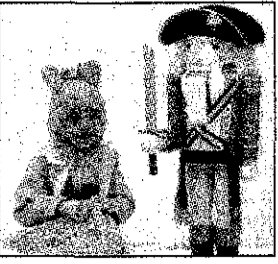


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RAT KINGS
TAKE A STAB
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OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C



Experts offer tips on surviving the holiday blues - Health, C8

Look great in glittery party style



PINK PAGE
C10

SUNDAY
November 27, 2005

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Hearing set for youths in carjacking case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

At least three Detroit teens face a court hearing Thursday for their alleged involvement in a carjacking last Sunday morning in Westland.

A fourth youngster, 16, was turned over to juvenile authorities, but prosecutors will seek to have him tried as an adult, police Sgt. Steve Borisch said.

The four teens are accused of riding up behind a BMW that was stopped at a traffic light, forcing two men out of the car, robbing them at gunpoint and taking the BMW.

The incident happened about 5 a.m. last Sunday on westbound Warren at Merriman. No shots were

fired, and no one was injured.

The following defendants face a preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court. Not-guilty pleas have been placed on record for all of them:

■ Ernest Young, 19, who is accused of driving the stolen BMW. He is charged with carjacking, two counts of armed robbery, felony firearms and fleeing from police during a chase that started after Dearborn Heights police spotted the stolen car.

Young is jailed in lieu of a \$50,000/10 percent bond, meaning he would have to post \$5,000 for his release.

■ Damien Thomas, 17, who is accused of accompanying Young in the stolen BMW. He is charged with

carjacking, two counts of armed robbery and felony firearms.

Thomas also is jailed in lieu of a \$50,000/10 percent bond.

■ Roxanne Silvia, 17, who is accused of being in the 1998 Malibu that pulled up behind the BMW when the carjacking occurred. She also is charged with carjacking, two counts of armed robbery and felony firearms.

Silvia is jailed in lieu of a \$75,000/10 percent bond, and she would have to post \$7,500 for her release.

Westland District Judge Gail McKnight arraigned the three teens Tuesday as their family members sat in the courtroom.

A fourth teen also was arraigned Tuesday along with Young, Thomas

and Silvia, but police later turned him over to a youth home after learning that he was only 16 - not 17 as they had initially believed.

It's possible that the juvenile, allegedly in the Malibu, will still face charges as an adult, Borisch said. He is accused of carjacking, two counts of armed robbery and felony firearms.

During the carjacking, a 27-year-old Westland driver and his 21-year-old brother were forced out of the BMW and ordered to lie down on the pavement, Borisch has said. They were robbed, and the BMW was taken, he said.

According to police, Young was arrested after Dearborn Heights police spotted the BMW and chased

it. A Redford police dog was brought in and found him hiding under a Jeep, Borisch has said.

Thomas is accused of fleeing from the BMW and being arrested later at his Detroit home. Police said they arrested Silvia and the 16-year-old suspect after they returned to Westland to look for their friends, only to be spotted in the Malibu.

If convicted as charged, the teens could face penalties ranging from two years to life in prison. A felony firearms conviction carries a mandatory two-year term; carjacking and armed robbery charges are punishable by any number of years up to life in prison.

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



Tabitha and Theresa Quinn take a noontime break after shopping since 7 a.m. Friday at Westland Shopping Center. The mother-daughter team is from Garden City.

Seeing green Malls draw shoppers with music, Santa, more

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The sounds of the season are already flowing through area shopping malls, creating a soundtrack for the buying frenzy. Christmas carols fill shops, restaurants and corridors, and places like Livonia Mall and Westland Shopping Center even offer live entertainment to brighten the experience.

"I think it brings about the festive atmosphere," said Bobbi Gelman, marketing director of Livonia Mall. The mall brings in jazz groups and school groups to entertain shoppers.

"When people come in, we want them to get that warm, fuzzy feeling that makes them want to come back," said Gelman, adding the mall offers easy in-and-out access. "Baby it's cold outside, but it's warm in here."

Denise Mills, marketing

director of Westland Shopping Center, noted that The Phil Gram All-Stars jazz band have a standing performance on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 20 and Thursday, Dec. 15 at the mall, followed by a strolling barber-shop quartet - Three D's & W's - who will make the rounds on Wednesday Dec. 14, 21 and Friday Dec. 16 and 23.

"The two entertainment groups have been coming to the mall for a number of years now," said Mills. "Not only do the merchants ask 'When are they coming back?' but the shoppers do also."

That's just one way to draw in shoppers. Another invokes the spirit of giving.

Westland Shopping Center, located at 35000 Warren Road, also functions as a drop-off center for new, unwrapped gifts meant as local Toys for Tots

PLEASE SEE SHOPPERS, A8

Board to discuss Legacy plan

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education will meet Monday to discuss the demographics committee's Legacy Initiative, a plan that includes the potential to close seven schools and alter the district's boundaries.

The Livonia district serves the north part of Westland.

The board was formally presented with the plan Nov. 14, just under a month after it was released to the community. A public hearing followed Nov. 21 at a packed Carli Auditorium inside Churchill High School. The upcoming meeting will mark the first oppor-

tunity for all seven board members to discuss the proposal.

Board President Dan Lessard said it will give trustees an opportunity to ask questions and clarify any information they have. The issue will not go up for a vote during this meeting.

"Hopefully it will generate more questions, discussion and be very, very beneficial," he said.

Lessard said he plans to keep the discussion among board members open and non-restrictive.

"I'm hoping for dialogue and lots of it," he said. "We are doing something I believe that is just great for kids. Is it

going to be easy? No. It means an awful lot of work for an awful lot of people."

The Committee of the Whole, meaning the entire school board, will meet at 7 p.m. at the district office, 15125 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile.

It is a public, open meeting, and there is time set aside at the start for audience comments. The meeting will also be televised on the district's cable channels, 15 for Bright House Network and Wide Open West subscribers and Channel 19 for Comcast viewers.

By Stephanie A. Casola

Goodfellows welcome holiday help

Despite a worrisome economy, people still seemed in a giving mood Friday as Westland Goodfellows volunteers collected money to buy Christmas gifts for children in need.

"They seemed to be generous," said police Lt. James Ridener, who spent much of Friday morning selling Goodfellows newspapers at the Warren-Wayne intersection.

Volunteers braved teeth-chattering weather to help raise money.

"The hardest part is staying warm," Goodfellows President Jim Rachwal said.

The number of volunteers grew to at least 30 this year - up from about 20 in recent years, Rachwal said.

Goodfellows last year bought toys and clothing for 700 children in 500 families. Rachwal has predicted that the demand for help will increase this year, due to job losses and other economic issues.

Anyone who missed Goodfellows volunteers on Friday but who still wants to donate may send checks payable to Westland Goodfellows to the Westland Dorsey Center, c/o Westland Goodfellows, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI 48186.



Westland firefighter Tom Wright braves cold weather and mall traffic while collecting donations for the Westland Goodfellows at the corner of Wayne and Warren roads.

Information about Goodfellows also is available online at www.westlandgoodfellows.org.

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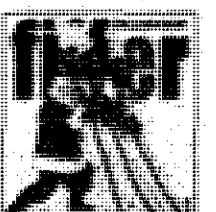
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Coming Thursday in Filter

The Rockettes spread warmth and good cheer at the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.



Roaring mission

Guard helicopter, crew lift off Laurel Park fund-raiser

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER



CW3 Mark A. Tyler of the U.S. Army National Guard talks about the C-47 Chinook helicopter behind him to a group of onlookers, including a North Pole resident, in front of Laurel Park Place mall.

A few minutes before the CH-47 Chinook helicopter roared to its windswept lift-off on a recent Saturday morning, the craft's captain, CW3 Mark A. Tyler, stood on the parking lot of Laurel Park Place mall describing the din raised by the massive craft.

"I like to say, 'It's the sound of freedom,'" Tyler said. "That's what it's here for."

Tyler and his four-man crew of U.S. Army National Guardsmen brought the very large, very loud cargo helicopter with two blades and three engines onto the mall lot for about an hour visit recently.

The event was an attention-grabber for the arrival of Santa Claus at the mall - and for the mall's holiday push to raise money for service members from Selfridge Air National Guard base and their families. The mall is asking those who bring their kids to see Santa to bring a gas card, phone card or

money to donate. "We're the middle person in terms of need," explained Laurel Park Place marketing director Patrick Derrig of the effort. The mall hopes to raise \$20,000 to help out those who are making the sacrifice and their families, who must deal with the emotional separation and monetary strain. "Just to have a phone card to contact a loved one is just magic for someone in need," Derrig said.

"And you know there are those needs," agreed Livonia Mayor Jack Engelbreton, himself a U.S. Air Force veteran. He was at the event to lend his support - and provide a key to the city for Santa.

The helicopter and its crew were the main attractions for more than 100 visitors that morning. Visitors asked about its towing capacity (50,000 pounds), its speed (cruising at 175 miles per hour) and its battle missions (moving troops and

ammunition in Iraq).

The crew had also moved some big names, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney while in Iraq, and former President George Bush to view the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. Along with dropping 6,000-pound sandbags to help shore up the levees in New Orleans, they also dropped bales of hay for stranded cattle.

As Tyler was answering questions, an awestruck little boy in a wheelchair looked up. "Are you a pilot?" the boy asked.

Tyler crouched down to answer him. "I flew that in here today," he said, pointing at the helicopter.

"How?" the boy asked with amazement.

"Years of training," he answered.

Other crew members - CW2 Eric Tupa, Staff Sgt. Timothy Glynn and Sgt. Brandon Hodges - also took time to han-

dle questions and pose for pictures. And all seemed to enjoy the visit.

Tyler certainly did. When asked about his effort in helping to set up the visit organized by Derrig, Tyler said, "My personal motivation is to allow the public to see where their tax dollars are going."

More than that, he said, "What a great cause. They're here to raise money to support our troops and families..."

Later, as the crew prepared the craft for its departure - and many visitors watched from a safe distance away - visitor Ernie Natalini commended the crew: "They're great ambassadors."

And then in a swirl of wind the craft lifted off and, with crew members waving out the side, it sped quickly over the mall and circled back over with more waves from the crew returned by many in the crowd.

House bills provide tuition funding for vets and families

Legislation has been introduced to provide tuition funding for veterans, their families and the families of first responders killed in the line of duty.

"The men and women who serve in uniform and on the front lines of public safety make tremendous sacrifices every day," said State Rep. Jim Plakas, D-Garden City. "This legislation is a small measure of what we can give back to them. What we owe them, we can never fully repay. By helping them and their families with college tuition, it is our small way of saying thanks."

The four-bill legislation introduced by House Democrats would:

- Provide a full tuition waiver for children of first-responders killed in the line of duty.
- Provide up to \$2,500 in tuition waivers for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- Stabilize tuition funding for children of disabled veterans or those killed in the line of duty.
- Increase tuition funding for children of disabled veterans or those killed in the line of duty so that it is fully funded at any Michigan public university.

A Korean War veteran who served in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps, Plakas said he has had close relationships with emergency responders as a former member of the Garden City Hospital board of trustees.

"I have had the honor and privilege to work alongside brave men and women who as only that they be allowed to serve their country and their community," said Plakas.

The death or disability of a veteran or first-responder can inflict heavy financial hardships, Plakas noted.

AROUND WESTLAND

Blood drive

VFW Bova Post 9885 will have a blood drive for the American Red Cross 2-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28, at the VFW hall at 6440 N. Hix, between Ford and Warren. Walk-ins are welcome or, to schedule an appointment, call (734) 728-3231. Names of donors will be placed in a drawing for a gift certificate at Vision Lanes for an hour of free bowling, free shoe rental, a large pizza and a pitcher of pop for up to five people.

Retiree reunion

A Christmas party for former employees and retirees of Wayne County General Hospital will be held 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Golden Corral buffet restaurant on Warren Road east of Newburgh. A private room has been reserved. For more information call Patricia Ibbotson at (313) 561-0177.

Democrats meet

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the Dorsey Center, located east of Venoy and south of Palmer. Officers will meet at 7 p.m.

Christmas concert

The Westland Community Foundation will sponsor a holiday reception featuring the Glenn Singers from John Glenn High School 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the school's media center. The school is on Marquette west of Wayne Road.

Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Those attending are asked to bring an unwrapped toy that will be given to The Salvation Army for children in need at Christmastime.

Please call (734) 595-7727 for a reservation.

Thanksgiving dance

The Wayne Ford Civic League will host a Thanksgiving Senior Dinner & Dance at noon today, Nov. 27, at 1645 N. Wayne Rd in Westland. There will be turkey, ham and trimmings with dancing to the music of the Meltones. Tickets are \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members of the league. They are available at the door. For more information call (734) 728-5010. Those attending should be 60 years old or older.

Membership meeting

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will hold its annual general membership meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 1. The meeting will be held at the WYAA Lange Compound at 6050 Farmington Road, Westland.

For more information, con-

tact the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 or electronically at wyaa@wyaa.org.

Holiday party

Westland senior citizens are invited to the Holiday Extravaganza, a Christmas party, at the Westland Senior Friendship Center, Thursday, Dec. 15.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., with the "fabulous feast" will be served at noon. There will be a chance to have pictures take with Santa and Mrs. Claus, dancing to the music of the Tommie James Trio and gifts galore.

Tickets cost \$8 for members and \$10 for guests. They're available at the Friendship center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

New Year's Eve

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

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

Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Men's Club is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Dec. 2 and 16, Jan. 6, 13 and 27 and Feb. 3, 17 and 24, at the church, southwest corner Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland.

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.

Craft show

The annual Hawthorne Valley holiday craft show and Pack 547 bake sale will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, Nov. 27, at the facility at 7300 Merriman, Westland. Admission will be \$2, with kids free of charge.

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 vethaveninfo.org on the Internet.

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY
December 12, 2005 - BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to correct mutual mistakes of fact or clerical errors. PA74 of 1995 authorizes the July Board of Review to hear appeals for poverty exemptions, but not for poverty exemptions denied by the March Board of Review. This applies to current year only.

ALLYSON BETTIS
TREASURER-CITY CLERK

Publish: November 24, 27 & December 1, 2005

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY

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

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

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk

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Tech-gift expert shares advice on holiday deals

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to buying new technology, shoppers seek out expert advice.

Last week in South Redford, that advice came free from Gary LaPointe, the district's director of technology services.

LaPointe hosted three community seminars to share holiday deals and news about new products on holiday shopping lists.

"We've done this several times before and people seem to like it," LaPointe said. "Who doesn't like new technology and saving money at the same time?"

This year's must-have tech gifts according to LaPointe were as follows:

■ **TiVo** - Topping the list this year is the popular digital television recorder. "It will change the way you watch television," said LaPointe. It can be programmed to find and record television shows, music artists and more.

■ **iPod** - A close second on LaPointe's list was Apple's MP3 music player. He suggested the 4 GB Nano is a good deal at \$249, because it costs just \$50 more than the 2 GB version. And the full size iPod now holds more than just music.

The 30 GB version costs \$299, and the 60 GB is \$399. The newest generation of iPod offers video in addition to playing audiobooks, podcasts and more.

■ **Scene It** - "The best game out there," according to LaPointe, it incorporates video clips and trivia in an array of subject areas, but costs about \$30.

Also making the list of favorites is a small digital camera. LaPointe suggested a camera with 4 to 6 megapixels and a real zoom. He suggested buying a bigger memory chip to go with it.

For anyone on the go, Palm Pilot handheld devices hold important information. And when looking for a laptop, LaPointe said smaller laptops are often the best. He suggested a Sony Vaio or Apple iBook or Powerbook. It should come with a DVD player and CD burner, he said.

Stocking stuffers can also be tech-themed. LaPointe presented small USB drives for holding information, retractable cables for travel, and tiny WiFi detectors to seek out a signal for your laptop.

Look for deals at sites like www.woot.com, slickdeals.net, dealnews.com and grupare.com/deals.



Edison Elementary second-grader Vinouue Martin said the turkey was 'really really good' at the school's Thanksgiving feast. Students in Jennifer Preblich's and Erin Held's classes enjoyed turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings for their feast.



Edison Elementary students in grades one through three enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner thanks to a program sponsored by their teachers, Jennifer Preblich and Erin Held.

Kids enjoy turkey feast, fun

Students in two Edison Elementary School classes enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast Tuesday, which seemed fitting as they study about this country's early settlers.

The students dined on turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and corn, part of an annual Thanksgiving event arranged by teachers Jennifer Preblich and Erin Held.

"The students love it," Principal Barbara Hastings said. "They really enjoy it, and lots of parents help out that day."

Preblich teaches a split first- and second-grade class. Held teaches a split second- and third-grade class.

Students and parents who participate get more than just a belly full of good food, Hastings said.

"This really increased the feeling of community in the school," she said.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gary LaPointe offered free seminars on shopping for new technology.



Second-grader Breeanna Oravec, with the help of visiting parent Karyn Bizek, fills her plate during Edison Elementary School's Thanksgiving feast. Bizek's daughter, Jennafer, also is in the class.

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Basketball lover looks to build new planet

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Sounds echoed from the cold walls in the empty 47,600-square-foot building. The heat wasn't yet working and the lights were off until crews of workers arrived late in the morning to continue with renovations. But instead of the dust and the bare concrete drywall what Mike Cenit saw was a whole new world.

A planet, in fact. What Cenit, of West Bloomfield, saw was hundreds of basketball enthusiasts, gathering for training and pickup games and socialization in what he describes as an uncommonly luxurious private basketball club. If all goes according to plan, the vision will come to life by the end of January when the new club, Basketball Planet, opens its doors in Canton.

always been a passion for Cenit, it hadn't occurred to him to make it his business until he met Jamey Petree, a basketball trainer who had been working with Cenit's daughter, Carly, starting just before her freshman year at Andover High School.

"She's athletic, but not a naturally gifted athlete, but the things that Jamey did for her game were just incredible," Cenit said. "She's got such confidence, and is a self-assured player and person. I was impressed."

Petree and Cenit would talk from time to time when Cenit brought his daughter to Lifetime Fitness in Novi, where Petree was training other young ball players.

After a few months of talking, the pair hatched an idea to build a private club, dedicated to the sport they both love. They brought in a colleague of Petree's, Will Vance,

and one day almost two years ago, the three went to a restaurant to discuss their dream. Shortly after that, they put together a business plan and started looking for a location in earnest about 14 months ago.

They looked at a location in Southfield, then at another in Canton, one which they nearly bought. But finally opted to take out a long-term lease on the former Circuit City repair building on Haggerty Road in Canton.

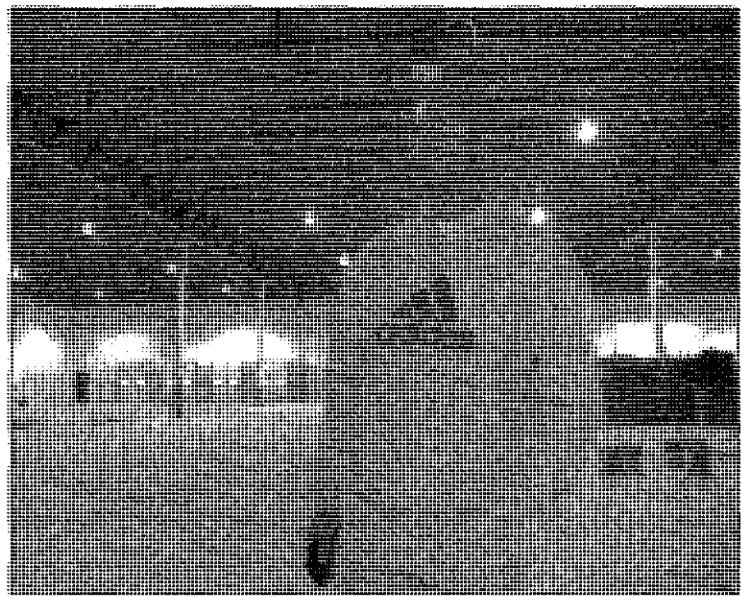
The business plan has always hinged on a few simple ideals, Cenit said. One is that the trio, who has also gathered about nine other partners and financial backers, never wanted to build the club from the ground up - at least not the building.

"In order to provide the kind of opulence we have in mind, we never wanted to make the investment in brick and mor-

tar. We needed an existing structure," Cenit said.

Another key to success, they believe, is private membership to the club. Though hosting tournaments can be exciting and prestigious, it's the month-to-month customer that will be Basketball Planet's bread and butter. And it will take 3,000 members before the club becomes profitable. The club is also relying on corporate sponsorship for its profits, and has been deliberating with several major companies interested in advertising at the club.

Another key element is no-holds-barred luxury. From the custom slate floors in the entry lobby, to the touch-screen member sign in, to the Internet store, the upscale coffee shop, comfortable stadium seating instead of bleachers, and a glassed-in lounge outfitted with state-of-the-art video equipment, Cenit said much of



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Will Vance stands in an area that will have four full-size basketball courts, two training courts and a toddler's court.

the \$500,000 investment into the club has been in little comfort-driven details.

The club will have four full courts, two practice courts, a toddler court, and memberships will run \$40 per month. "I can tell you we've never

seen anything like this," Petree said of the club.

For more information, visit online at www.thebasketballplanet.com.

cmarsall@hometownlife.com

LegalEase: A new name, breed in outsourcing

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Out-source. In southeast Michigan, the phrase itself has become, in some households, as offensive as swearing at the dinner table. But Canton residents Tariq Akbar and Tariq Hafeez are working to change the image of the word, as they themselves open up doors to the next big thing in outsourcing: The legal profession.

Akbar and Hafeez, partners in the firm they've named LegalEase Solutions, have been for the last year providing off-shore legal support services to attorneys in 11 different states.

"Outsourcing has been in the United States for more than 20 years, and recently it's become like a bad word," Akbar said. "But there's a new breed of out-sourcing and it's tapping the intellectual capital of the world."

He added that most people associate outsourcing with job loss - an American factory worker loses his job because his employer opens up shop overseas and replaces him with a low-wage worker. But Akbar said in this case, out-sourcing is really about job creation in a global economy. The duo has employed five attorneys in the United States, as well as eight attorneys in India.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tariq Akbar (right) and Tariq Hafeez, both of Canton, are partners in the firm, LegalEase Solutions, which provides off-shore legal support services to attorneys in 11 states.

The services provided by LegalEase attorneys are typical of those that a lawyer, right out of law school, would provide, according to Akbar. They perform support functions such as legal research and writing, preparation of

pleadings, patent services, and document review, and they do it at a reduced cost because attorney fees in India are much lower than in the United States.

"That's what legal out-sourcing is all

about," Akbar said. "We are viable because we can get some of the grunt work done very affordably."

It was Hafeez, an attorney who had been employed for the State Attorney General's office, who first came up with the idea to outsource legal work.

However, because he was born and raised in Michigan, he had no contacts in India. But Akbar, who is related to him by marriage, did.

Akbar, who was at the time employed as a business consultant by Deloitte and Touche, moved to the U.S. just six years ago, and his family has strong connections in the legal profession back in India.

"I thought of him right away and we began talking about it," Hafeez said.

It was a leap of faith leaving their full-time jobs to devote all their time to the new company. Akbar, whose first child was due to be born any day now, and Hafeez, a father of two small children, said because they are the breadwinners in their families, it was definitely unnerving to leave their former jobs. They found a few investors who believe in the idea.

"But I believe this will sustain us, and it will happen very soon," Hafeez said.

The business was one of only five in the world just a year ago, according to

Akbar, but now is one of 14.

"We grew 100 percent last month," he said.

Even though both partners began full-time work for LegalEase just this June, they believe that by December the company will begin turning a profit.

No matter how much Akbar and Hafeez believe in the fledgling company, they still had to look at how they would be perceived, due to the negative connotations of outsourcing. But their concerns were calmed a bit when they hired a salesman to increase their client base, and he put it this way: "Are you serious? We're talking about lawyers here. I don't think anyone is really upset about lawyers losing their jobs."

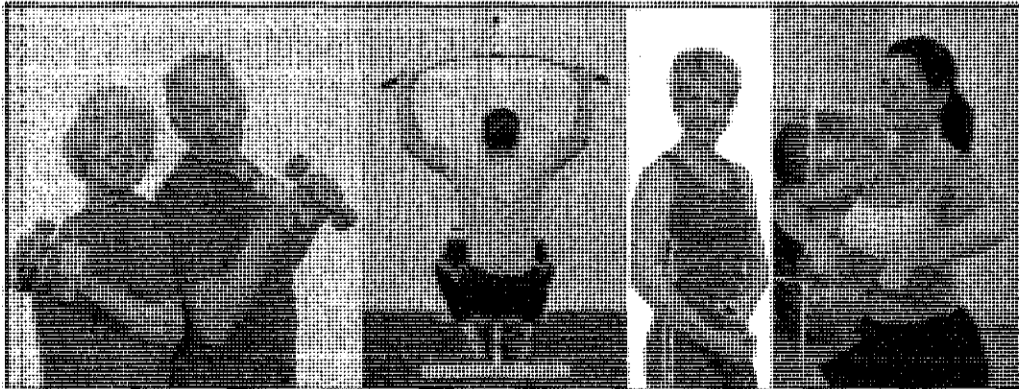
The bottom line is, according to Akbar, some one million attorneys in the U.S. last year earned about \$7 billion.

"That's just a lot of money," he said. "People have to think really hard before they see a lawyer because it's so expensive. And I know that one of our clients right here in Michigan does pass along his savings to his clients. I do think that companies like ours will provide a benefit to the common man."

For information, call (734) 238-1584, or visit online at www.legaleasesolutions.com.

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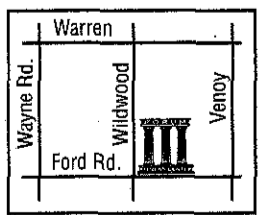


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Relationship benefits community

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes good things result from bad situations - that seems to be the case with the relationship between the Garden City Fire Department and Gordon Chevrolet.

After one of the dealership's salesmen had a heart attack while at work, General Manager Susan Ianni arranged for her employees to have CPR classes taught by firefighters.

The dealership also purchased an automatic external defibrillator that can be used when someone has a heart attack.

Most recently, the dealership donated a \$10,748 three-year lease on a 2006 Chevrolet Trailblazer to the Fire Department. The vehicle will be used as a mobile command unit and for public education.

"Sue and I were talking one day about bad weather. I mentioned that sometimes it was hard to get to emergencies with a two-wheel drive vehicle in the snow," Fire Chief Bill Forbush said. "I'm a hands-on kind of chief and respond to a lot of these incidents."

That prompted the dealership to donate the lease on the vehicle - an expense the city couldn't cover at this time.

"It goes back to my guy having the heart attack. The Fire Department saved him," Ianni said.

The vehicle will have a specially constructed wooden console for the rear built by Nate Sturos, an engineer with the department. It will hold plans for schools and other buildings that might be needed during an emergency.

The two CPR classes at the dealership have turned into regular classes filled with volun-

teers who signed up through radio stations on which Gordon Chevrolet advertises.

"We underwrite the costs and do the classes at the dealership. We haven't figured out if we'll do it monthly or every other month," Ianni said.

Feeling helpless when she didn't know what to do when her salesman had the heart attack, Ianni took CPR training herself and is a big booster of the classes.

One evening as she headed home from work, Ianni noticed people on the side of the road - a young man had a drug overdose and wasn't breathing.

"You can either watch him die or do something - those are your two choices," said Ianni, who performed rescue breathing on the man, who survived. "I did hesitate, not having a breathing barrier, but you don't have a choice. You've got to help people."

With the dealership covering the costs for CPR class materials and FireSafe Home grant program audio-visual equipment used, Forbush said the classes can be offered at no charge. Forbush, his wife Tammy and Deputy Fire Marshal Michael Massey handle the classes.

"I was impressed with the people who came through (radio station) WMUZ. All 25 showed up, they were interested, attentive and wanted to be there," Forbush said. "You don't always have that when it's a free class. It's unusual for that many to come."

It's recommended that after initial CPR training, a refresher course be taken every two years. Anyone interested in signing up for CPR training can call Ianni at (734) 427-6200.

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Woman irate after home hit with hunter's bullet

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

When Patricia Pellerito woke to the sound of gunfire, she knew enough was enough. "That's when I called the police," she said.

The gunfire, she said, is coming from hunters' rifles, and the hunters are firing where they have no business doing so.

"I've got nothing against hunting," Pellerito said. "But you can't hunt in my backyard."

Pellerito said for years hunters have continued to fire off guns in the open field not far from her home in the River Meadows subdivision, off Geddes Road, west of Canton Center. But this year, the hunting activity has become worse, she said, and the hunters are more persistent, despite continued residential development of the area.

Just like clockwork, on Nov. 15, the opening day of firearms hunting season, Pellerito heard the hunters. In the nine years she's owned her home, she'd heard them before, but it's only recently she began to hear them as close to her house as they are now. Close enough, she said, that at some point one of them shot a bullet into the siding on her house.

"They're just too close," Pellerito said.

Hunting is not prohibited in Canton Township, according to Canton Police Deputy Chief Laura Golles, but hunting with a rifle close to homes is illegal.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources specifies where hunting is legal, she said, and certain areas of

Canton are still huntable, according to the DNR.

However, the township can make laws to control hunting activity, and it has.

"The DNR says where you can hunt, but we say how you can hunt," Golles said.

For starters, hunters who go on permitted property must have verbal permission from the property owner to hunt there. It's quite possible that the hunters near Pellerito's home did have permission. But if they were hunting with a rifle, they've violated town-

ship ordinances and state law, which prohibits using a rifle to hunt in southeast Michigan. The township allows hunting in DNR-approved areas, but only with bow and arrow, or a shotgun with shot no larger than a No. 6.

And if the hunters were too close to homes, they've broken township laws.

"You cannot hunt within 150 yards of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence, cabin, bar or any other kind of structure. That's what

pretty much blocks Canton from hunting because there's a house everywhere you go," Golles said.

Last year Canton officials, including Public Safety Director John Santomauro, were hoping to enact an ordinance that would ban all hunting in the township. However, only the Michigan Department of Natural Resources can ban hunting in areas where it is currently allowed.

Currently, hunting is allowed only west of Canton

Center, from Warren south to Michigan Avenue. There are a few exceptions, which is why the township has a map available that shows designated hunting areas, which are classified as open or restricted. The map is available at the township clerk's office.

Pellerito called police on Nov. 17 and again a day later. The second time she called, officers were able to talk to one of the hunters who said he owns the property where he's hunting, and he has 20 acres, which by law is enough

to hunt on, according to Sgt. Rick Pomorski.

But Pellerito said she feels like she's in a war zone some days in autumn.

"We have a bunch of yahoos who don't know the difference between a subdivision and the country," she said. "They're taking pot shots at whitetails in our neighborhood because they're too lazy to go up north and hunt for real."

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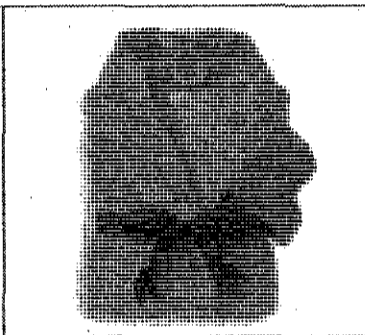
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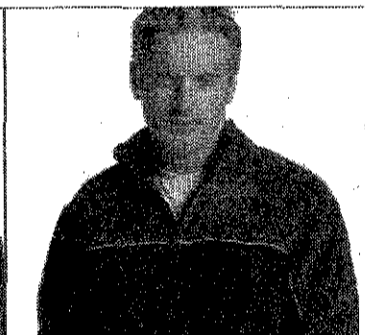
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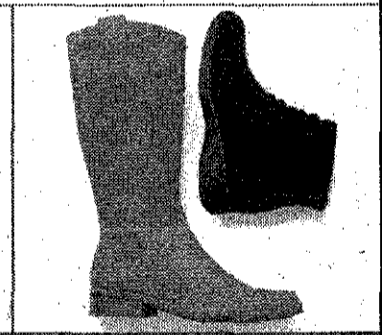
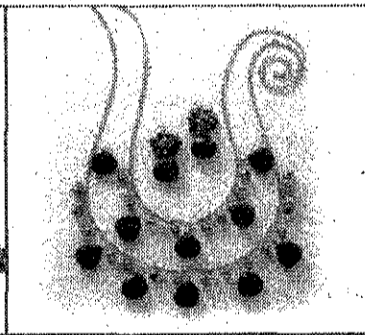
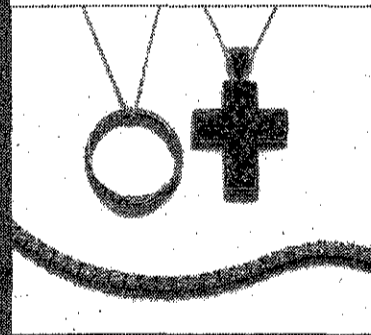
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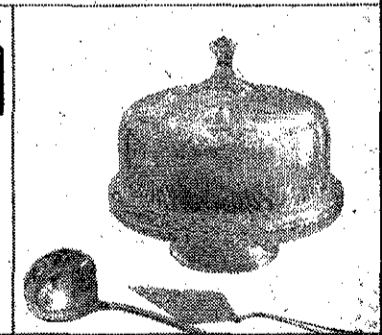
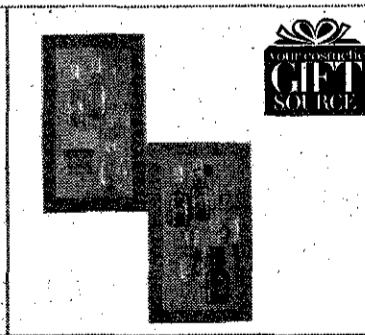
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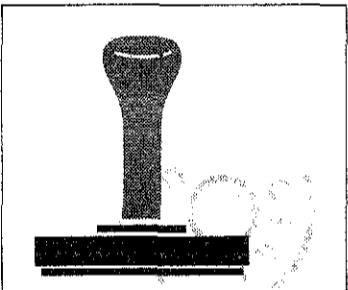
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FOR THE RECORD



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

B

Elizabeth White Baker
Baker, 86, of Troy, died Nov. 22.
Angus John Broadbent
Broadbent, 86, of Mulberry, Fla., died Nov. 22.

M

Mary Lou Munguia
Munguia, 76, died Nov. 19.

P

Steve E. Potoczak
Potoczak, 65, of Freeman Township, died Nov. 8.
Carole Pray (nee Wall)
Pray, of Saugatuck, died Nov. 25.

S

Ruth Louise Hemp Smith
Smith, 89, of Rochester Hills, died Nov. 16.

V

Brent C. Verrot
Verrot, 46, died Nov. 19.

W

Leonard "Leo" Wagner
Wagner, of Clarkston, died Nov. 21.

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Helping hands: Rotarians visit Africa to fight polio

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Sam Kennedy of Plymouth ran out of eggs for breakfast and went to Kroger. He cried when he saw the full shelves of the supermarket, "which is not my usual reaction to Kroger."

Kennedy, a member of Plymouth A.M. Rotary, traveled to Niger in Africa Nov. 5-19 for a National Immunization Day program. Fellow club member Jeanne Knopf DeRoche of Plymouth Township traveled to Ghana this past month, also to immunize young children against polio. She was in Ghana Nov. 9-21, including some time touring schools and orphanages, and meeting people in the village of Jirapa.

"This was the first time I was able to do it," DeRoche said Tuesday afternoon soon after her plane landed.

"Poorest country on earth, hottest country on earth," Kennedy said of Niger, where the temperature reached 105-130 degrees during the day. The average family income is \$200 a year.

From Nov. 12-15, 65 million children were vaccinated in Africa, 3.2 million in Niger alone. "It was done by 10,000 volunteers," Kennedy said.

The Rotary PolioPlus program, which dates back to the 1980s, works with such partners as the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control to eradicate polio. North America, Europe and much of the rest of the world are polio-free, but the disease persists in certain countries.



Residents of the village of Maradi, Niger, receive balloons from the volunteers who traveled to Africa to administer polio vaccine.

Both Kennedy and DeRoche enjoyed meeting the Rotarians from Africa. She too found the people of Ghana gracious and grateful, and praises their ingenuity.

Kennedy traveled with 18 Rotarians, administering an oral vaccine for children age 5 and under. One mother offered him her porridge, even though she didn't have enough to eat.

"She's wanting to give me food," he said. "What struck me was the incredible kindness of these people." He spoke poor French and a little of the local language.

Kennedy had visited Cuba

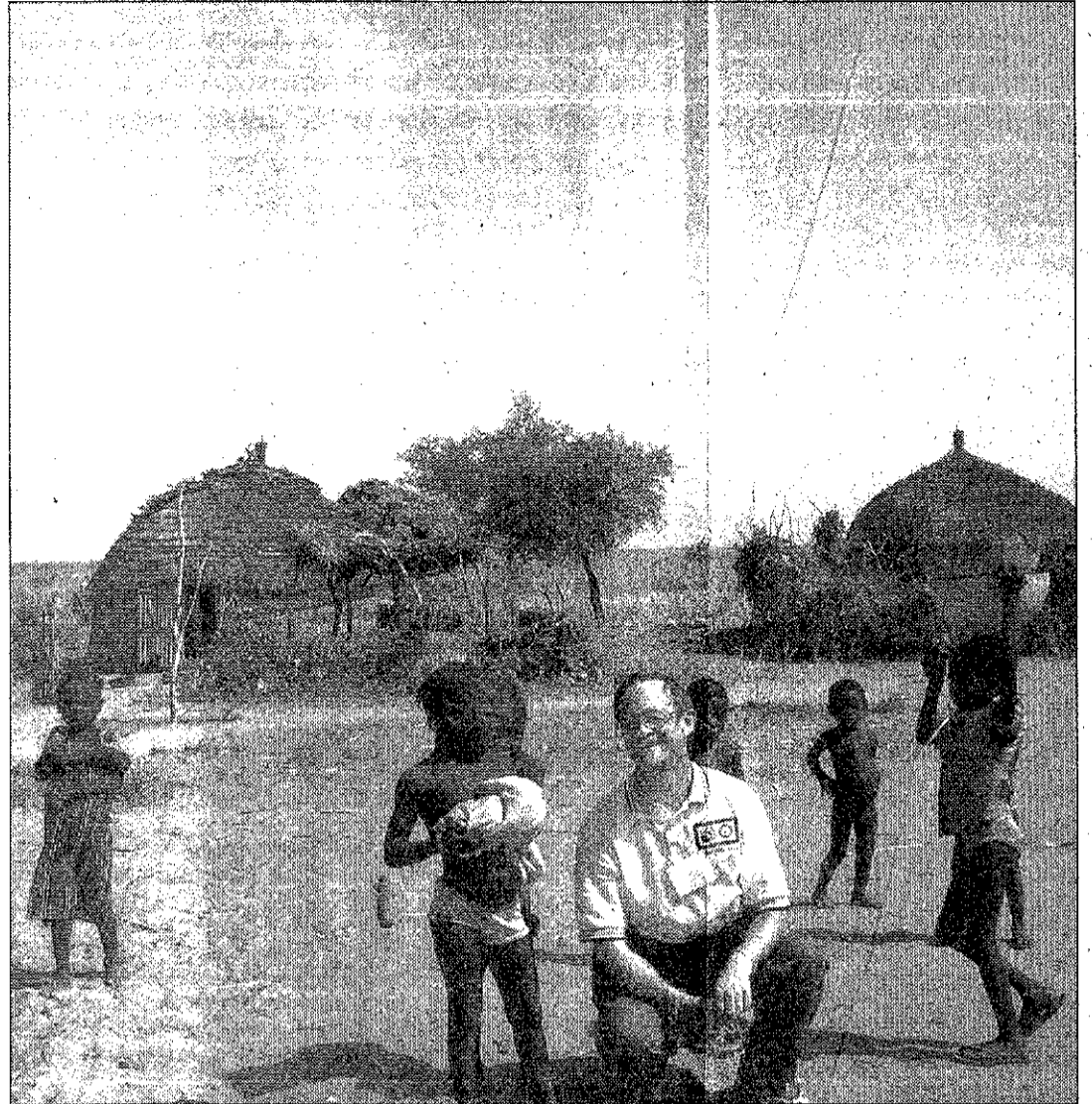
to do humanitarian work a few years ago. "It made Cuba look like New York or Chicago," he said of Niger.

He'd never experienced anything like this before, and wants to get the word out on the effort and Rotary's role.

"This is one of the best things I've ever done in my life," he said.

DeRoche didn't have language problems, as Ghana is an English-speaking country. After the time administering polio vaccine, she and several others from Rotary's District 6400 went to Jirapa. They provided treated mosquito nets to combat malaria, along with school supplies, and were given two goats and four chickens as gifts in return.

The goats went to a local priest - one goat's named Plymouth and the other Windsor, part of District 6400. The chickens went to



Plymouth resident Sam Kennedy visits with children in Niamey, Niger, during his time administering polio vaccine as a Rotary volunteer.

their host.

"I got to really live with the people," she said of her travels. DeRoche will talk to local Rotarians about her experiences, and hopes to see more international projects such as adopting an orphanage run by a nun there.

"I think I will never take water for granted again," she said. Rotary put wells in some parts of Africa where villagers had to walk great distances before for water and weren't guaranteed a safe supply.

Both Kennedy and DeRoche enjoyed meeting the

Rotarians from Africa. She too found the people of Ghana gracious and grateful, and praises their ingenuity. "They can take nothing and make it work for them," she said.

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or Treasurer Tammy Deck at (734) 728-1099.

Warriors of Westland

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday bazaar
Get your holiday gifts at the Wayne County Commission's eighth annual Holiday Bazaar at the Wayne County Building in downtown Detroit on Friday, Dec. 9. Jewelry, unique crafts and clothing will be on display 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the atrium of the building at 600 Randolph. Proceeds from vendor booth rentals to benefit local non-profits.

Craft show
Reserve a table now for the Wayne Senior Activity Center pre-holiday arts and crafts show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at the senior center, 35000 Sims, Wayne. Cost is \$25 per table, electricity provided. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 721-7460.

Starfish programs
Starfish Family Services Great Parents, Great Start teachers help prepare children, ages 2-4 years for preschool and school in their own home. Fun, learning activities help children grow and learn and parents learn tips, too. The program is open to families in western Wayne County, if they qualify. Call (734) 595-0411, Ext. 104, for more information. Starfish also has an ongoing, free Pregnancy Support Group, offering pregnant women a chance to talk with other pregnant women, meet with a prenatal nurse, hear baby's heart beat and learn about nutrition, pain management and other topics. Groups to be held in Wayne, Westland and Inkster areas. To register, (734) 595-0411, Ext. 104.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek
The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise
The Friends of Eloise group meets 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

VFW Bingo
Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road.

Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.
Dems hold bingo
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club has bingo 10:45 a.m. every Monday at the Wayne Ford Civic League, on Wayne Road south of Ford in Westland. For information, call Jan or Cliff at (734) 591-1694 or Cliff at (734) 729-8681.

St. Mel Church
Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

Shamrock Bingo
Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

K of C Bingo
Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

Metro Wayne
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club offers a bingo at the Wayne-Ford Civic League on Fridays. Doors open at 9 a.m., with bingo starting at 10:45 a.m. An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet is available for \$3. For more information, call Cliff Johnson at (734) 729-8681.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

Crochet & Knit
A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

Visually Impaired
The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

Choir
The Senior Choir, under the leadership of Robert Cassidy, is open to those who like to sing. It meets 9:30 p.m. Thursday. For information, call the Friendship Center, (734) 722-7632.

Hearing checks
Every third Tuesday of each month a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

Exercise
Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m.

Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

Travel Group
The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

Dyer Center
The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and

Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, Kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

ORGANIZATIONS

Vietnam Vets
The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the

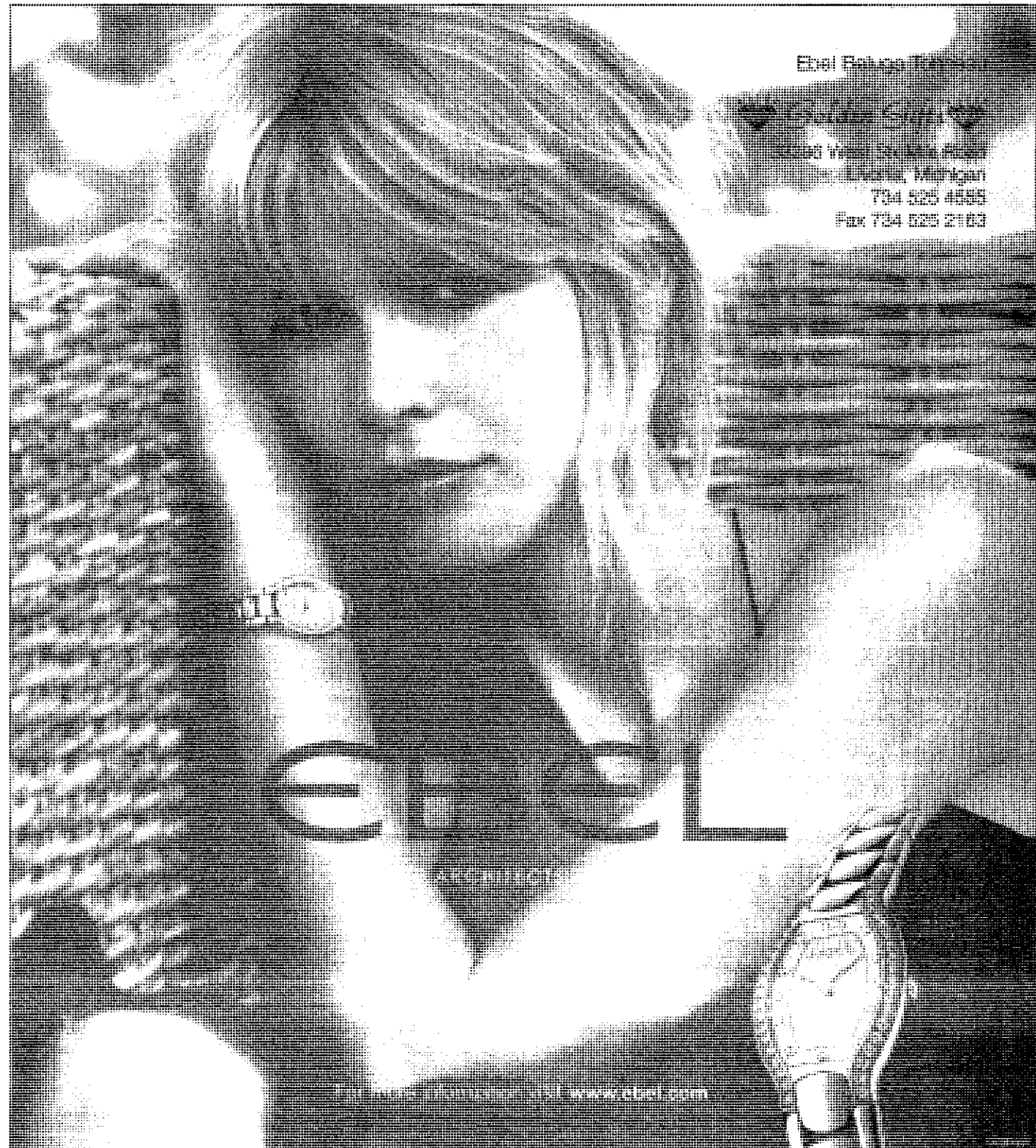
Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

Friends of library
The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

In Harmony
The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's

Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartet can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Civil Air Patrol
Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capliberators/.



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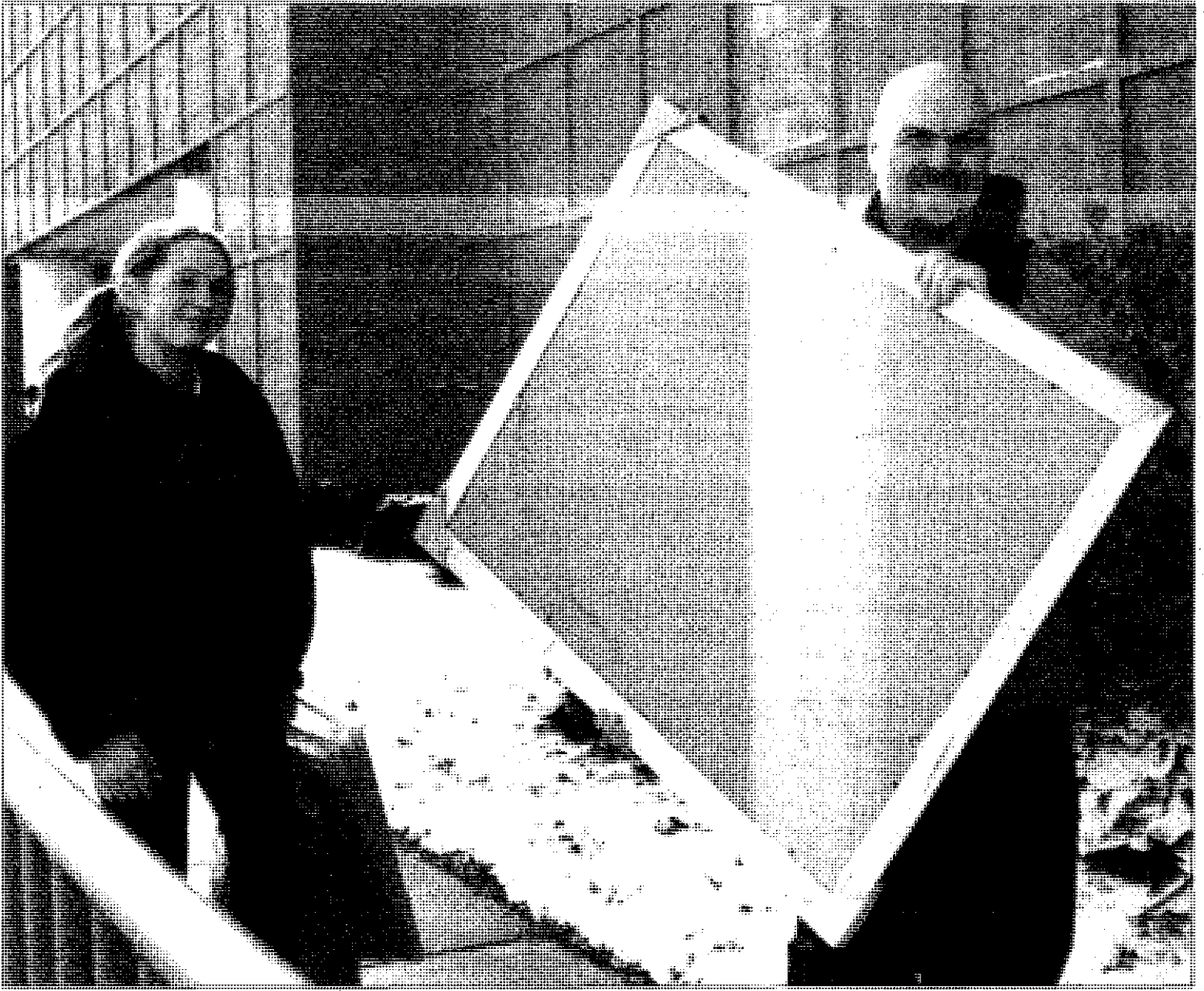
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Dressed for the shopping battle is Jessica Hutson of KB Toys. Hutson, a Redford resident, hands out advertising circulars to shoppers at Westland Shopping Center.



Michael and Janet Williams leave Kohl's with a load of gifts. The Westland residents are nearly done with their holiday shopping.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SHOPPERS

FROM PAGE A1

donations. In addition, mall visitors can stop by the Salvation Army's Giving Tree to find out what children in need might like for a holiday gift. Then, those gifts can be left at the security department for delivery.

The Community Hospice of Westland has placed a Tree of Memories at the shopping center, in remembrance of those who died this year. Purchase a gold angel at the mall or by calling (734) 522-4244.

And then of course, there is the requisite visit with Santa Claus.

The jolly old elf set up residence at Westland Shopping Center on Nov. 12 and will stay until Christmas eve, of course.

Kris Kringle's arrival at Livonia's Laurel Park Place came with much fan-fare. Santa was escorted by U.S.

The Community Hospice of Westland has placed a Tree of Memories at the shopping center, in remembrance of those who died this year. Purchase a gold angel at the mall or by calling (734) 522-4244.

Army National Guardsmen on a Chinook helicopter when he showed up Nov. 5 at the mall, at Six Mile and Newburgh roads.

The stunt was part of a holiday effort to raise money for service members from Selfridge Air National Guard base and their families. Laurel Park Place is asking those who bring their kids to see Santa to bring a gas card, phone card or money to donate to the cause.

Across town, Livonia Mall

offers visits with Santa from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Children receive a free gift with any visit. But they aren't the only ones expected to pose with the man in the red velvet suit.

This year, Livonia Mall is bringing back its popular pet photo night. Pet owners can set up an appointment to bring in their dogs to have a photo taken with Santa on Monday, Dec. 5. The mall is located at Seven

Mile and Middlebelt roads and caters to clientele from nearby cities, including Redford Township and Detroit. Gelman said the mall is proud to cater to a wide demographic of shoppers in a family-friendly environment.

"We're full for the holidays," said Gelman of the mall itself. "I think people will be pleasantly surprised. We have decorated and we have lots of holiday tenants."

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The Metro Detroit Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Corps performs at the unveiling of the Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial in Pontiac.

New memorial pays tribute to fallen police, firefighters

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of police officers and firefighters from communities all over Michigan came to Pontiac Monday to witness the unveiling of the Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial on the north end of the Oakland County administrative campus.

The memorial features a firefighter and police officer, cast in bronze, kneeling before granite tablets engraved with the names of police and firefighters lost in the line of duty since 1864.

There are currently 761 names on the memorial and more will be added on an annual basis as more pass away and more are discovered historically. Since the unveiling of Phase I of the project in September of 2002, 19 police officers and firefighters have been added to the list.

The event, emceed by WOMC deejay Dick Puritan, featured prayers, remembrances by families of the fall-

en, a 21-gun salute by Oakland County Sheriff's deputies and a performance of *Amazing Grace* by the bagpipers of the Metro Detroit Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Corps.

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said his years as a prosecutor and as the county's lead administrator has given him many opportunities to meet and interact with police and firefighters in Michigan.

"I've witnessed firsthand the courage of public safety officers," he said. "Everyday these men and women place themselves in harm's way. The people of Oakland County are proud of the quality of life here and that is enhanced by the police and fire departments serving here."

Equal to their courage, he said, is that of the families left behind by the tragedies inherent to public safety work.

Oakland County Sheriff's Chaplain William Waldmann said there are a number of support groups for families of the fallen both on the local and

national level.

"They take care of one another," Waldmann said. "When the incident is new they're very tight and they keep in touch throughout."

Eton Rapids Township Supervisor Linda Wilbur came to the unveiling Monday. Her husband, township Fire Chief Richard Wilbur, died in the line of duty nearly two years ago. She said the monument in Pontiac was a great tribute to him and others like him.

"I had been to the state (firefighter's) memorial in Roscommon and the national memorial (in Maryland)," Wilbur said. "This is nice, it's certainly a lot closer to home."

She said she's received a lot of support from groups connected with the national and state survivor's groups. Since visiting the national memorial, she's been talking to others via e-mail.

"It's nice to know you're not the only one having the same problems and feelings," Wilbur said.

WSU supports 'Kalamazoo Promise'

Wayne State University announced that students who enroll for fall 2006 at the university under the Kalamazoo Promise program will be offered a 50 percent reduction in their room costs in the WSU residence halls.

The offer will be good for four years to participating students providing they remain eligible for and are in receipt of a tuition scholarship from The Kalamazoo Promise.

The Kalamazoo Promise, unveiled this week by the Kalamazoo Public Schools, will provide free tuition to school district graduates to attend a public college or university in Michigan. Funding is provided

by a group of anonymous donors.

"This is our way of demonstrating support for both the visionary donors underwriting the program and Gov. Jennifer Granholm's challenge to Michigan's universities to encourage citizens to pursue higher education," said Wayne State University President Irvin D. Reid. "We are proud to offer this incentive to our students as a further enhancement of the university's admissions strategy of providing affordable access to education."

During the last academic year, Wayne State offered more than \$185 million in financial aid. Financial aid counselors

are available to work with students and parents regarding their financial aid options.

For more information about financial aid and admission to Wayne State University, visit www.admissions.wayne.edu; phone (313) 577-3577; e-mail admissions@wayne.edu; or mail to: Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Wayne State University, PO Box 02759, Detroit, MI 48202-0759.

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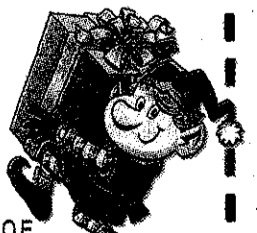
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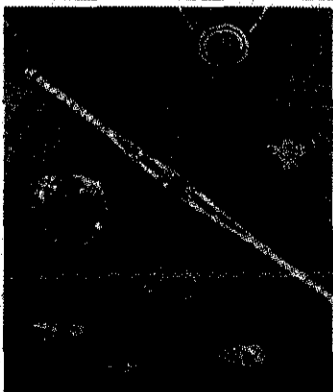
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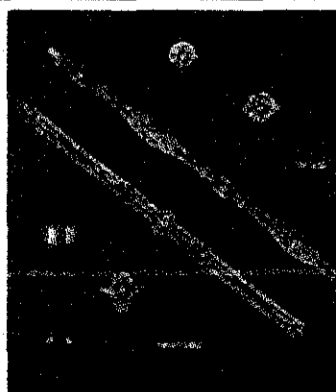
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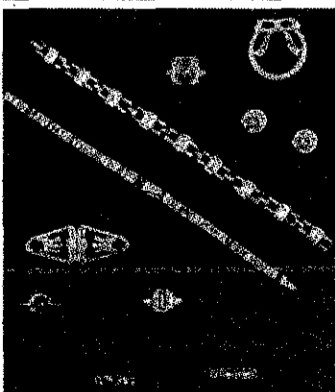
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