	084 01 0034 000
021 99 0001 710	054 99 0011 003	073 03 0394 000	084 01 0043 000
026 99 0029 002	054 99 0012 002	073 03 0396 000	084 01 0046 000
026 99 0030 700	056 01 0917 006	074 01 0753 000	084 01 0060 000
027 01 0005 000	056 02 0075 000	074 01 0767 301	084 01 0074 000
027 03 0027 306	057 99 0029 000	074 06 1171 000	084 01 0075 000
027 04 0016 304	060 02 0177 000	074 06 1213 003	084 01 0093 000
028 01 0012 304	060 05 0156 000	075 01 0021 307	084 01 0094 000
028 01 0014 302	061 01 0118 303	075 02 0024 000	084 01 0098 000
028 04 0037 002	061 01 0119 303	075 02 0056 000	084 01 0132 000
028 99 0012 701	061 01 0123 303	075 07 0007 001	084 01 0133 000
029 99 0014 701	061 01 0125 303	075 07 0008 001	084 01 0134 000
032 01 0003 000	061 01 0280 303	075 99 0008 000	084 01 0136 001
032 01 0081 000	061 01 0281 303	076 03 0030 000	084 02 0689 000
032 02 0575 000	061 01 0283 303	076 03 0031 000	084 02 0691 000
032 02 0581 000	061 01 0284 303	076 03 0032 000	084 02 0712 000
032 03 0769 000	061 01 0286 303	076 03 0033 000	084 02 0728 000
033 01 0029 300	061 01 0287 303	076 03 0034 000	084 02 0730 000
034 01 0015 000	061 01 0319 303	079 02 0019 000	084 02 0740 000
034 01 0016 000	061 01 0320 303	079 99 0031 006	084 02 0741 000
034 01 0082 000	061 01 0322 303	081 99 0021 705	COMMON AREA
034 99 0021 001	061 01 0323 303	081 99 0043 000	COMMON AREA
035 99 0002 000	061 01 0325 303	081 01 0809 000	COMMON AREA
035 99 0016 000	061 01 0326 303	083 02 0007 302	COMMON AREA
036 99 0001 002	061 01 0328 303	083 02 0021 300	COMMON AREA
036 99 0008 000	061 01 0329 303	083 02 0022 301	DETENTION POND
042 02 0328 305	062 01 0168 008	083 02 0028 300	LOTS OWNED BY
042 02 0444 000	062 01 0171 002	083 02 0030 000	
042 02 0445 000	062 06 0000 000	083 02 0033 303	
042 03 0885 313	062 06 0000 000	083 02 0057 303	
042 99 0005 000	062 06 0000 000	083 02 0058 303	

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be destroyed on or before the 15th day throughout the months of May, June, July, August, September and October of 2006. Any person failing to comply with this notice on or before the dates mentioned shall be liable to the imposition of penalties set forth in Section 106-97 of the Westland Code of Ordinance and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the City in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the owner, occupant, or agent, shall be spread against the property on the next County and School tax roll or the next general City tax roll.

Thomas Wilson

City of Westland
Commissioner of Noxious Weeds

Publish: April 2 & 9, 2006

060428649

Dinner benefits young cancer patient

Jeff and Diana Sanchez are hoping for a full house Saturday evening at the Harris Kehrer VFW Hall on Wayne Road at Avondale in Westland.

The Westland couple is hosting benefit mostaccioli dinner for their niece, 2 1/2-year-old Sydney Schnarr who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the evening will feature a mostaccioli and chicken buffet dinner, music, dancing, cash bar, drawing, tin can auction, door prizes and raffles.

Tickets also will be available at the door on a first come, first serve basis "since there is a limit as to how many people we can have at the hall," the Sanchezes said in

announcing the benefit.

On Dec. 7, 2005, Sydney was diagnosed with Juvenile Polycystic Astrocytoma, a form of cancer usually found in the brain.

But Sydney has a rare form of the cancer with a tumor growing in her spinal cord and brain stem.

The daughter of Kevin and Ky Ann Schnarr, she underwent surgery to relieve the pain and pressure that was causing her inability to walk and move her head, but there currently is no cure for her form of the cancer.

The fund-raiser is to help pay the costs related to the surgery. At the time she was diagnosed, her family had no medical insurance.

The Schnarrs, who live Jacksonville, Fla., were without insurance between October 2005 and January 2006 when Ky Ann switched jobs.

"Their hospital bills are astronomical," the Sanchezes said in announcing the benefit. "All the money we take in the night of the hall party will go towards Sydney's medical needs."

The toddler has since been accepted into a research study at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. She is one of five patients at the hospital who are part of the worldwide clinical study.

Researchers will be studying the effects of a new drug that has shown promise in the

treatment of adults.

According to the Sanchezes, the treatment gives Sydney her best chance of beating the disease and finding a cure.

She will have chemotherapy once a week for seven weeks with a three-week rest period. The cycle will be repeated for 20 months.

"This is the beginning of a long road for Sydney and her family," the Sanchezes pointed out.

"They are all truly devastated. The support from family and friends give them strength to continue the fight."

Tickets are \$25 each and available by calling Jeff or Diana Sanchez at (734) 525-9927 or Corrine Shady at (734) 320-6908.

DINNER

FROM PAGE A1

into adulthood for them," Moro said.

Donorships are available - platinum is \$250 and includes two dinner tickets, gold \$100 and one dinner ticket, silver \$50 and bronze \$25.

However, people interested in being donors need to act quickly to receive recognition in the evening's program.

Z-PAC got its start last November, when parents approached Principal John Albrecht about forming a group with the purpose of providing and/or supporting programs that would be deemed nontraditional.

Initially, it's focusing on the fund-raising dinner and the senior dinner, but the hope is to be able to provide Class of 2007 with an all-night party. And its focus goes beyond the senior class.

The group also is looking at helping with the Reality Store that's staged for ninth-graders, Celebrate Wayne which welcomes the incoming freshman

to Wayne High and Homecoming.

"We're an advisory group that meets regularly with the principal, it's a forum to communicate what's new in the curriculum and what the changes will be in the future," Moro said. "It's a way to be involved with the school and be aware of what's going on in the school."

Because it goes beyond activities for seniors, the group is looking for all parents, especially to see parents of next year's ninth-graders get involved.

The group will be meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 6, in the media center.

Parents interested in attending should enter the high school through the Fourth Street doors.

As for the dinner, tickets are available by calling John Albrecht at (734) 419-2206 or by e-mailing him at AlbrechtJ@wwcs.k12.mi.us. Checks should be made payable to Wayne Memorial High School.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

League sets up for storefront book sale

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Some 4,000 books, videos, magazines and CDs will be sold at low prices next week in a benefit for the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County.

The four-day sale will begin next Thursday, April 6, at an old book store inside Livonia Mall.

"We have many books that look as good as new," said sale chairperson Ann Abdoo.

"There are a lot of people who look forward to our sale. Last year, we had someone waiting to get into the sale at 4 p.m., but we don't open the gate until 6 p.m."

The league's book sale, which dates back to 1982, netted \$2,500 last year. It is the non-partisan organization's only fund-raiser of the year, as its proceeds support the league's candidate forums, voter guides, Web site and other voter information efforts.

Many group members have

been collecting donated books for sale over the past year. A number of league volunteers have spent several hours in recent weeks to set up the sale, which will take place from 6-9 p.m. April 6, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 7-8, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 9. There is a \$2 admission to attend the book sale's preview night on April 6, which gives customers a first chance to select from the sale's inventory. Admission is free for the other three days of the sale. Most hardcover books cost

\$1, paperbacks cost 50 cents and prices vary for videos and CDs. On Sunday, customers who pay \$5 can stash as many books as they can into a bag.

"The mall has been great since they gave us use of this store and gave us a month to get in and set up our sale," Abdoo said.

There is still time to donate books, videos or CDs to the effort.

Anyone who wants contribute books can call (734) 421-4420 or (734) 525-4326.

Campaign aims to reforest city

A local woman, in a campaign that combines Earth Day and Arbor Day, hopes to get 1,000 trees planted.

Natalie Thurmond, a Shaklee Corp. distributor and Westland Chamber of Commerce member, has started a "reforest Westland" project.

"So many trees in our city have either fallen to disease or been cut down for building construction, and more are in danger," Thurmond said. "We need the trees. They help with noise and air pollution, lower heat, beautify the landscape, and add to our general health."

Her goal is to have 1,000 trees purchased and planted with help from local elementary schools, scout troops, church clubs, garden clubs and individual families.

She is working with the Wayne County Conservation District in Wayne to obtain the state of Michigan tree, white pine seedlings, which are ready to plant at a cost of only 50

cents a tree.

Orders must be received by Tuesday, April 12. Delivery of the trees will be in late April. Call (734) 595-4403 or e-mail Thurmond at natnill@comcast.net.

On Friday, Thurmond said that a kickoff assembly is scheduled for Monday morning at the Canton Charter Academy. Forester Andy Hendrickson from the Wayne Conservation District is expected to attend. Thurmond and helper Connie Boris will

lead the assembly.

Madison Elementary School in Westland also will participate in the project, with their assembly coinciding with the delivery of trees at 10 a.m. April 28.

Thurmond also said the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, under the leadership of Margaret Martin, is cooperating with the project by having a tree-planting to celebrate Earth Day on May 12, with a location still to be announced.

Herniated Disc Technology Discovered by NASA Scientists

Ann Arbor - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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STORE WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL FRIDAY TO MARK DOWN PRICES!

- A MESSAGE FROM THE OWNER -

After 40 years of service to the Detroit metro area, the decision has been made to CLOSE OUR LIVONIA STORE and relocate all business and services into our spectacular new 50,000 square foot Holly showroom. (Just off I-75 at East Holly Road, Exit 98). This strategic move will allow us to improve the way we serve our loyal customers and remain a leader in the Contemporary/Scandinavian home furnishings arena. Our Holly store will feature the largest and most comprehensive collection of Scandinavian and Contemporary furniture, presented in a consumer friendly environment. OUR LIVONIA STORE IS NOW CLOSED to mark down prices on our entire and complete stock of fine quality Home Furnishings and Accessories from Michigan's leading retailer in Scandinavian and contemporary furniture. Over 3 MILLION DOLLARS of European imports and other brand name home furnishings will be sold at liquidation sale prices. THIS WILL BE THE LARGEST LIQUIDATION of QUALITY HOME FURNISHINGS EVER IN THE AREA! NOTHING WILL BE HELD BACK. Prices will be plainly marked on sale tags for immediate liquidation. Following the Private Customer Sale, we will open to the general public on Friday, April 7.

See Thursday's Newspaper For Details!

SALE BEGINS FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH AT 10 A.M.

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ACHIEVERS

Lauren Perry has pledged with Albion College's Alpha Xi Delta sorority during the spring 2006 semester.

Perry is a first-year student at Albion.

She is the daughter of Leslie Perry and Judith Perry of Westland and a graduate of John Glenn High School.

Alpha Xi Delta was founded at Lombard College in Galesburg, Ill. The sorority raises money for Choose Children.

Zach MacLean, robotics instructor at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland, has been chosen to participate in the Toyota International Teacher Program.

MacLean will spend two weeks in Japan with a contingent of teachers from around the United States.

He will meet with officials from and tour Toyota plants, attend workshops with other

teachers and get a chance to experience some of the Japanese cultures.

Three teachers from the Career Tech Center have been chosen to participate in this program in the last five years. Previous instructors were Jim Schirmer, auto tech instructor and JC Irvine, oracle academy and integrated Web design instructor.

Jeffrey P. Hayton, Vaishali M. Mehta and Sarah A. Ward were honored at the 57th annual honors banquet of the Eastern Michigan University College of Business after being named to the Dean's List.

Dr. Jennifer A. Winegarden, board certified in family practice, has joined the medical staff at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington.

A member of the American Osteopathic Association, the Michigan Osteopathic Association and the American



Winegarden

College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, she works with Dr. Paul G. Thomas at 8012 Middlebelt Road, Suite B in Westland. Winegarden received her medical education from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and performed her internship at Garden City Osteopathic Hospital.

She completed her residency in Family Medicine from Garden City Osteopathic Hospital.

Also, she had further post-graduate studies in Neurology at St. John Oakland Hospital in Madison Heights. Winegarden's areas of interest include dermatology, diabetes, neurology, allergies and asthma.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Is the extent of your knowledge of a foreign language limited to "hola" or "arrivederci" or "taco" and "manicotti" and "gai kow?"

The world is becoming a smaller place and in many areas, knowledge of a second language is becoming a must. Based on the 2000 census, the most commonly spoken languages in the Westland area are English, Spanish, Polish, Arabic and other Indo-European languages, according to the Modern Language Association.

Whether you're looking to make conversation on an overseas vacation or to get ahead in the business world, the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland has some of the tools needed to make learning a new language fun and easy.

Along with an extensive print collection of materials, the library has more than 40 languages on CD and audiocassette, ranging from beginner to more advanced study.

There also are videocassettes on learning French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese. The CD-ROM collection has more than 35 items dealing with different languages and translation.

In the children's area, there is a growing collection of books written in other languages, some featuring favorite characters, such as Dora the Explorer and Junie B. Jones. Languages represented include Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Navajo, Spanish, Tamil, Vietnamese and Yiddish.

Once you've mastered a language or are looking for materials in your native language, the library has a small but growing collection of adult fiction materials in Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Spanish, Tamil and Vietnamese.

The library also subscribes to such non-English periodicals as *Chitralekha* (Gujarati), *Kirloskara* (Marathi),

Kumudam (Tamil), *Sarita* (Hindi) and *Meizhou Wen Hui Zhou/Sino Times* (Chinese).

The library also has an English as a Second Language collection for those patrons whose native language is not English. These materials help speakers with the correct pronunciation of English as well as study materials for the Test of English as Foreign Language.

Habitat for Humanity: 7 p.m. April 4.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that seeks to provide affordable quality housing to people worldwide. Join us at the library as Marshal Wied of Habitat for Humanity explains the ins and outs of the organization and tells you how you can get involved.

Change your World ... One room at a Time: 2 p.m. April 8.

Join us for a free program on interior design with Interior Designer Amanda Stodart of Interior Answers, and learn ways to freshen up the look of your home.

Medical Lecture Series - Half Hour to Health: 7 p.m. April 17.

Join Dr. Brian Brackney to learn which foods are most beneficial for your health and which are most harmful. Learn how to sleep correctly and how to eat and drink to reach your optimal levels of health.

The library is looking for volunteers to deliver books to our Homebound patrons. Contact our homebound coordinator at (734) 326-6123, if you're interested.

Information Central is compiled by Bridget Sturdy, reference librarian, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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We will hold our third annual Senior Expo **Wednesday, May 24, 2006**, from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the beautiful VisTaTech Center on the **Schoolcraft College** Livonia campus.

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Quit fiddling, let voters choose on the Single Business Tax

Fiddling while Rome burns. Substitute "Michigan" for "Rome," and you have a precise description of our political system, now totally in partisan gridlock over what to do about the Single Business Tax.

The Republicans who run the Legislature are hell-bent on passing legislation that would repeal the SBT, taking effect, most likely, a year from October. The tax, now widely reviled as a "job killer," brings in \$1.9 billion a year to the state's treasury.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, having tried and failed to get the Legislature to consider her 2005 proposal to cut the SBT rate from 1.9 to 1.2 percent, now says she'll veto any outright repeal. Why? On the grounds that it's financially irresponsible to blow a \$1.9 billion hole in the state's \$9.3 billion general fund with-

out replacing that money — or showing how that much spending can be cut without destroying essential services, like our universities.

But the Republicans are chortling. They think they've put Granholm into a difficult political situation, forcing her to veto repeal of an unpopular tax. So legislative Republicans have clamored up, and aren't talking about what replacement tax on business they'd favor or how they'd cut the state's budget.

Doing the latter would not be pleasant — \$1.9 billion is about what the state spends on our colleges and universities or on the entire prison system. Show me a lawmaker who wants to eliminate either and I'll show you a lawmaker with a very short political future.

And just to be cute, GOP lawmakers tossed into the bill to repeal the tax instructions for the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. They want them to come up with a replacement plan by Jan. 1, 2007.

That council is composed of 47 members drawn from every possible interest group. It has as much chance of coming up with a broadly acceptable tax plan as the Detroit City Council has of being declared a major league baseball team.

This time, I'll side with Granholm. It's just outright irresponsible to even talk about eliminating one of the biggest sources of state revenue without a serious plan to replace it — or specific ideas about what cuts you're going to make to save \$1.9 billion.

By the way — all the easy cuts were already made, long ago. It is cheap and easy to let the partisan rhetoric fly. But here are a few uncomfortable facts that most of the blowhards would prefer to avoid.

■ Michigan is generally regarded as a high tax state. Not true. We were 29th in the nation in state and local taxes as a percentage of personal income in 2004, the last year for which data are available.

■ There is no evidence whatsoever that cutting taxes alone produces economic growth, as some ideologues claim. The states with the highest growth rates tend also to be relatively high tax states.

■ Forget all the propaganda — Michigan's government is, in fact, undernourished. The state has run a \$1 billion-plus operating budget deficit for the past six years. The politicians have plugged the hole so far by selling off assets, cannibalizing rainy day funds and accounting gimmicks, but the fact is that state income today is far below what it was six years ago. And the piggy bank is just about empty.

■ Michigan today faces a supremely difficult and supremely necessary transition from brawn-dependent manufacturing to a brain-based knowledge economy. Yet state spending on higher education has been cut repeatedly over the past four years, while our political masters spend more and more on the prison system and Medicaid.

Other than mere irresponsibility by our politicians, the underlying reason for all this gridlock is Lansing's supposed Iron Rule that any politician who can be labeled (fairly or unfairly) as being for increasing taxes is toast. And to be fair, most voters, when facing proposals to increase taxes with no clear idea what for, will find themselves somewhere between skeptical and outraged.

I don't blame them. But lots of voters are willing to tax themselves for specific purposes, such as fixing the potholes in the street in front of their house or making sure their kids get a decent education.

So here's a modest suggestion to get out of the gridlock: repeal the SBT. How do you replace the money the state needs? Simple. Take the monkey off the lawmakers' backs, and let the voters decide. Put something on the ballot that gives us a choice:

A) Either replace the SBT by broadening the sales tax to include services (like haircuts, for example) and lower the overall tax rate from the present 6 percent.

B) Increase the state income tax by a large enough amount to make up the money.

In either case, earmark a specific part of this revenue stream to create a system of lifelong learning. As part of that, provide vouchers for each Michigan citizen that would cover either an associate's degree from a community college or a four-year degree from a state university. And provide serious job retraining for the thousands of workers who are taking buyouts or permanent layoffs from General Motors now — and, inevitably, the other auto companies soon.

If the lawmakers have a better idea, let's hear it. But we need action, now. And most of all, we need for our leaders to quit fiddling.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnet.com.

Defending freedom of belief is America's true heritage

The sign read: "Even the ACLU doesn't hate Christians this much!"

The sign was carried by an American Christian in Afghanistan. He had traveled to that troubled land to protest the threat of execution for a man who had converted from Islam to Christianity.

Abduhr Rahman was released last week "for lack of evidence" and under pressure from Western governments (who have soldiers dying in that country in the name of freedom). In Afghanistan, many clerics and their followers were decrying the release and the interference of the West in the affairs of Afghanistan. They wanted blood, they wanted this man to die for changing his mind.



Hugh Gallagher

In their view, Western governments were interfering with their "democracy."

The sad thing is that the Christian with his sign and the Afghans who wanted to kill an apostate were not so far apart.

We would like to believe that we have come a long way from a time when people were placed on a rack or crushed with boulders to "make them believe" or burned at the stake when they wouldn't admit the error of their ways. We certainly have a right to a smug sense of superiority.

In Afghanistan and throughout the Muslim world, many believe that Christians are trying to worm their way into their culture and convert everyone. Of course, from a Western point of view, Christians, Hindus, agnostics, atheists, animists and anyone else should have a right to proclaim their views and let the chips, or the converts, fall where they may. From our view, the freedom to believe what we want to believe is what matters most. We would argue that if Islam offers spiritual strength and truth to people they won't be swayed by another religion, and if they are swayed to change, then in a free world they should be allowed to do so and live in peace with their neighbors.

All the stretching on a rack, all the lashings with a whip, all the flames of a thousand fires cannot make people believe something they don't believe. A religion that holds its believers through the threat of death, holds only their fear-based spoken proclamations, not their heartfelt beliefs.

This is at the core of the First Amendment, the amendment that the American Civil Liberties Union defends time and again to the dismay of that protesting Christian. The ACLU does not hate Christians, but it defends for those who do

not follow Christianity the same rights as those who do. Many of its lawyers are Christians. It also defends Christians when their religious rights, rather than assumed privileges, are under attack. In 2004, the ACLU of Michigan won a settlement with the Utica Community Schools district in defense of a student whose yearbook entry was deleted because it contained passages from the Bible.

Many argue that the First Amendment "establishment clause" is not about separation of church and state but rather about the establishment of a "state religion." They cite chapter and verse, historical not biblical. They will argue that Christianity has a special place in American culture and other Americans need to just accept that.

Christianity does have a special place in American history, for good and ill. Obviously, the first Europeans in the New World were Christians. Though at that time and right into the 20th century, Protestant Christians and Roman Catholics were often antagonistic. And many Christians are leery of those they regard as "lesser Christians."

I was raised Catholic and taught that I belonged to the one true church. I was also taught that freedom of religion is a good thing in the United States, but it would be better if the Catholic church was the state church as in Franco's Spain. (I also heard from my Protestant schoolmates that they were told that Catholic children were learning military maneuvers during catechism to serve in the pope's army. Ha!)

Today we have a much broader base of residents — Protestants, Catholics (who seem to have amnesia about their own struggles as a minority), Muslims, Hindus, sects within sects and nonbelievers. It is important to recognize the rights of people to believe what they want, to espouse their beliefs in their churches and in publications and to be free from government influence in favor of one religion or another.

I think some people go too far in objecting to religion in the public forum or to long existing cultural language, as the ACLU's defense of the Utica student attests. But a religion neutral government is the best defense of religious freedom.

And as long as American soldiers are dying for "freedom" in Afghanistan or Iraq, our government is duty-bound to defend Christians, Jews and atheists alike against deadly intolerance.

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

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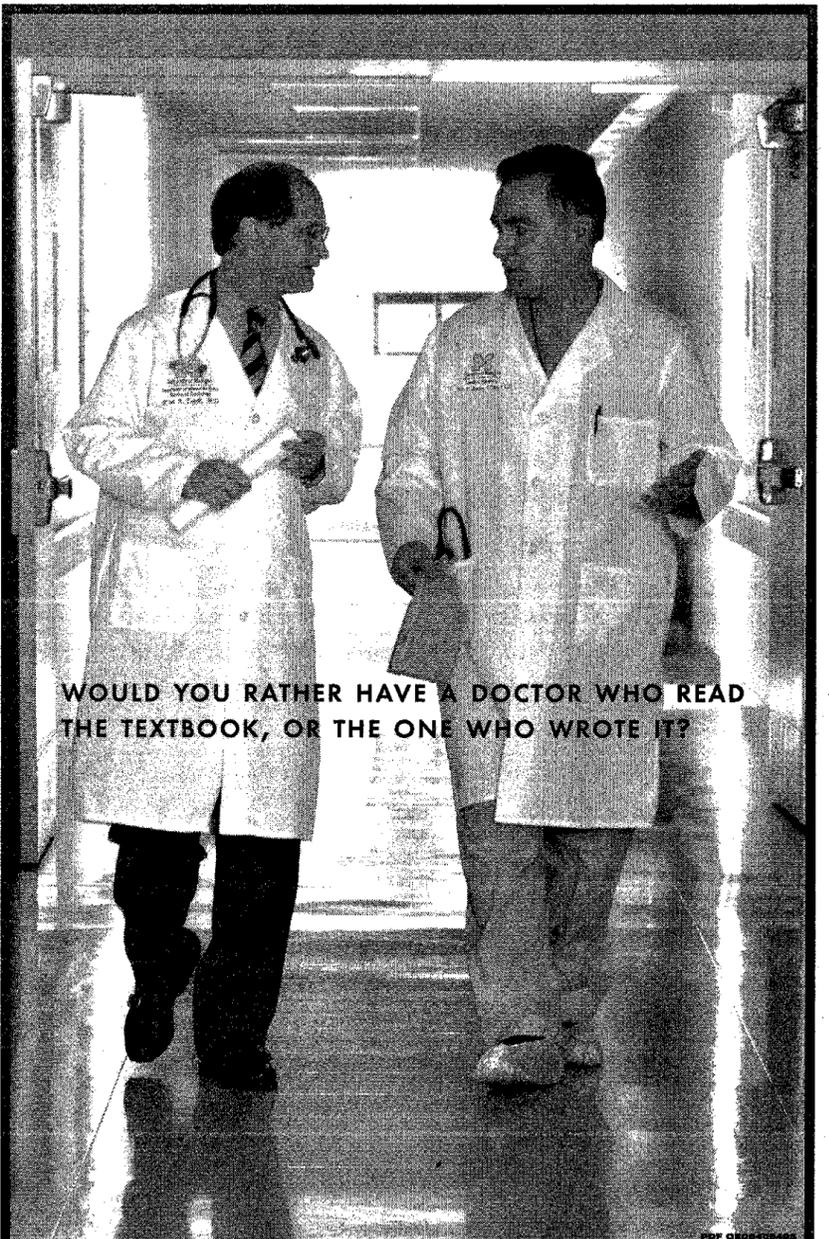
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Hiller: Ethics remain a vital part of business

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER



Hiller

Jim Hiller faces tough competition in his grocery business. Even so, he's sticking with the United Food and Commercial Workers union and his loyal workforce.

Hiller is president and CEO of Hiller's grocery store chain. He spoke on "Integrating Your Ethics with Your Business" Wednesday, March 29, during the Madonna University School of Business McManus Distinguished Business Lecture Series.

"Hiller's is a unique company," he said of the family-owned, six-store chain. Retailers such as Wal-Mart have moved away from unionization, which has implications for medical

insurance and wages. Hiller, however, is unsure he could maintain good customer service without his longtime unionized employees.

Hiller is a Detroit native and a graduate of the University of Detroit Law School. The lecture series at Madonna was established by Michael F. McManus Jr., founder and CEO of Header Products Inc., in memory of his father.

Hiller's does \$175 million of business a year. Hiller became CEO in 1987 after leaving the law. He had thought his career shift into the family business would be

an intellectual step down. "It did not take me long to learn how wrong I was," he told the Madonna audience, describing the "real job fallacy" and noting the importance of good work performance.

"There is no excuse for a poor performance at one's current vocation." His work at Hiller's has engaged his mind and enriched his knowledge.

He's found family ownership key to identity of the business, and that its leader must be concerned with ethics. High quality products are vital, as is a competent and inspired workforce.

"It is ethical to make money," he said, noting that it supports his family and philanthropy. Perhaps most important at Hiller's is the

relationship with customers. "It means creating an environment in which the customer is comfortable," and service is the cornerstone of identity.

Hiller's now requires ID on all alcohol purchases. "Thus far, the issue has sparked a great deal of criticism," the CEO said. "I know that I've lost customers because of the policy."

He considered the need never to sell to minors and the implications of what could be lost, up to life. Removing all judgment from the process has helped Hiller's, and he doesn't have to worry about losing his license to sell alcohol.

Hiller also mulled selling alcohol and cigarettes at his stores. "I have concluded that our own free will should govern here."

Trudy Bonk of Livonia, who shops regularly at the Five Mile-Haggerty store, had kind words for Hiller. "I really enjoyed it," she said of his speech. "I was impressed by all the things he said." Bonk likes that Hiller treats his customers and staff well.

"It's what you look for in a store," she added.

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna president, was also pleased. "We as often as possible like to have local people," she said, adding that ethics discussion fits well with the university's mission.

"We're very pleased he was able to take the time to be with us," Sister Kujawa said. "I thought it was superb."

A McManus family member, William Harahan of Beverly Hills, attended. "He leads by example, which is

niche," Harahan said of Hiller. Harahan is vice president for operations for Header Products Inc. of Romulus.

"My uncle started this in memory of my grandfather," he said of the series, adding the family likes to emphasize good business opportunities remain in Detroit, even as the auto industry struggles.

"It was interesting to get that approach," said Elizabeth Hanlon of East Lansing, a first-year medical student at Michigan State University. As a consumer, you may not realize the way business people care, she said.

Hanlon attended with Stephen Brooks of Ypsilanti, a Hiller's store manager. Hiller's is large enough to impact people, he said, but small enough to have a recognizable identity.

Oh, goody: Marshmallow Drop set for April 14

Wayne County Parks will hold its annual Marshmallow Drop 11 a.m. Friday, April 14, at Nankin Mills Park on Hines Drive in Westland.

More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped from a helicopter as children scramble to collect them. Children will be divided by age, to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate fully.

The Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by Clear Channel Radio and Mike's Modern Classics.

This is the 22nd annual Marshmallow Drop. Nankin Mills is on Hines just

east of Ann Arbor Trail. For more information on this or other park events, call (734) 261-1990.

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Often, you can make a diagnosis of sciatica without a doctor. Sciatic pain begins in the low back, travels down the buttock area then into the outside of the leg to as far as the ankle or the toes.

You feel pain down the leg, or numbness, or a sensation of electricity, and possibly a combination of all three. The pain may be worse at night and is present when you walk; sitting with your legs under you may bring relief. An intervertebral disk pressing against a lumbar nerve is the reason for your pain and its pattern.

Sciatica usually starts with an ache in the back and radiation of discomfort into the thigh. Soon after the pain extends down the leg and becomes daily and intense. At this point you may want to see your doctor with the expectation he will do something about your pain.

Don't be disappointed if he only confirms the diagnosis of sciatica, gives you pain medication, and tells you to return in a month. The reason for this conservative approach is that experience shows most sciatica will resolve in 6 weeks - 3 months. It is not necessary to obtain x-rays or MRIs in every case; imaging the back is in order if pain persists or leg weakness develops.

If waiting does not help, the next step is physical therapy to relieve muscle spasm and strengthen back muscles. If pain continues, then your doctor will refer you to a pain clinic for evaluation for epidural steroid injection. If sciatica still persists, your doctor will ask the opinion of a back specialist if surgery is appropriate to remove the offending disk.

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Back Pain?

Westland, MI - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free, **1-888-744-2225**. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)

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