



## Felician Sisters celebrate 150 years

OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C

## FALL BACK

Did you remember to turn your clocks back?  
Standard Time began at 2 a.m.

## Football playoffs

SPORTS, SECTION B

Fashion Show makes girls feel good inside and out



PINK PAGE C8

# WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY  
October 30, 2005

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## Fire official explains switch in station numbers

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland fire officials have shifted some firefighters from the Norwayne neighborhood to a far south-end station - a move intended to balance the city's fire-protection services.

Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Riley confirmed Thursday that officials moved two of Norwayne's four assigned firefighters to the Carver subdivision fire station. The decision, made nearly a year ago, fol-

lowed fire department studies that indicated a need to increase services on the far southeast side due to a surge in new housing, including a subdivision on Van Born Road west of Middlebelt.

"We had to make some changes," Riley said, responding to questions during a Southeast Westland Homeowners Association meeting.

The changes left the Carver station with four firefighters and Norwayne with two, although Riley said staffing levels can fluctuate somewhat.

Both stations still have fire-protection and paramedic services, Riley said, and firefighters can respond with extra help from three other Westland fire stations.

Riley addressed southeast homeowners who became concerned after learning that fire station No. 5 in the Carver area was now listed in official documents as station No. 3.

Likewise, the Norwayne station, which had been No. 3, is now No. 5.

Riley told the homeowners association that officials flipfopped the numbers because of con-

tractual language that specified the number of firefighters for each fire station.

By switching the numbers, Riley said, officials were able to move two firefighters from Norwayne to Carver. He conceded that neither neighborhood was formally notified of the changes.

"It was a simple change internally to let us improve your service," he told southeast residents.

PLEASE SEE STATION, A7

## 1-room school takes students back in time

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A group of Wayne-Westland students traveled back in time Wednesday for a history lesson in a one-room schoolhouse.

Fourth-graders and teacher Debbie Perkovich left Walker-Winter Elementary in Canton to spend a day at the old Perrinsville Schoolhouse in Westland.

Girls donned pinafores and boys wore suspenders as Perkovich used 1800s-era teaching manuals and schoolbooks to teach inside the school, which has a pot-belly stove, a bell tower and other old-fashioned amenities.

"It's cool," 9-year-old Page Crews said, sitting at a wooden desk inside the school on Warren Road, west of Merriman. "It's smaller than our school. I like the picture of George Washington on the wall and the huge bell outside."

Before she started her lessons, Perkovich wrote on the old blackboard, "Today is Oct. 26, 1865." Her students used smaller slate boards for their math and spelling.

"This place has stuff I've never seen," 10-year-old Bradley Minor said. "It has a bell, and you can put your books in the desk instead of on the floor or on the shelf."

Shameka Stewart, 9, compared the Perrinsville Schoolhouse to Walker-Winter Elementary School.

"We're writing on slates here, but at our other school we write on paper," she said. "I think I like this school better because it's different and it's exciting."

Perkovich has brought her class to the one-room school for several years now.

"It gives the students a hands-on learning experience," she said. "With our social studies curriculum, we go through the different time periods. Instead of reading about it, they can come to the one-room school. It's more like reality for them."

Perkovich had her students memorize a poem, *The Swing*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. She also planned to have them write about their visit to the one-room school, built in 1856.

The school was renovated years ago after local historians initiated an effort to save it. Teachers in the Wayne-Westland, Livonia and Garden City school districts can choose to bring their students to Perrinsville for a day.

Perkovich said the visit is rewarding for her as an educator.

"I like seeing how excited the students get, and I really believe that it teaches them about history."

The school is available for visits Monday through Friday. Teachers who want to arrange a visit or who want more information may call (734) 427-4648.



Chandler Barron listens closely to a lesson from the 1800s.



Winter-Walker Elementary fourth-grader Bradley Minor (left) spells his word as teacher Debbie Perkovich listens during the an 1800s-style spelling bee. The students spent the day at the old one-room Perrinsville Schoolhouse in Westland.



Spencer Dyal holds up his slate board showing that he is counting with the odd numbers in an exercise at the one-room school.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Authority prepares proposal for sale of incinerator property

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
STAFF WRITER

The last remains of the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority incinerator operation are gone and its nearly 33-acre now-vacant site is expected to be offered for sale soon.

"I'm pleased that things have moved along as quickly as they have on that site," Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said.

The CWCSA board has gone over drafts of sale proposals and made a number of suggestions for improvement, CWCSA Executive Director Steven Aynes said.

A suggested minimum price of \$2.7 million will be included in the RFP (request for proposals) which the board is expected to vote on at its Nov. 3 meeting. The property, located on Inkster Road in Dearborn Heights, is currently zoned for industrial use.

"While the city of Dearborn Heights would prefer single- or multiple-family residential use, they do have a PD (planned development) ordinance," said Aynes. "That could allow a mixed use. We want to be as flexible as we

PLEASE SEE INCINERATOR, A7

## Volunteers waiting for word about site

While a meeting between city and county officials and a church group didn't materialize this week, a Westland minister is optimistic that it will happen.

Late last week, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli had announced that the three groups would get together to begin looking for a suitable location for a warming center that had been housed in Full Temple Gospel on Palmer east of Wildwood for four years.

"I just got off the phone with (community development director) Jay Gilbert who is looking at ways to help the homeless," said Michael Enersen, pastor of the Full Gospel Temple. "We still want to meet and look at the options."

A group of Westland churches had been operating the warming center for the homeless January through March, but are barred from opening it in 2006 after the church was denied a use variance by the Westland Zoning Board of Appeals.

The ruling also shut down a soup kitchen that has served a hot meal to the needy for 15 years. However, it was reopened Monday at the mayor's request.

With just two months to go before the center would have opened, Enersen admits there are a lot of questions to be answered if a location is to be found before January.

"If we lose this winter, we can still do something next year," he said. "We're not giving up, just trying to work with the hand we've been dealt to us."

"We're just a small part of what's being done for the homeless."

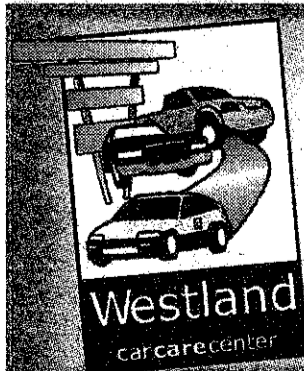
By Sue Mason

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### Coming Thursday in Filter

The Place to be  
The New Dodge in Hamtramck has become the place to hear live music, and if you're a blues fan you'll like it even more. Thursday nights are special there, find out why in the next issue of Filter.

# Community reacting to district's plan

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

More than a week after Livonia Public School officials unveiled a proposal to close several schools and alter attendance boundaries, community members are replying and responding.

The district's Legacy Initiative calls for the closing of seven elementary buildings, merging of most school communities, and a new division of lower and upper elementary schools. The school board plans to vote on the plan before the year's end.

In the meantime, parents across the community are reacting to the potential changes. Several hundred people attended the initial informational meetings held on Oct. 20. Residents are using various forms of communication to learn more about the proposal.

"We've had the largest number of hits to our Web site since we've had it up and running," said Randy Liepa, superintendent.

District officials have received about 200 e-mail messages on the topic.

"It's an emotional thing to have a school close," said Liepa. "People are going to be upset."

### COMMON CONCERNS

Web sites have also sprung up and parent meetings have been held. One group plans a petition to ask the board to delay its decision until the community can digest the massive proposal.

Among the top concerns thus far, are the length of time students will spend riding the bus, and the location of schools they will attend should the plan pass.

In a letter to the Observer, Craig and Cindi Armbruster said the family chose their home due to the proximity of Kennedy Elementary. "Twelve minutes have been added to the school day this year, and next year our 10- and 11-year-olds will have another 90 minutes of their day taken from them due to a bus schedule. This does not seem fair!" they wrote.

Many parents expressed concern about moving their children from schools within Livonia city boundaries into LFS schools located in Westland. In their letter, the Armbrusters say it's "unnerving that our children will be sent to a school five miles away in Westland."

Liepa noted that all of the schools are part of the Livonia Public Schools. They are all maintained in the same manner and running the same programs, he noted.

"It's not everyone who feels that way," Liepa said. "Maybe they haven't gone to a particular part of the community. It's certainly a change - an area they're not familiar with."

Parents have been inquiring about school start times, and wondering where special education center programs may be located should the demographics committee's proposal become a reality.

Liepa said it is likely that center programs will remain in, or move to the schools which have the most space - Cass, Buchanan, Garfield and Johnson. More information will be posted to the district's Web site.

Residents and parents are also wondering about the future of the buildings across the district and the validity of estimates of how this plan will save \$1.5 million to \$2 million a year, especially considering the extra busing needed.

### UPPER ELEMENTARY

Another major change outlined by the plan - the addition of upper elementary schools for grades 5-6 - has been well-received thus far, Liepa said.

He's heard from a few families who would prefer a K-5 elementary and 6-8 middle school configuration, he said. But, for the most part, the proposed four building plan has prompted positive feedback.

The Legacy Initiative calls for students to attend a lower elementary school for grades K-4,

an upper elementary for grades 5-6, a middle school for grades 7-8 and high school for grades 9-12.

Liepa said many parents accept the fact that their children will be bused to schools farther away, if it means providing better educational programs.

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

In some nearby districts, the upper elementary school concept has long been in place. Novi Community Schools encompasses five lower elementary buildings which feed into a single upper elementary - Novi Meadows - for grades 5-6.

Novi Meadows Principal Tim Falls said the district has been

following this concept for more than 27 years. The 5-6 configuration allows the district to bring in intramural and after-school activities designed for that age particular group.

Classes follow an elementary block schedule, complete with specials like physical education and music. Falls said students are even introduced to four foreign languages during their time at Novi Meadows.

"It's the first time all the kids come together," he noted. The school currently houses 1,070 children.

Because it is the only 5-6 grade school in the Novi district, Falls said there is a major emphasis on orientation. He visits all of the lower elementary schools to speak to students and answer their questions. And incoming students visit Novi Meadows twice before they enter fifth grade, to get used to the building itself.

"We want children to feel comfortable," said Falls. In Novi, students move from a school of 100 fourth-graders to one containing more than 500 fifth graders.

"It gives us an opportunity to align our curriculum well," said Falls.

He called the 5-6 concept "a growing trend" in education. Novi Meadows is one of about 36 such schools in the state.

"We're very proud of it," said Falls. "We think it's good for kids. We believe it keeps kids younger, longer."

At the upper elementary level, students experience physical, social and emotional growth which sets them apart from younger students, Falls explained.

"There are still transitional issues," he said. "For some children their K-4 school is an old homestead. But for 95 to 98 percent of kids, they're here and they wouldn't go back."

Falls said he was excited to hear Livonia Public Schools is exploring the upper elementary school concept.

Overall, the Legacy plan proposes significant changes for parents, students and the community. District officials don't deny that.

"People love their local schools," Liepa said. "They like having a school as close as possible. No matter what, this is a difficult adjustment."

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Franklin High football players Vince Benavides (front), Pat Woodward and Blake Karkoska dig into steak dinners Thursday. The big meal paid dividends on Friday, as the Patriots bested Detroit Henry Ford, 19-12. For more on the game, see today's Sports section.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Patriots celebrate perfect regular season with promised steak dinner

BY DAN WEST  
STAFF WRITER

To the victors, go the steak dinners.

A promise made by the mother of a Franklin football player in early September was kept Thursday to reward the team's first undefeated regular season in 31 years.

After the Patriots won their first two games this season, Marge Gault, the mother of senior defensive end Tim Gault, promised the team a steak dinner if they won all their regular-season games.

"We typically do meals for the team on Thursdays and I thought we'd do something more special if they went undefeated," Marge Gault said.

She followed through on the promise Thursday as her efforts fed 75 players, coaches and other supporters at her West Chicago home. Gault set up tables and chairs in her living room, dining room, Florida room and in a tent in her backyard for the sit-down steak dinner. She had preparation help from a dozen parents

who also served the meal that featured New York strips, egg rolls, shrimp, potatoes and cake.

There was a build up among the players leading up to Thursday's dinner. After Gault made the promise in early September, the players often joked with her after each win.

"We'd keep saying we're one step closer to the steaks," Tim Gault said.

As the team kept winning, Marge Gault realized her steak dinner was going to become reality. Her effort received a huge boost from her pastor at Bell Creek Community Church, a congregation that rents space at Franklin High School for Sunday services.

Pastor Joel Lindman authorized a church donation to purchase the 75 steaks from Eastern Market at a cost of about \$500.

Gault's efforts amazed Patriot head coach Chris Kelbert.

"It's good for this group of kids to see their parents care so much for their well-being and success," Kelbert said. "You can see it in these kids that they are learning about

work ethic and other important values that are taught by their parents.

The weekly team meals are nothing new. Kelbert started these gatherings when he took over the program five years ago. They were switched from Fridays after school to Thursday evenings this season because it was logistically easier for the parents who prepared the meals, which usually included spaghetti, chicken and hamburgers.

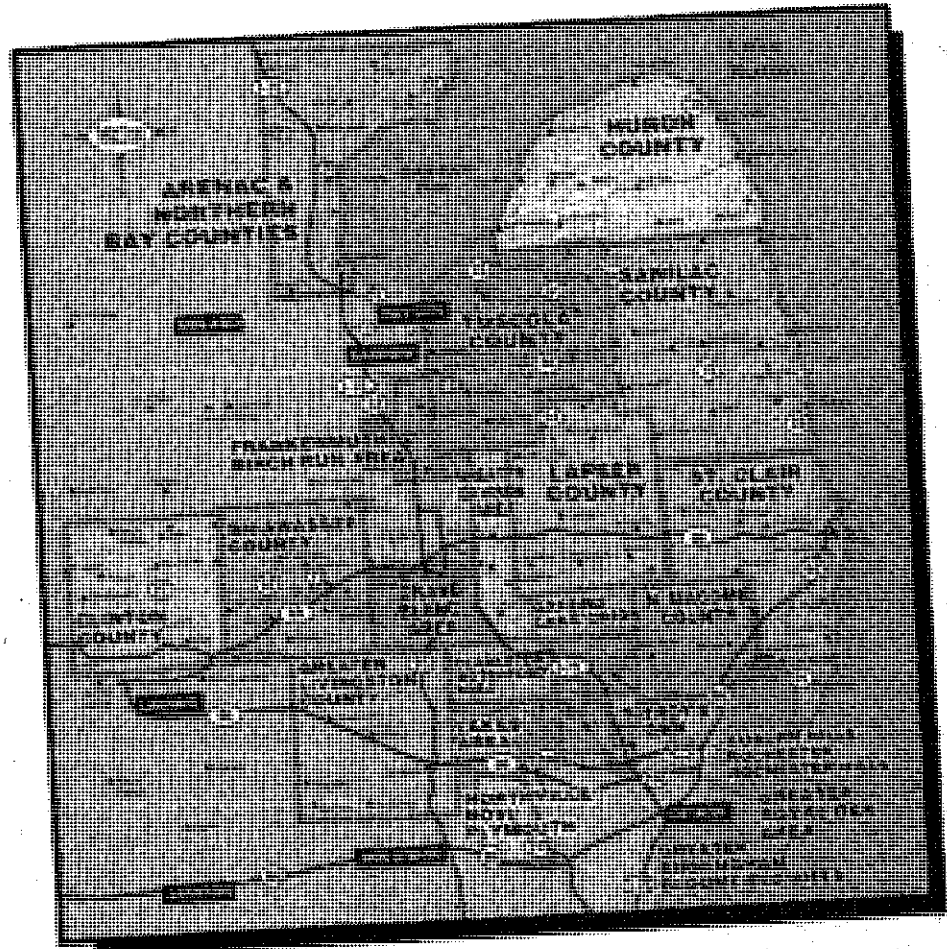
"It's a great way to create camaraderie and keep the kids together after practice," Kelbert said.

Tim Gault agreed, adding the meals give his close-knit teammates more time to hang out.

"I couldn't ask for a better group of coaches and players," Gault said. "I couldn't ask for a better deal for my senior year of high school."

Thursday's meal took place after the team's last practice before Franklin's first state playoff game since 1975. And it was well-received. The Patriots beat Detroit Henry Ford, 19-12. (For more on the game, see today's Sports section.)

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Baseball fan Frank Kaminski of Westland enjoys a game at Comerica Park. He's glad the Chicago White Sox won this year's World Series.

## White Sox victory has baseball fans cheering

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Frank Kaminski, 63, of Westland had waited a while to see the Chicago White Sox win a World Series. The White Sox sweep, culminating with Wednesday night's 1-0 victory over the Houston Astros, marked the first team championship since 1917.

"I'm a baseball fan," said Kaminski, who's married to Beverly. "I go to any game I can go to."

He stayed up to watch all the White Sox-Astros games on TV, including the earlier one that went 14 innings.

"It's great," said Kaminski, a Chrysler retiree, on Thursday. "I'm really happy for Chicago. It's been a long time and they deserve it."

Peggy Ellenwood, seniors director for the city of Westland, found out about the victory when she came to work Thursday morning at the Friendship Center. She didn't stay up to see who won the fourth and final game.

"He's the biggest sports fan," she said of Kaminski. "He loves all his sports." Kaminski's also a Detroit Tigers fan as a lifelong local resident.

"Chicago is second best, but they're still better than Houston," he said.

He cheered for the Boston Red Sox, who had also endured a World Series drought before winning last year.

The Red Sox played the New York Yankees that year, and Kaminski tends to root for the underdog. He's also a sports collector.

He collects "mostly baseball stuff" and has a May 21, 1944, scorecard showing a Tigers game against the Philadelphia Athletics. Hal Newhouser was pitching for the Tigers, who won 1-0 that day.

At 60, Richard Witkowski's also been waiting for a White Sox win. The Garden City school superintendent grew up in Chicago, where he attended Loyola University as a freshman before transferring to Michigan State University. His mom still lives in the Windy City.

"I'm from the south side," said Witkowski, who didn't wear White Sox garb to work after the win. "It's exciting to have them win the World Series."

As a boy, he lived a couple miles from Comiskey and would walk to the ballpark for games.

"I remember the last time they went to the World Series," he said, recalling that the White Sox didn't win that 1959 appearance.

## Drawing makes trip from Detroit to Montgomery

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

When Jason Hart did his commissioned drawing of Rosa Parks in 1993, he didn't realize how well-traveled it would be.

But he found out Wednesday, when his parents called from Montgomery, Ala., to say that they had bought six T-shirts emblazoned with his drawing at the Rosa Parks Museum.

Now, the Westland resident is working on taking his artwork to the museum, a move that may well be the jumpstart he has hoped for his artistic career.

"The curator wants to see everything I have," said Hart. "I have a good 20 pieces, but I'll probably do more."

"We had no idea it was in Alabama, it was just coincidence," said his sister Cheryl Montgomery. "This will be a great opportunity for him and an honor."

Hart was just 21 years old when a family friend asked him to do the drawing that was used on a limited edition of T-shirts and tote bags as a fund-raiser for the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development.

Admittedly nervous when he met with the civil rights activist and the institute's board about it, Hart talked with Mrs. Parks and got to know her, then worked from a photograph to create his stylized drawing.

"She really liked that I had the braid on her head," he said. "I had her hair the way she usually wore it. I painted a picture of her she never saw. The T-shirt was the only thing she saw."

Hart recalled that Mrs. Parks was "so gentle and petite" when he met her.

"She was almost like my own grandma in the way she treated me," he said. "I got very comfortable with her. I spent a lot of time with her the day the T-shirts were done and I was very honored to do so."

A 1990 graduate of John Glenn High School, Hart loves African culture and a lot of his artwork focuses on the people of Ghana and Nigeria. His favorite piece, Going Home, is an original of a man and his wife walking across the desert. He sold it for \$1,500, a decision he now regrets.

"It was vibrant because it made the colors bounce off the white of their robes," he said. "It was my favorite."

His art career seemed to go by the way when the Art and Family Gallery in Ypsilanti closed its doors. He had been a



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jason Hart is proud of his autographed drawing of Rosa Parks that he did for T-shirts and tote bags for the late civil rights activist's Institute for Self-Improvement.

close friend of the owner and the gallery, but his interest in his artwork may be on the rise after he and his sister visited 29th District Court in Wayne where his Rosa Parks drawing had hung.

Judge Laura Redmond Mack has given him the opportunity to do more artwork for the courthouse, according to Montgomery.

"She gave him the inspiration," she said. "What I'm trying to do now is inspire him to go to Montgomery and do more drawing."

A big supporter of her brother, Montgomery has furnished her apart-

ment with his work. Her favorite is "his beautiful pencil drawing" of a Victorian couple.

"For me, I'd rather have his work hanging on my walls, than go out and buy it," she said. "I'm his big sister and I know his talent very well. He's very creative. When he gets an idea, he draws until it's completed."

Hart is excited about the opportunity to go to Montgomery. He's honored that his work has become a part of her life, "a legacy in a way."

"It brings attention to a great person," he said. "I was honored to be a part of whatever she did. I want people to remember her name."

"I will cherish this. I will tell my great-grandchildren about it, if I live that long."

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**B**  
William Barrett IV  
Barrett, of Wayne, died Oct. 23.

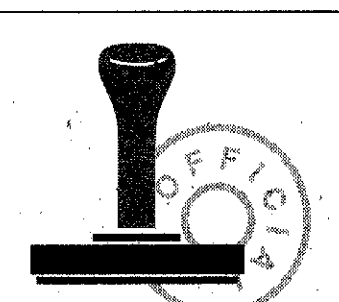
**H**  
Eileen Hewett  
Hewett, 72, of Plymouth, died Oct. 25.

**O**  
Fred "Irish" O'Leary  
O'Leary, of Garden City, died Oct. 19.

**P**  
Phyllis Payson  
Payson, of Southfield, died Oct. 25.

**S**  
Theima M. Schultz  
Schultz, 100, of Plymouth, died Oct. 23.

Robert G. Sommers  
Sommers, 70, died Oct. 26.



**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.

# Make Halloween safe to ensure night's a treat

For adults, shorter days, cooler weather and falling leaves announce the arrival of fall, but for kids, it means the arrival of their favorite part of the season - Halloween! Now is the time to review a few basic holiday safety tips.

Costumes purchased from a store should be labeled "flame resistant." Although this does not mean these items won't catch fire, it does mean the items will resist burning and the flames should extinguish quickly once the garment is removed from the heat source. Falls are the leading cause of Halloween injuries, so costumes should be a good fit, and not drag on the ground, posing a tripping hazard.

Costumes should also be outfitted with reflective tape to make the child easier to see after dark. If your child's costume

doesn't have the reflective striping, get a roll of reflective tape at the hardware store and get creative. Any accessories that are to be carried, such as swords or knives, should be flexible to avoid injury.

If you are planning to use make-up, it should be non-toxic and hypoallergenic. Make-up on the face provides better visibility than a mask so is a safer choice, but if a mask is worn, be sure it provides good sight, which may mean you have to enlarge the eye holes.

An adult should accompany young trick-or-treaters on Halloween night. For older children going out without parental supervision, the following tips should be followed:

- Get the names and phone numbers of other kids in the group and the route the group will be taking.

- Consider if your child should carry a cell phone, so they can reach you, if needed.
- Establish a time for the kids to return home and ensure someone in the group has a watch.
- Make sure there are several flashlights in the group.
- Remind the kids to walk on sidewalks and never dart out in the street or cross from between parked cars.
- Only homes with an outside light on should be visited, and homes should never be entered for any reason.
- Children should eat before going out and reminded not to eat any candy until it's been inspected by an adult. Treats that appear to have been opened or tampered with should not be eaten. If you will be driving, watch for children who may pop out between parked cars.

Driveways should be entered and exited with caution, as children are often excited and not paying attention.

If you will be passing out treats this year, clean up your front yard during daylight hours. Daylight often reveals hazards, such as hoses or tree branches, which can trip or injure children. Turn on your porch light so the walkway is illuminated. Candles should be avoided, but if you choose to use them, keep them well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking.

Give out pre-packaged treats only. If you don't want to give out candy, items such as coins, small packages of raisins or individual servings of microwave popcorn go over well. Hopefully, this gives you and your family a start for having an injury-free Halloween.

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## Candy check

Halloween may be several weeks off, but parents concerned about their kids' candy can get it checked at 18th District Court Halloween night, Oct. 31. The checks will be done 6:30-20 p.m. at the court, 36675 Ford, behind the police station. For more information, call (734) 595-8720.

## Potluck euchre

The Sgt. Romanowski Post #6896 hosts a pot-luck euchre tournament Sunday, Oct. 30. Doors open at 3 p.m., with play beginning at 3:30 p.m. Players should bring a dish to pass. Admission is \$5 with a dish, \$10 without one. The event will include raffles, a cash bar and cash prizes.

The post is located at 28945 Joy in Westland.

## Open house

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter MI-53 in Westland will host an open house 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road. The event is free and open to the public. Women, men, teens, preteens and seniors interested in losing weight are invited to attend.

## AROUND WESTLAND

**Gail Washburn**, a T.O.P.S. member who lost 108 pounds and has kept it off for almost two years, will speak about her weight loss success with T.O.P.S.

"I believe everyone has a moment when something clicks and you turn your life around," Washburn said of her decision to start losing weight with T.O.P.S.

TOPS Club, Inc. is a non-profit weight loss support organization with thousands of associate chapters in the United States and Canada and more than 200,000 members worldwide. TOPS MI-53 Westland is one of the oldest chapters in Michigan. It has been helping people take off and keep off pounds sensibly since 1956.

For more information about T.O.P.S., visit the Web site [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org).

## Texas hold 'em

St. Theodore Catholic Church, 8200 N. Wayne, will sponsor a Texas Hold 'Em tournament 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the church's social hall. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 to buy in. Tickets must be bought in advance by calling (734) 564-8222 or (734) 421-9315. Participants must be at least 18 to play and at least age 21 to drink. There will be a 50/50 raffle and refreshments.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. The event is being sponsored by St. Theodore's Men's Club and Confraternity of Christian Women.

## Get Smart seminar

As part of its Get Smart Seminars, Westland Convalescent Center will have Mark McCauley and Mary Schneider from the American Association for Wartime Veterans discuss V.A. Benefits for Wartime Veterans 2:30-4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at the

## Toy Show

Space is available for the Westland Rotary toy show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, Westland. Tables are available in advance for \$30. The day-of-show price is \$35.

The show will feature new and antique toys, collectibles, slot cars, model cars, and more. There also will be lucky door raffle prizes and refreshments will be available. Admission will be \$3 with children under age 12 free.

For more information about registering, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.

## Workout benefit

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital will be on the receiving end of a benefit at Nu-Lady Fitness in Westland Shopping Center, Warren at Wayne Road, Westland. The workout benefit will be Monday, Nov. 7, through Saturday, Nov. 12. To register for the program, call Nu-Lady Fitness Center at (734) 525-0000.

## Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Men's Club is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16, Jan.

## Craft show tables

Tables and/or space is still available for an indoor fall craft show Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Tables and/or space costs \$35 for a 12-foot table/area. Electricity is an additional \$5. Call (734) 728-5010 and speak with Terri for more information.

Participants don't need a partner to play. Snacks and soft drinks are included in the \$5 charge. Games start at 7:30 p.m.

## Car donation

People with a car to donate can give it to Veterans Haven. The organization is accepting cars, running or not running, that are given to veterans to provide them with transportation to work, school of medical needs.

To date, the agency has given away more than 250 vehicles and three fully furnished mobile homes to needy veterans. To donate, call Veterans Haven at (734) 728-0527 or go to [vetshaveninfo.org](http://vetshaveninfo.org) on the Internet.

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Speaking out for peace**

Arlene McMomagle of Westland joins other peace supporters on the corner of Five Mile and Farmington for a demonstration Wednesday marking the 2,000th death during the war in Iraq. At its peak, some 150 protesters showed up at the corner for the protest.

**Suspect caught after police chase, crash**

BY DAN WEST  
STAFF WRITER

A 50-year-old Detroit man is in police custody on charges that he held up a Livonia bank at gunpoint, crashed into a police car and tried to escape by running between some homes along Joy Road.

The man, who has a history criminal convictions, was arrested Thursday afternoon, but his arraignment was pending Friday as Livonia police and FBI agents sorted through investigation details.

Livonia police Lt. Greg Winn said a man walked into the Citizens Bank on Schoolcraft near Hubbard at 2:45 p.m., pulled out a handgun and demanded money from four bank tellers. Some \$2,900 cash was handed to him, he ran out

of the bank and drove off in a BMW.

Bank staff quickly relayed the vehicle's description and license plate to police. An off-duty police lieutenant heard radio traffic about the robbery and spotted the BMW in the Farmington Road-Plymouth Road area. He contacted officers in marked police cars who joined the chase on Joy between Farmington and Merriman.

Police video footage of the chase showed the BMW was trapped between several police cars and other motorists stopped at a red light at Merriman and Joy. The robber put the BMW in reverse and sped backwards for about a quarter mile on eastbound of Joy.

As the BMW turned around,

it struck the front of a Livonia police car in an attempt to drive away on westbound Joy. The BMW, however, was struck from behind by another police car and forced into a ditch. The initial police car followed up to pin the BMW that came to rest on top of the police car's hood.

"This was a dangerous situation," Winn said. "We were fortunate that no one else got in the way."

The suspect jumped out and ran through a home's driveway, but police caught him quickly in a nearby yard. Police recovered the gun and cash inside the BMW.

Winn added no one was injured in the incident, and the vehicle damage was contained to the two police cars and the BMW.

**INFORMATION CENTRAL**

When you were a child, do you remember making a paper cup out of a piece of notebook paper, or a simple hat from a sheet of newspaper?

For most of us, that was our first experience with origami. Paper folding was probably first practiced in China in the first century A.D., shortly after the invention of paper.

However, origami is usually defined as the Japanese art of paper folding, because that is where the practice was truly developed into an art form. To this day, it is a perennially popular craft.

Origami is enjoyed by young and old alike, by beginners and by accomplished artists. Many variations of the craft have developed over the years, such as using cloth instead of paper, using colorfully designed paper and using aids, such as cutting or pasting, to produce different results.

However, the basic principles of origami remain true to this day: To create an object by folding paper, without the aid of such things as glue, tape, scissors or staples.

Whether you are a novice or an

expert, the William P. Faust Public Library has books and videos on the subject of origami that should spark your interest.

You might start with *Origami for the* by Soonboke Smith, then progress to *Classic Origami* by P. D. Tuyen. Holiday theme titles include *Scary Origami* and *Holiday Origami* by Jill Smolinski and *Origami for Christmas* by Chiyo Araki.

For a more technical approach, take a look at *Making Origami Puzzles Step by Step* by Michael LaFosse or *Pop-up Geometric Origami* by Masahiro Chatani.

We also have individual books featuring origami birds, insects, animals, airplanes, boxes, balls, flowers, boats, masks and greeting cards. For a more visual approach, check out a video, *Origami for Kids* or *Origami, the Art of Paper Folding: Beginner to Intermediate*.

Winter weather will soon force many of us indoors, looking for quiet, cozy pastimes. The colorful art of origami may brighten your spirits as well as your home. So what are you

waiting for? Start folding!  
**Preschool Fair: 7-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7**

Do you have a child about to enter preschool? Learn more about area preschools at our Preschool Fair. Several area preschools will have their representatives available to relay information and answer your questions. No registration required. Call the Children's Services Department at (734) 326-6123 for more information.

**Fifth-Sixth Grade Book Club: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15**

This month's book is *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. Pick up your copy at the children's desk.

**Adult Book Club: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15**

*The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by Alexie Sherman. Call or stop by the reference desk to reserve your copy.

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

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## House bill fair to all sides in wine shipment debate

Michigan's wineries and its distributors have worked together for more than 35 years to ensure that the state's wine connoisseurs had direct-shipment access to Michigan wines. All that changed with the stroke of a pen from the U.S. Supreme Court, which threw out Michigan's longstanding law that shielded Michigan wineries from large out-of-state producers while allowing them to deliver their product directly to consumers.

And with that stroke of the pen came an uproar heard across the state as the Michigan Legislature wrestled with the best, most fair way to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision — an "all or nothing" decision that either opens the doors to every winery in the country or closes the doors to every winery in the country.

The decision to change wine regulation in Michigan was not proactively made by the members of the Michigan House of Representatives, but was hoisted on us by an activist Supreme Court ruling.

After much discussion and debate, the House has passed a bill that brings Michigan into compliance with the Supreme Court ruling. Neither side received everything they wanted; sacrifices were made by each side to reach the agreement without discarding the principles that matter to Michigan citizens. In the end, the agreement holds true to the maxim about a good compromise; one where neither side is happy, but both are still standing.

HB 4959 will bring Michigan into compliance with the Supreme Court ruling by regulating the direct shipment of wine from manufacturers to consumers. The bill also guards against minors gaining access to alcohol via out-of-state shipments; protects the rights of Michigan wineries to sell their wine at tasting rooms, off-site licensed tasting facilities and restaurants they own and operate; increases consumer choice; and protects the indispensable impact that the distribution industry has on the Michigan economy, a \$2.2 billion-a-year industry.

HB 4959, which won support from 84 representatives, requires wine producers to obtain a "Direct Shipping" permit to sell wine directly to consumers. Wine shipments

**It was never our intention to curtail the choices of Michigan wine consumers or to limit the ability of Michigan's producers to sell wine at their own facilities. Additionally, achieving compliance with the Supreme Court ruling is critical because it avoids costly litigation while still maintaining Michigan's three-tier liquor distribution system.**

would carry a Michigan tax stamp and be clearly marked with "Contains alcohol — must be delivered to a person 21 years of age or older."

The purchaser would be required to fax official identification to the direct shipper at the time of purchase to guard against the acquisition of alcohol by minors. These safeguards would be monitored and enforced by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and would be funded through subsequent licensing fees and fines.

It was never our intention to curtail the choices of Michigan wine consumers or to limit the ability of Michigan's producers to sell wine at their own facilities. Additionally, achieving compliance with the Supreme Court ruling is critical because it avoids costly litigation while still maintaining Michigan's three-tier liquor distribution system, a 70-year-old system that ensures safe and responsible regulations and protects an important revenue source for the state of Michigan.

HB 4959 doesn't make everyone completely happy, nor should it; both sides have legitimate claims that deserve to be accounted for on this very important issue. But the bill does accomplish perhaps the most important objective to which any idea, policy, or law aspires: it holds true to the principles by which it was crafted.

In doing so, it protects Michigan's children, complies with the Supreme Court and allows Michigan wineries to ship directly to consumers. The passage of HB 4959 would ensure that this compromise upholds the integrity and the principles that matter to Michigan.

Sen. **Bob Emerson** of Flint is the state Senate Democrat leader. Rep. **Chris Ward** of Brighton is the Republican floor leader in the state House of Representatives.



Bob Emerson



Chris Ward

## Remembering Rosa Parks, a serene woman at peace

I still remember how Rosa Parks looked when I took my seat beside her for a one-on-one interview in the back-row pew of Trinity Faith United Methodist Church in Detroit.

She seemed so serene, fragile, humble for a woman of such great stature. She wore a long-sleeve cotton dress with a simple ruffle around the collar. She had her long, gray hair pulled gently behind her head. She smiled sweetly, held out her soft hand and placed it in mine.

It was July 28, 1993. I know, because she wrote the date in a copy of her book, *Rosa Parks: My Story*, which she gave to me. After hearing of her death Monday at age 92, I did what I have done many times. I looked at the words she wrote inside the book: "Rosa Parks, To Darrell."



Darrell Clem

Over the years, many friends have asked me who stands out most from all the people I've interviewed. The answer is easy. It's the woman who changed the course of a nation when she refused on Dec. 1, 1955, to give up her seat to a white man on a public bus in Montgomery, Ala.

It's the woman who gently patted her hand on a church pew and warmly invited me to sit with her. After a photographer snapped her picture and left, Mrs. Parks and I sat alone in the main area of the church. When I had walked in, I couldn't help noticing that she was sitting in the back row. I remember thinking that this time — 38 years after she refused to budge on that bus in Montgomery, Ala. — she had chosen, on her own free will, to sit in the back.

I'll never forget how my time with Mrs. Parks, 80 then, came about. I had received the offer through Jim Netter, a Wayne resident and longtime NAACP member who sat on the finance committee of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development in Detroit. He believed — still believes — that Mrs. Parks' story can continue to inspire a younger generation.

He arranged the interview at Trinity Faith United Methodist Church, where Mrs. Parks was meeting with people involved in one of her favorite projects — planning trips for students who would retrace the paths that slaves took to escape the South. I remember how nervous Mr. Netter was that he had to drive Mrs. Parks from her home to the church.

He and I shared a laugh about that situation when I phoned him, after hearing of Mrs. Parks' death, to thank him for setting up that interview. He recalled what went through his

mind as he was driving the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement to the church: "Don't let me be the one to have an accident with Mrs. Parks in the car." Indeed.

I remember how Mrs. Parks sat with her hands resting in her lap during the half-hour that she and I spent together. She exuded a serenity, an inner peace, that never hinted at the hatred and injustice that she had seen and experienced. As a child, she and her family members sometimes slept in their clothes in case they had to flee from Ku Klux Klansmen who were sweeping through the South. She sometimes had sleepless nights and remembered her grandfather sitting by a fireplace with a gun — ready to try to defend his family, if necessary.

Mrs. Parks never set out to become an American icon. She never sought fame or glory. She only wanted what her mother, Leona McCauley, and other African-Americans wanted. "My mother believed in freedom and equality, even though we didn't have any," Mrs. Parks told me.

She talked of how she was troubled today by violence among young people. When I asked her what she would say to them, she responded, "Don't kill people or hate people. Value human life."

I remember Mrs. Parks being so soft-spoken that, at times, I found myself leaning toward her so that I wouldn't miss a word. I remember that her biggest smile came when she talked about her mother, how much she respected and loved her. She also fondly recalled attending a Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church that had been founded in Alabama by former slaves. "I loved that church," she told me.

I've reflected many times on the time I was privileged to sit alone with Mrs. Rosa Parks. This week, I've thought about the most vivid image of her that will remain with me. That image doesn't come from some picture of her sitting on a Montgomery bus. It doesn't come from any of her public appearances.

When my talk with Mrs. Parks had ended, I walked out of the church without my copy of *Rosa Parks: My Story*. I had become so engrossed in our conversation that I forgot it. As Mr. Netter and I stood outside, Mrs. Parks came out the front door. He recalled, and I clearly remember, how it seemed she was running, and she was waving her book — my book — in the air. That's the image I will most remember.

After hearing of her death, I looked again inside that book. I read those four words: "Rosa Parks, To Darrell."

Darrell Clem is an Observer reporter covering Westland.

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# INCINERATOR

FROM PAGE A1

can to get ideas."

The board also is waiting for results on additional soil testing on the property after 4.5 acres where the incinerator had been actually located showed slightly elevated levels of certain metals. Those findings could trigger Michigan Department of Environmental Quality regulations and possibly restrict use of that part of the property.

Soil borings have been taken on the property outside the 4.5 acres for comparison purposes.

"We've tried all along to make sure that the bidders have full information on the property," said Aynes. "They could say that 27 acres are OK and the middle area needs to be something like a park or a parking lot."

Another possibility is that if outlying areas have similar test results, Aynes said, it could indicate those levels are naturally occurring.

"If the buffer areas not used for the plant show the same levels, maybe it shows that the standards are low based on natural occurrences," said Aynes.

"Everyone has been surprised. The plant was cleaner than we expected. The board wants additional testing."

The test results should be ready for the

### The incinerator closed in August 2003 after a private partnership operating a waste-to-energy operation went bankrupt defaulting on \$80 million in bonds. Waste Management paid \$4 million for the assets of the partnership, in addition to the \$4 million to the CWCSA.

Nov. 3 board meeting, he said, allowing the property to be shown as clean or that the 4.5 acres need special handling.

"Either way they should be able to approve the RFP and have it issued in mid-November," said Aynes, adding he hoped the sale could be completed by mid-June.

Once the property is sold, the question before the board would be what to do with the proceeds.

"The board could go in a number of directions. Do you apply the money to future costs - reduce tipping fees?" Aynes said. "Or do you give all or part of the money back to the cities at that point?"

The CWCSA's remaining bond issue will be paid off in 2007 and as a result can't be paid off early, he said.

The costs for demolishing the incinerator and related facilities were substantial-

ly less than expected. Waste Management, which effectively loaned the CWCSA \$4 million to clean and restore the Inkster Road property, will be paid off by the end of the year.

Per-ton tipping fees at the landfill are substantially lower than the incineration costs had been and are scheduled to drop in 2007 from \$46 per ton to \$33 per ton.

"We were under budget on the demolition and the closure. If we get \$2.7 million, the question is what do we do with it?" said Aynes. "We'll essentially look at each cost the authority has. It's all good news for the authority, I think."

Cicirelli said the property sale will, in some way, benefit all five communities that the incinerator served - Westland, Garden City, Dearborn Heights, Inkster and Wayne.

The incinerator closed in August 2003 after a private partnership operating a waste-to-energy operation went bankrupt defaulting on \$80 million in bonds.

Waste Management paid \$4 million for the assets of the partnership, in addition to the \$4 million to the CWCSA. The authority's member communities agreed to send all trash to a Waste Management landfill in Van Buren Township for 20 years.

Staff writer Darrell Clem contributed to this story.

lrgrgers@oe.hdmecomm.net | (734) 953-2103

# Anderson supports tax relief legislation



Anderson

1999. Anderson said the bill is crucial to keep families from losing their homes as they struggle with tighter household budgets.

"Higher gas prices and steeper heating costs this winter will cut deeply into our wallets," he said. "Credit card delinquencies are reaching alarming rates, and unpaid property taxes are sure to follow."

"Extending the time period for our families to pay their property taxes is the right thing to do, and that's why I urge my colleagues in the Michigan House and Senate to support this bill. We must protect our families."

State Rep. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, has come out in support of tax relief legislation that will give more time to homeowners who are facing the loss of their property to pay back taxes. "In these tough economic times, this bill helps families protect the most valuable possession they have - the roof over their heads," Anderson said. "Across Michigan, our families are already struggling to make ends meet. We must give them the tools to ensure that they have a fighting chance to keep their homes and their land."

The legislation will extend the property tax foreclosure process by a year, from two years to three. The bill will allow for the correction and adjustment of changes made to the tax reversion process in

Please recycle this newspaper

# STATION

FROM PAGE A1

In other developments at Thursday's meeting:

Riley assured southeast residents that the city has a plan of action in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack. However, he conceded that problems could occur if communications were cut off, as they were when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

Residents questioned why the city's fire-safe neighborhood program hasn't come to their area. The program sends firefighters into local homes for inspections, and resident Lori Wilson said the southeast area needs it due to an overwhelm-

ing number of elderly residents.

Riley pledged to take the concerns to administration officials, including Fire Chief Michael Reddy.

With winter approaching, homeowners association President Ken Reeves reminded residents to keep snow cleared from fire hydrants near their homes. He urged residents who need help to call the fire department.

Said Riley: "We'll come out and clear it."

Reaster Everett, the association's area representative, reminded residents to turn in their absentee ballots before the Nov. 8 city elections or to go to the polls.

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# Numbers man: Metzger wants to make a difference with United Way position

BY RENEE SAUNDERS  
CORRESPONDENT

Kurt Metzger likes watching people.

As a demographer, people-watching is part of the job.

He likes seeing how people move throughout the area, finding out who lives where, how many people were born and died within a year, and projecting where people will migrate in the future.

And he likes using that knowledge to help the very people he studies.

That's why Metzger, the director of the Michigan Metropolitan Information Center at Wayne State University, left his post Oct. 11 to work as a research director for the United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

He said his new position will allow him to be more active in the community.

"I really just want to stay connected with what I think is real life and hope to make some kind of difference," Metzger said. "I think this is going to offer me that kind of opportunity ... I'm enthusias-

tic about this."

Metzger, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Cincinnati, began his career at the U.S. Census Bureau's Detroit Regional Office. There, he served as a geographic planning specialist to develop the map and address files for the 1980 census. He worked there for 15 years before moving on to Wayne State University.

Metzger worked for Wayne State for 15 years where he oversaw the documentation and investigation of trends related to urban population and housing, organized and conducted research and developed education and service programs designed to improve the understanding of population and housing patterns in metro Detroit and America.

Prior to his new position at the United Way, Metzger, who lives in Pleasant Ridge, served as a volunteer on the organization's environmental scan committee, research committee and the Southeast Michigan Information

Center's Advisory Board.

That's why, he said, that he and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan are a perfect match.

The United Way for Southeastern Michigan used to be sectioned off in two different branches, serving Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties separately.

But in March, the organization restructured itself to be one regional organization that serves all three counties.

Metzger will be gathering, interpreting and preparing information to help the organization develop regional strategies to best serve the tri-county area.

"I'll be taking the lead on what are the issues affecting certain regions, identifying the issues and what kind of measures that will have the right impact that we can give," Metzger said.

He said his department will be studying groups and non-profit organizations to determine where funding is needed most and also to help them make more money for themselves.



MIRROR PHOTO BY DAVID REED

Kurt Metzger is leaving his job as a demographer at Wayne State University to be the director of research for the United Way.

"Money is not flowing in as well as it used to and we need to make sure that it's going where it should be going," Metzger said.

He said the United Way just wants to make sure that the organizations it is funding are necessary, deliver a good product and make an impact on the community.

# Wayne State hosts conference

Wayne State University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the department of Political Science will host "Creating Collaborative Communities," from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, and Tuesday, Nov. 1, on campus at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center.

Across Michigan, state and local officials are searching for ways to relieve the intense financial pressure on local governments.

"Municipal collaboration and resource sharing is at the forefront of this new wave of thinking. Its basic tenant is cities can save money and/or increase services by sharing costs, equipment, knowledge and manpower with other cities," said Jered Carr, conference organizer and assistant professor of Political Science at Wayne State.

Tuesday, Nov. 1, is Practitioner Day (admission \$15).

For reservations and information contact Jered Carr at (313) 310-3632, or visit <http://www.creatingcollaborativecommunities.com/>.

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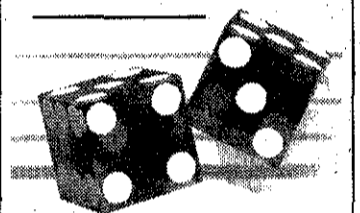
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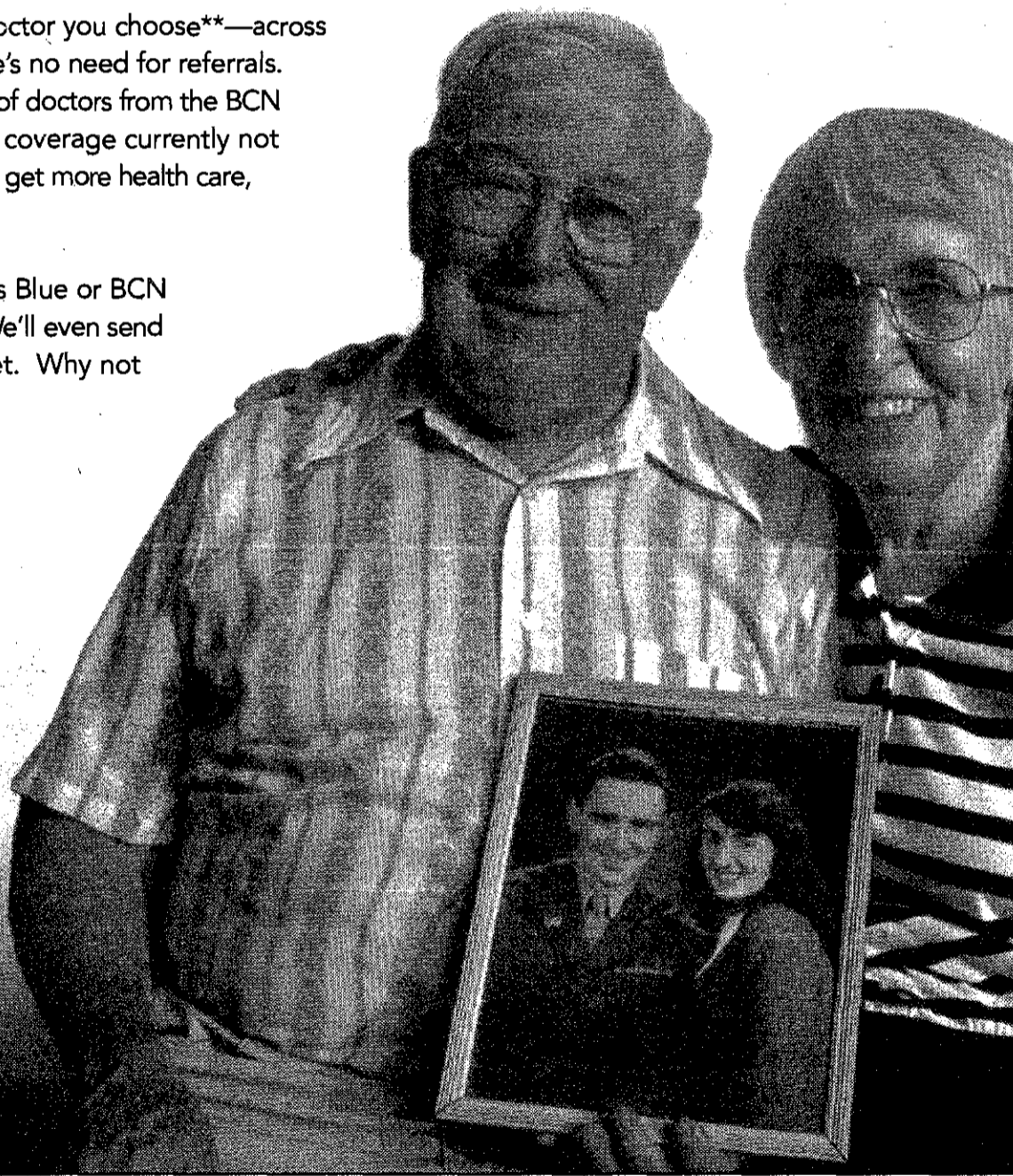
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