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Sports, B1

AROUND TOWN

The color pink

The city of Westland is going pink for October with the launch of the "Painting the Town Pink," a fund-raising event during October, Breast Cancer Awareness month.

City officials, residents, friends, families and breast cancer survivors will gather at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at Westland City Hall to kick off the event. Deputy Mayor Jade Smith will speak before those in attendance before they decorate the trees around city hall with pink ribbons.

Organized by former Miss Michigan, and Westland resident, Ashlee Baracy and Jim Kollar's imabooibist.com, the monthlong event will feature local restaurants donating a portion of their profits for a designated day to

Race for the Cure. Max and Erma's, Famous Dave's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Texas Roadhouse and Leo's Coney Island are participating.

There's also a free concert at the Performance Pavilion behind the William P. Faust Public Library 1-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. Flagstar Bank will donate \$25 for every new account opened during the month.

Visit the "Painting the Town Pink" Web site at www.paintingthetownpink.org for a detailed calendar of events and fliers available to download for participating fund-raising restaurants.

"Paint the Town Pink" is a city-wide fund-raising event during that incorporates Westland businesses joining the fight against breast cancer. Following the October events, local businesses will make a donation to Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure.

Bag' em

The leaves are just starting to fall, only a few right now, but pretty soon they'll be dropping in droves. But before you grab your rakes, make sure you have plenty of the brown yard waste paper bags to put them in or find a nice spot in your yard to compost them.

But definitely don't rake them to the curb. For the first time in many years, the city of Westland will not be doing curbside leaf pickup. The program, which cost \$95,000, was eliminated from this year's budget by the City Council to address the city's deepening financial problems.

Residents can bag their leaves and place them at the curb for pickup by the city's trash hauler on their normal trash day.

City's downtown plan is amended

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Redevelopment along Ford, beautification, lighting enhancement and other public area improvements are included among \$20 million in planned improvements to Westland's Downtown Development District over the next 15 years. The projects are included in the amended DDA development and tax increment

financing plan recently approved by council.

"There were three reasons for amending the plan — to extend the life of the plan, to raise the bonding limit and to set new projects in the plan," Economic Development Director Lori Fodale said.

Projects in the amended plan include:

- Redevelopment of the central Ford Road corridor, the half-mile

commercial district between Central City Parkway and Wayne Road. That would include relocation of utilities, landscaping and beautification projects, such as fountains, irrigation system improvements, facade improvements, construction of public gathering areas, reconstruction of new and existing streets and other similar improvements.

- Beautification of the Ford Road overpass described as the area on

Ford west from Central City Parkway to the overpass. The project would include easement acquisition, replacement of the cobra-style lights with decorative lighting, landscaping, new signage and related intersection improvements.

• A marketing campaign to attract people and economic activity to the district. This could include banners

Please see **PLAN, A2**

City grants her request for duck signs

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jessica Maladecki said she decided to do something about the ducks in her neighborhood and presented her petition to Westland City Council.

The end result: Cross Koppernick west of Hixers to mother ducks acrossing the street.

Not bad for someone years old.

"I think it'll help a lot," Jessica, a second-grade student at Elementary School in Koppernick, said.

Jessica happened to see a duck crossing sign when her family was walking along Koppernick and

there were no duck crossing signs. According to her father, Duane, she didn't want the ducks to get hurt.

"She very much loves animals. She makes her grandfather throw back the fish when they go fishing," he said.

The family checked into what was needed to get the signs and got some advice from a neighbor, Mayor William Wild, who recommended a petition drive.

The youngster did that, going door-to-door to collect three pages filled with signatures supporting a sign being placed by a marshy area on Koppernick about 500 feet west of Hix. Then she went before council Sept. 8, standing on a chair at the podium to make her request.

"She gave the council pictures and her petitions. She got a standing ovation," Duane said.

Two days later, she came home from school to tell her parents that there were two duck crossing signs on Koppernick — one at the marshy area and another one closer to Hix near a retention pond.

"She was very excited," Duane said. The duck crossing signs are a first for that area of the city. The Department of Public Service has done deer and geese crossing signs near Central City Park, and duck signs can be found near the Holliday Park Nature Preserve along Newburgh.

According to DPS Director Kevin Buford, making the sign took about a half hour.

"This was one of the easiest requests we've received," Buford said. "It was one of the funnest. A lot of times, you have one person who wants a sign and

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Jessica Maladecki stands with Department of Public Service Director Kevin Buford (left) and Mayor William Wild (right) by a marsh along Koppernick where she sees and feeds mother ducks and their ducklings.



Cars heading both east and west on Koppernick west of Hix now see signs to watch for mother ducks crossing the road with their ducklings.

the rest of the neighbors don't." "This was the most fun I've had. This was a unanimous decision," Wild said, noting that the last big petition was for curbside recycling. "And there

were 600 signatures on those petitions." The mayor joined Jessica and her family, including her mother, Karen, and sister Erica, 4, by the signs

Thursday afternoon to tape a segment of his *Spotlight On* show.

While Jessica admitted she was "kind of scared" speaking at the council meeting, she was calm as could be in front of the camera. With good reason. It will be the third time she's been on TV. Her first appearance was on Fox-2 feeding animals at the Detroit Zoo as the winner of the Zookeeper for a Day contest. The second was saying the Pledge of Allegiance with the Girl Scouts at Judge Mark McConnell's swearing-in ceremony.

The Maladeckis have made it a habit of feeding the ducks along Koppernick and even the turtles at Anthony's Pond down the road. And even though baby duck sightings have dropped off in the area, the appearance of a white egret and several mallards in the retention pond is enough to attract a visit from Jessica's mother and sister during the taping.

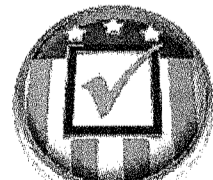
"I like to see the ducks," Jessica said. "It's really pretty here."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Index

- APARTMENTS ... C2
- AUTOMOTIVE ... C4
- CAREER BUILDER ... C1
- CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
- EDUCATION ... A4
- HEALTH & FITNESS ... B10
- MILESTONES ... B6
- NEIGHBORS ... B7-9
- OBITUARIES ... B5
- REAL ESTATE ... C2
- SPORTS ... B1

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ELECTION 2009

This is the first in a series of interviews with eight candidates vying for four seats on the Westland City Council in the Nov. 3 general election. Three four-year terms and one two-year term will be filled. The candidates are incumbent Councilman Dewey Reeves, Sam Durante, Adam Hammons, Meriem Kadi, Kenneth Mehl, Mark Rodriguez, Christine Cicirelli Bryant and Janet Frederick-Wilson.

Durante: Goal is to listen to people

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If he is elected to the Westland council, Sam Durante is quick to respond with one objective.

"My goal is to listen to people and ask questions they want asked. Everyone has ideas about how they can change City Hall," Durante said. "But you don't know until you get behind the table and see what you have and what you can change."

However, Durante notes that he has gone on the record that he won't support outsourcing of work done by city employees, such as the recent contracting of some building inspections.

In his second run for a council seat, Durante said everyone asks why he is running for council at this time.

SAM DURANTE

Age: 67
Employment: Retired
Family: Married to Linda for 34 years, three children, six grandchildren
Education: two-year program at business college
Community involvement: Westland Library Board vice president, EDC/TIFA board member, Westland Summer Festival Committee, Senior Citizen Advisory Council, Commission on Aging, Mission Green, Friendship Center activities, Wild for Youth Events.

"Since (his last campaign) then I have retired. All my life, I have volunteered," he said. "In Westland, I talk to a lot of people. I have a lot to offer the city. I can offer it full time to service

Please see **DURANTE, A2**

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AROUND WESTLAND

Democratic Club

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, at Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey at Venoy in Westland. The board meets at 6:30 p.m. Club meetings are held regularly on the last Tuesday of the month. For more information, call treasurer Mike Short, treasurer, or by e-mail at WestlandDemClub@rob-wood.com.

Harvest festival

Pets looking for a good home will be available for adoption at a Harvest Festival sponsored by Scotsdale Apartments, 37670 Dale, off Newburgh between Warren Road and Joy, Westland, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. Non-profit animal shelters will be bringing animals who are getting one last chance at adoption. There will also be food and face painting. Everyone is welcome.

Curtain call

Lexi Fata of Westland will meet her Daddy Warbucks when she appears as Annie in the Spotlight on Youth Theater production of Annie Jr. Thursday, Oct. 8 and



Members of the ALL-youth production of Annie Jr. includes Lexi Fata of Westland as Annie, Andrew Neil of Canton as Daddy Warbucks, Alora Adams of Novi as Grace, Justin Shephard of Canton as Rooster, Cordelia Dessert of Farmington Hills as Miss Hannigan and Courtney Davis of Canton as Lily.

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 10-11, at Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. at Cherry Hill in Canton Annie Jr. is a 70-minute version of the popular Broadway musical Annie geared specifically for a youth cast. According to director Barbara Bloom, "This is a great family show! Annie Jr., based on the comic strip, tells the story of a feisty orphan that gets adopted by the richest man in town, with

many memorable characters and wonderful songs that leaves you with a smile on your face and a song in your heart." Tickets are \$15 and available by calling the Village Theater Box Office at 73 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater. For more information, call at (734) 480-4945 or visit the Web site at www.spotlight-playersmi.org.

Residents asked candidates about free speech, blight

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The crowd may have been small for the Westland Monitors' Meet the Candidates Night, but there was nothing tiny about the questions they asked of seven candidates for the Westland City Council.

For two hours, the candidates — Sam Durante, Adam Hammons, Meriem Kadi, Kenneth Mehl, Dewey Reeves, Mark Rodriguez and Janet Frederick Wilson — let the audience know where they stood on such issues as freedom of speech, lowering property taxes and dealing with blight in the community. Unable to attend the program, hosted by the Westland Monitors, was Christine Cicirelli Bryant. "I think it went really well tonight," said Judy McKinney, a member of the Monitors. "I liked the idea of the citizens asking the questions."

The forum, held Wednesday evening at Joy Baptist Church, had candidates answering questions directly from the audience and some that were submitted in writing, a switch from previous forums hosted by the Westland Jaycees in which only questions that could be answered by all of the candidates were used.

On the issue of freedom of speech, Frederick Wilson, an attorney, stressed her "staunch belief" in First Amendment rights.

"I would never turn a person away," she said. "I am a listener, that would be my job on council. The citizens are of value to me, I value their opinion." "Absolutely, we have to have freedom of speech, but it can get out of hand when a person uses it as their own platform,"

said Kadi. "It's something the council has to look into."

Reeves, the lone incumbent candidate in the election, told the audience he doesn't believe "the First Amendment is being violated," and when asked if the council will change how it addresses citizens' questions, he said the body and the city attorney will have to look at what campaigning is.

"Am I in favor of doing campaigning at the podium? No. I don't do it and never did," said Reeves, adding that a separate entity, like a forum outside the council meeting, is needed so residents "can express their feelings freely."

• On the question of lowering taxes:

Rodriguez pointed out that the city could give residents a tax break if it lowered the 3.35 mills levied for the police and fire retirement to reflect the actuarial's recommendation of how much is needed yearly to fund the account.

"We've been paying more than what's needed since 2005, that's \$16 million in taxes," he said. "They could probably lower it 1 mill and they'd probably still owe us money. I do my homework and study the budgets. I know how to do it."

"I won't raise taxes," Kadi said. "I can't identify one specific thing to lower them, it's takes a team effort. It's not an I thing."

• As to blight and crime in the community:

Hammons noted that both were happening in all communities. He said that the focus needs to be on the Downtown Development Authority to bring in shoppers and that there needs to be a fine to get landlords and owners to take care of their property.

"We shouldn't fine them \$100 a day, but make it \$500 a day," he said. "We have top-notch schools. We have to market the city and its anchors."

• As to filling the vacant buildings in the city:

Frederick Wilson told the audience that if elected, she would find a way to fill them up.

"We need to lower taxes, especially for new businesses," she said. "We don't have any enticement for business to come to Westland. We have

to promote the city as a good place to start and grow and offer tax incentives."

Reeves pointed out that the city has economic tools in its tool box like TURBO which offers a five-year tax rebate.

"The problem is a lot of businesses don't want the square footage we have available," he said. "Also, the city isn't pedestrian-friendly for shopping. That's what Ford Road 2020 is all about. There is a marketing scheme in place to promote Westland."

Durante said many new businesses fail in the city because the owners don't know what they're doing. He proposed finding retirees that could work with businesses as mentors.

"We should offer a mentoring program for new businesses, there's a lot of seniors out there who would help," he said. "With this, the city would be able to create new jobs and fill extra buildings."

Mehl cautioned against giving tax incentives to new businesses, saying that the lost revenue would have to be made up elsewhere.

"You have to provide tax incentives, but if you give them, that's revenue that's not coming in," he said. "Yes, let's give them a break, but we're the ones who will have to pick up the tax burden. Tax incentives are not always the best answer."

For residents who missed the candidates night, the Monitors had the program recorded and plan to show it on the city's public access cable channel in advance of the Nov. 3 general election.

In his closing remarks, Durante urged residents to get out and vote in the council election in which four seats will be filled — three four-year terms and one two-year term. "The reason I decide to run is because I'm like you, an average person and the average person needs a vote on council," he said. "I want to be your voice on council. The only endorsement I want is your support, the only support I want is your vote on Nov. 3. Get out and vote, your vote counts."

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PLAN

FROM PAGE A1

on street lights throughout the district, outdoor concerts, farmers markets and other public activities.

• Park and public improvements, including financing part of a proposed municipal complex. The DDA specifically would fund improvements to public parking areas related to pedestrian walkways, open spaces and related public infrastructure.

"These are all brand new projects. They aren't tied to specific dates. The DDA board will prioritize the projects as the money becomes available," Fodale said.

The projects received support from both the DDA board and a citizens panel organized to provide input on the plan amendment.

The original DDA TIFA plan was adopted in 1996 and would have expired in 2010. The streetscape and lighting projects included in the original plan have been completed, Fodale said.

"There is a suggested timeline for the new projects. It all depends on the money that will be available," she said. "If a developer wants to come forward and we need to acquire some property, that might take precedence over the overpass project, for example."

The DDA district includes the entire stretch of Ford through Westland, from Garden City to Canton, and Wayne Road south from Ford to Glenwood.

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City of Garden City
Close of Registration Notice
City General Election, Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Notice is hereby given that the last day of registration for the City General Election is Monday, October 5, 2009.

Candidates for the following offices are to be voted on:

Mayor
City Council

The following proposals will also be voted on:

(Proposition O)
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL

To renew the millage authorized in 2000, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2008 rollback rate of 0.9529 (about 95 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2010 through 2019), and proceeds used to continue existing County services, including programs for arrest, detention and prosecution of criminals, juvenile court and related services, public health, recreation, County parks, job training, senior citizen services, and programs for meeting medical needs of the poor, the disabled, and the aged? This renewal is projected to generate \$43,495,573 in 2010.

YES NO

MILLAGE PROPOSAL
BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the School District of the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 0.5 mill (\$0.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 2 years, 2009 and 2010, to create a sinking fund for the purchase of real estate for sites for, and the construction or repair of, school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2009 is approximately \$366,300?

YES NO

The office of the City Clerk, located in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan, will be open for the registration of all qualified electors, not already registered, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk
Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan

Publish: September 27, 2009

DURANTE
FROM PAGE A1

City officials turn out for the grand opening of new businesses but often those businesses close within several months, said Durante, who would like to see the city initiate a mentorship program to use the knowledge of retired business owners.

The worst of the current economic problems seems to be peaking, Durante said, adding he expects to start seeing trends in home sales to start increasing. As a result, he said he would like something done about the disparities in home values.

"We have to equalize tax revenues. If a guy buys a house at \$30,000 at foreclosure and the neighbor has a \$120,000 home, that's what they are taxed at," said Durante. "We need to do something about that."

Westland's Norwayne area continues to be an area that needs a lot of focus from the city, said Durante, along with other areas of blight.

"I don't want to displace people. People in that area need to have a comfortable place, if we do displace them," he said.

A member of Westland's Tax Increment Financing Authority Board, Durante said he thinks the new marketing plan that has been developed will work. "Businesses in the north end of the city needs to be addressed. There are a lot of vacant properties. We need to bring in new tenants," he said.

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- Smoke Free Bingo 2:00-11:00 p.m.

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12 p.m.-5 p.m.

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- Mass 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
- Polish Dinner 12 Noon Adults \$9 Kids Under 12 \$5 Catered by Hallnas
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The Garden City Amateur Radio Club has awarded Garden City Fire Chief Bill Forbush a honorary lifetime membership for his work with the group.

Radio Club makes fire chief honorary lifetime member

Members of the Garden City Amateur Radio Club honored Fire Chief Bill Forbush with an honorary lifetime membership last week at their monthly meeting at Maplewood Community Center.

Club President Roy Watts presented Forbush with a certificate signed by the group's Board of Directors, including Watts, Chuck Reik, Shanon Herron and Matt Breton.

Forbush serves as Emergency Management Director for Garden City, and has forged a close working relationship with the radio group in support

of community preparedness efforts.

Forbush explained that "amateur radio is the last line of defense in community-wide emergencies, when conventional forms of communication fail."

"I am very proud of our local ham radio volunteers and the important role that they play in our emergency management program," he said. "The Maplewood Center radio room, mobile command post and their involvement in the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program are

a testament to the unprecedented levels of cooperation we have seen over the past several years."

Watts called Forbush "a true friend to the amateur radio community with tremendous dedication to Garden City."

The Garden City Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in Room 16 at Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood, west of Merriman Road.

More information about the club can be found online at www.gcarc.net.

Meetings reach out to those caught in foreclosure crisis

Homeowners across south-east Michigan are losing their homes to the mortgage foreclosure epidemic at an alarming rate. More than 100,000 homes in the four-county Detroit metro area were affected by mortgage delinquency or foreclosure in 2008. The projected number for 2009 is more than 150,000.

Foreclosures devalue property and negatively affect communities, making them vulnerable to blight and crime. Businesses close, jobs are lost and families become homeless. The cost to the local economy is literally in the billions of dollars.

In response to the crisis, state and local governments and non-profit organizations have mobilized to address and alleviate the devastating impact of foreclosures. With proper counseling, residents can either avoid foreclosure or mitigate its effects. Yet, many

people at risk of foreclosure are unaware of the free resources that already exist in their own communities.

Michigan Radio and Detroit Public Television have partnered with several local organizations, including the United Way, 2-1-1 and Lighthouse Oakland, to present a series of public town meetings in the Detroit metropolitan area to acquaint residents with the resources that are available to them, whether they are in danger of losing their homes, are presently in the foreclosure process, or have already lost their homes. Local experts, lenders and counselors will provide information on the current environment and be available for questions.

The William P. Faust Public Library in Westland will host a town hall meeting of the foreclosure crisis 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6. Jamele Hage, director, and Debbie Hostos,

counselor, of the Wayne County Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program will be the presenters.

A similar meeting has been set up for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. The presenters will be Greg Sterns, manager of Financial Education and Counseling, Lighthouse Oakland.

The town meetings are part of a larger, national initiative by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, using public media to raise awareness and aggregate community resources to combat the foreclosure epidemic. Other components include radio and television programs, Web sites, publications and on-air interstitials directing the public to places where they can find help.

The town halls are free and open to the public.

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Area woman lobbies Congress on cancer

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004 — and subsequently fighting it off — Elizabeth Paruch couldn't have imagined herself sitting in the Washington, D.C., office of a U.S. congressman pressing him for things like health care reform.

As a five-year cancer survivor, Paruch has stopped being surprised at the kind of courage one can find.

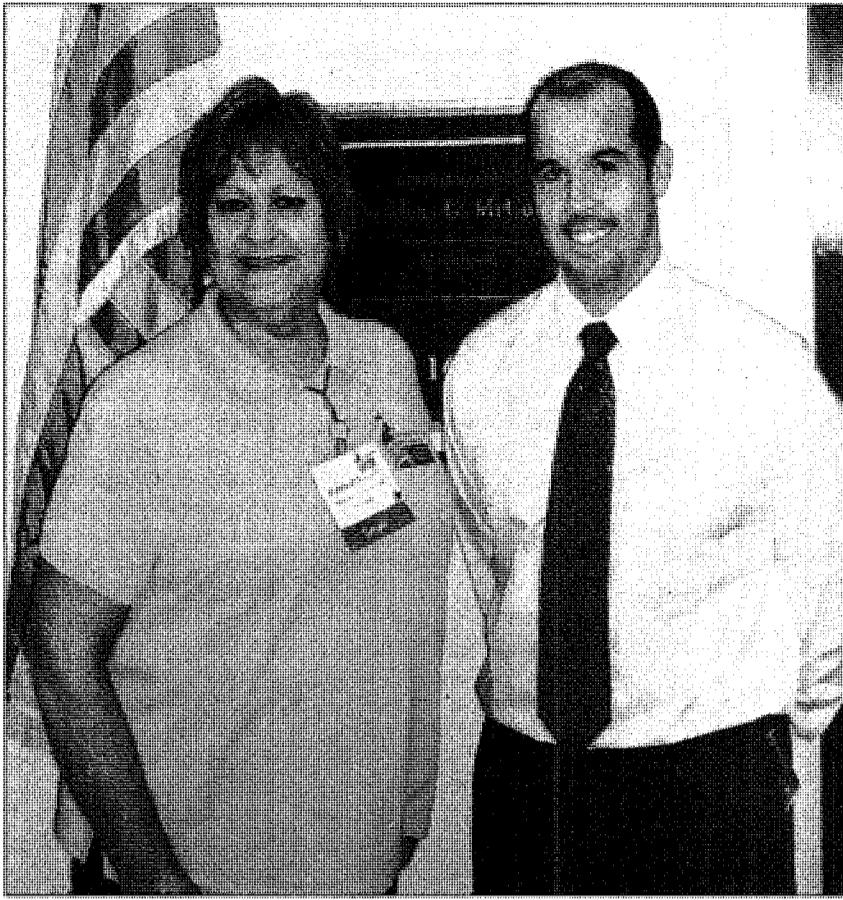
That's why Paruch, a Canton resident who is a team leader for the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network, had no problem sitting in the Capitol office of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, Tuesday letting him know just what CAN thinks he should do about health care.

"We spoke to our elected officials about health care reform," said Paruch, who with husband Dale has lived in Canton 12 years. "We wanted to let them know what the American Cancer Society's position is."

Paruch was one of some 400 team leaders from around the country — one from each congressional district — who descended upon Washington Tuesday for a Leadership Summit and Lobby Day.

The all-volunteer group conducted 100 meetings with Senate representatives, and another 345 with House representatives. Paruch said most of the meetings were productive.

"They were very receptive," said Paruch. "We were very happy with the meetings."



Elizabeth Paruch of Canton met with Patrick Rothwell, chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, (R-Livonia), during a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., on behalf of the American Cancer Society.

Paruch said the American Cancer Society's health-care reform concerns center around making health care adequate and affordable with no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

The nonpartisan group isn't supporting any specific plan, she said. The ACS simply wants to make sure the concerns of cancer patients are met when any reform comes about.

"Our concern is whatever plan gets adopted, it addresses our issues," Paruch said. "We're not taking a partisan position, we're taking a pro-cancer patient position. We feel if it helps cancer patients, it's probably going to help everybody."

Paruch met Sara Fitzwater, an aide to Sen. Carl Levin; Sen. Debbie Stabenow's Legislative Fellow Kathryn Kietzman; and with McCotter Chief of Staff Patrick Rothwell (McCotter, a member of the House Cancer Caucus, was traveling from Livonia to Washington that day and couldn't meet with them). She said the talk centered around health care reform in general.

"We knew (Levin and Stabenow) were on board with all of our concerns," Paruch said of the Democratic senators. "(Rothwell) was very receptive, and told us (McCotter) goes along with our concerns."

Rothwell said such constituent visits are welcomed in Washington.

"Any time a constituent comes in and we get to hear what's on their minds, it's beneficial," Rothwell said. "Generally speaking, we agree with the majority of their concerns. Because they're kind of conceptual, it's tough to get into any sort of specifics. We don't know where we stand right now (with specific bills), but overall, I think we were in agreement with where we would like to be."

Paruch said the annual forays into Washington are often effective. Two years ago, ACS lobbied for better health care for children, which resulted, Paruch said, in the passage of the

SCHIP legislation. Last year's focus was on FDA regulation of tobacco.

But the one she said touched her the most — because she has college-age children — was "Michelle's Law," which takes effect next month and allows college students who have to take time off school for medical issues to continued to be carried on insurance plans.

"Her mom got it changed with the help of the American Cancer Society," Paruch said. "That one brought tears to my eyes. I think of my own sons and what I would have done if that happened to any one of them."

Paruch became an advocate for CAN in 2006, some two years after her diagnosis and treatment for cancer. She had participated in her first Relay for Life in May 2004 in honor of her brother, and was diagnosed herself three months later.

She said because her cancer was detected early, her treatment was much less severe than that of most women. She had a lumpectomy, four chemo treatments and seven weeks of radiation.

"I went through nothing compared to a lot of women, and they have no support," said Paruch, who credits the support of her husband and sons — Brian, Christopher and Mark — for her recovery. "I can't go back and thank those women. All I can do is go forward and make sure the women who come after me have it a little better. I hope one day none of us has to go through it."

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Charity soccer game aids domestic violence shelters

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton and Detroit police officers will play a charity soccer match to raise money for shelters that help victims of domestic and sexual violence — shelters feeling the pinch of an economic downturn.

The game, scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at the High Velocity Sports Center on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center Road, will benefit First Step, which serves west-

ern Wayne County, and the YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit's Interim House.

Admission is \$5 at the door, or Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said he may be contacted for ticket information at (734) 394-5424 or by e-mail at mgajeski@canton-mi.org

"We're really excited about this," said Theresa Bizoe, First Step's associate director. "The economy has really affected our ability to raise money. We've really had to reach out in a variety of ways and ask people to con-

sider First Step a critical safety net for the community."

A sour economy has prompted many corporations to scale back their charitable donations, Bizoe said, and a tumultuous stock market has left community foundations with less revenue to help organizations relying on financial assistance.

Canton and Detroit police will square off during a soccer game featuring Detroit Ignition players participating as coaches and referees, and the team's cheerleaders, The Sparks,

also will be on hand, according to police.

The afternoon will include photos with Ignition soccer players, face-painting, children's play areas and prizes.

"It's an opportunity for the city and suburbs to work together for a good cause — domestic violence shelters," Gajeski said.

Bizoe and Gajeski said economic problems also have made it more difficult for victims of domestic and sexual violence to find jobs and other

resources they need to make a new start.

Bizoe said First Step may be reached 24 hours by calling (734) 722-6800 or through a toll-free number at (888) 453-5900. More information also is available online at www.firststep-mi.org.

The YWCA's Interim House's crisis line may be reached at (313) 861-5300, or information is available at www.ywca.org.

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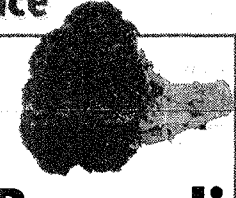

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WOW trip connects UM-Dearborn freshmen

They came. They paddled. They conquered not only the exhilarating rapids of the Pine River in Irons, Mich. but a four-day outdoor adventure with future classmates and university administrators, too.

Amanda Dillon of Plymouth and Rachael Lawrukovich of Westland were two of 19 incoming University of Michigan-Dearborn students who said adios to summer last month by joining UM-Dearborn staff for an inaugural canoeing excursion in the heart of western Michigan's Manistee National Forest as part of a new orientation program called Wolves. Orientation. Wilderness.

"The intent of the program was to give these students a head start - a connection - with the university before the semester started," said Kristine Day, director of student activities at UM-Dearborn, who served as a

group leader during the four-day, three-night activity. "The experience did that and even more, as evident by the relationships that were established at camp, and now strengthened on campus."

Simon Michalik, a freshman majoring in electrical engineering, found that the trip lived up to his expectations of being a great way to meet new people, easing the transition to campus life.

"I was absolutely amazed at how quickly all of us got to know each other," Michalik said. "After only a few days it seemed that we had known each other for months. It's great to be able to walk around between classes and already know 18 other freshmen. It certainly makes it easier to stay on campus all day if you have people you know to hang out with or eat lunch with between classes."

The program, which has been in the works for three years, is a



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER THELEN

Rachael Lawrukovich (middle row, fourth from left) of Westland and Amanda Dillon (back row, second from right) of Plymouth were two of the students who participated in the recent University of Michigan-Dearborn WOW program.

collaboration of UM-Dearborn's Office of Admissions and Orientation and the Student

Activities Office.

Each student pays his or her way for the trip, which includes transportation to and from the site, all meals, canoe and camping equipment and a reflection journal, and provides his or her own personal hygiene items and sleeping bag. University staff members serve as group leaders, guiding the students through canoeing and team-building activities along with active discussion around the campfire about hopes and fears of starting college and campus life.

The outing allows students to make a solid connection with campus staff members and provides an experience that confirms the approachable nature of the faculty and staff at UM-Dearborn, according to Steven Rotta, director of athletics at UM-Dearborn, who also served as a group leader for the trip.

"This was an excellent oppor-

tunity for us as staff to get to know this generation of young adults in a way our regular professional experience may not readily lend itself," Rotta said. "I hope that we can create a way for more staff and faculty to experience this adventure in the future."

Christopher Tremblay, director of admissions and orientation at UM-Dearborn who joined Rotta and Day in leading the group during the excursion, agreed.

"Until a few weeks ago, they were just an application and transcript that passed through the Admissions Office," said Tremblay. "Now, I know their personality. It was a wonderful glimpse into their hearts and minds and their hopes, fears and dreams about entering college at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. I was impressed by their attitudes, their interconnectedness and their focus."

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Rotarians help Westland Youth Assistance in a big way

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Local youngsters will benefit from two donations made by the Westland Rotary Club.

The Rotarians recently presented Westland Youth

Assistance Director Paul Motz with a check for nearly \$4,000. The money, raised through a raffle, will be used to pay for activities of parents and children involved in Youth Assistance.

"It's a small paper, but a very large check. The raffle tickets were \$10 — someone threw in an extra five or so," Motz said. "We will purchase activities in Westland to say thanks to people for supporting our kids and our

community."

A suite at Comerica Park, including 10 seats for a Detroit Tigers baseball game, was raffled off by the Rotarians to raise the \$4,000. Club member Lou Toarmina, owner of Toarmina's Pizza, received the suite package from Pepsico and donated it for the raffle.

"It was a raffle that kind of fell into our laps. Paul Motz approached us for help to reward

parents at graduation from Youth Assistance," Westland Rotary President Antoinette Martin said.

Motz accepted the check at the council meeting. Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski accepted another donation from the Rotarians, \$1,000 to sponsor the annual Turn Off the Violence event, which will be held 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Bailey Community Center.

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www.hobbylobby.com

HOSPITAL WELLNESS CALENDAR

Garden City Hospital, at 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup includes:

Monday, Sept. 28
Childbirth Education (3 of 6 classes) at 6 p.m. The six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery. Class runtime is 2 1/2 hours. There is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. A refresher course also is available. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.

Tuesday, Sept. 29
Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (3 of 4 classes) at 9:30 a.m. A comprehensive series, participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help strengthen and define muscles, as well as increase flexibility. Each class combines a variety of equipment, including free weights,

medicine balls, balance balls and Therabands. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Yoga (1 of 4 classes) at 4 p.m. Learn to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility. The four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center. Call (734) 458-3242 to register.

Wednesday, Sept. 30
CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic at 5 p.m. Visit the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland, from 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 for more information.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 6:30 p.m. is for individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Men, women and teens invited to attend. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Thursday, Oct. 1
Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help strengthen and define muscles, as well as increase flexibility. Each class combines a variety of equipment, including free weights,

medicine balls, balance balls and Therabands. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

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Yoga (4 of 4 classes) at 4 p.m. Learn to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and

flexibility. The four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center. Call (734) 458-3242 to register.

Daily programs
Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center offers daily programs Monday through Friday in Phase II and III Cardiac Rehabilitation/Cardiac Wellness, a Peripheral Vascular Disease Exercise and Strength Training Program, and a Diabetes Exercise Program. These classes are presented and monitored by certified exercise physiologists. Contact the Health Enhancement Center at (734) 458-3242 to select an exercise program specifically designed for you.

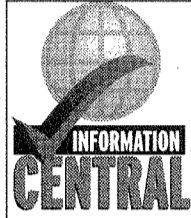
October is National Reading Group Month

You might think that reading has to be a solitary activity. Do you ever finish a fantastic book, though, and wish you could discuss it with someone, but no one you know has read the same book? If you like talking about characters, plot twists, literary themes, etc., maybe a book club is what you are looking for. October is National Reading Group Month and you can find out more about reading groups by visiting the Web site at www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org.

At the Westland Public Library we have two different adult book groups you can join: The Adult Book Club and the Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club. The Adult Book Club reads a mixture of literary and popular titles. Examples of recent titles read include "The Monsters of Templeton" by Lauren Groff, "My Life as a Fake" by Peter Carey, "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier" by Ishmael Beah and "The Blind Assassin" by Margaret Atwood. The Adult Book Club will be meeting again at 7 p.m. Oct. 21 to discuss "The Double Bind" by Christopher Bohjalian.

Some recent books discussed by the Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club are "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" by Jules Verne, "Red Mars" by Kim Stanley Robinson and "A Fire Upon the Deep" by Vernor Vinge. "The Yiddish Policemen's Union" by Michael Chabon is being talked about at the next meeting at 7 p.m. Sept. 30. Extra copies of library book club books can be picked up at the Reference Desk.

The library can also help you start your own book group with friends. One



everyone to read it. Now you can come to the library and check out a "Book Club in a Bag."

The Book Club in a Bag is a book discussion kit, including at least five copies of a title with an author bio, a reading guide and other information about the book. You can browse our more than 80 titles at www.westlandlibrary.org/read/kit_titles.php or stop by the Reference Desk for more information. As always, the Westland Public Library is here to help.

In celebration of National Reading Group Month, the library invites all past and present members of any book groups to stop by the library 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, to meet others who enjoy the shared experience of reading. No matter the size of your book group, where you meet, whether you meet regularly or when schedules permit, is made up of family members, co-workers, or a church or social group, stop by the library to come together with others of similar interests.

Book group members of all ages are encouraged to share how their group was started, some popular, and not so popular selections, how titles are selected and anything else you would like to share.

of the typical road blocks many people find in starting a book club is getting enough copies of the same book available for

Never been a member of a book group, but you've thought about it? You're invited, too. And as every book group participant can expect, light refreshments will be served.

Highlighted Activities
Documentary Movie Night: "The Persuaders" at 7 p.m. Sept. 29.

Join us for a viewing of the documentary film "The Persuaders." To cut through consumers' growing resistance to their pitches, marketers have developed new ways of integrating their messages into the fabric of our lives, using sophisticated market research techniques to better understand consumers and turning to the little-understood techniques of public relations to make sure their messages come from sources we trust. Refreshments will be provided. No sign-up is required.

Travel USA: 7 p.m. Sept. 30.
Traveling in the United States doesn't have to be expensive! The Michigan Council of Hostelling International would like to invite all veteran and new travelers to consider staying in HI-USA hostels throughout the United States. Learn more about hostels and inexpensive travel in the US. Sign up to reserve your seat. Call (734) 326-6123 or visit the library.

Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club: 7 p.m. Sept. 30.

Join us for a discussion of Michael Chabon's award-winning "The Yiddish Policemen's Union." For 60 years, Jewish refugees and their descendants have prospered in the Federal District of Sitka, a "temporary" safe haven created

in Alaska in the wake of revelations of the Holocaust and the shocking 1948 collapse of the fledgling state of Israel. For 60 years they have been left alone, neglected and half-forgotten in a backwater of history. Now the District is set to revert to Alaskan control, and their dream is coming to an end: once again the tides of history threaten to sweep them up and carry them off into the unknown. Copies of the book are available at the Reference Desk.

Control Your Home Energy Use: 1 p.m. Oct. 1.

Find out how an Energy Audit can help you. The featured speaker is Anand Pappuri, a certified home energy rater. A home energy audit is the first step to determine how much energy your house uses and what improvements you should make to save money and energy. Call (734) 326-6123 or visit the library to reserve your seat.

Celebrate National Reading Group Month: 7 p.m. Oct. 12.

Past and present members of reading groups, as well as those interested in learning more about them, are invited to an evening of fun at the library. Find out the latest information about authors, book discussions and learn about resources that may enhance your reading group experience. Call (734) 326-6123 or visit the library to register.

Information Central was compiled by Kristy Cooper, reference librarian and our science fiction book club facilitator. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Mike's Marketplace Hours: MON.-SAT. 9-9 SUN. 9-7
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School evolves with broadcast business

BY SANDRA ARMBRUSTER
ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

Getting into the radio business for Specs Howard was a ghastly experience, if you'll pardon the pun.

Howard, who founded the broadcast school in Southfield that bears his name, chuckled as he talked about that experience, the growth of his school and the future of the broadcast business last week.

Howard didn't start out in the broadcasting business, but after two years in law school, he realized that "radio was always what I wanted to try. It gets in your blood, it's part of your makeup. I've been in the business for 61 years."

Howard, 83, recently received the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Lifetime Achievement Award.

He went to a Philadelphia station in 1948, and later learned of an opening at a TV station in Cleveland, Ohio.

It was April Fools Day, 1954, when he went for an audition. "My home town had 5,000 people; Cleveland had a million," Howard recalled. "I had never been in a TV station. They told me to talk for four minutes."

The audition was before the man who would later fill the role as Sir Graves Ghastly.

After trying briefly, Howard told them, "Sorry, I can't do this. I thought they wouldn't hire me."

Lawson Deming, who played Sir Graves, walked down the hall, shaking his head after the audition.

"He hired me," Howard said, shaking his own head. "Now that's scary."

He made the move and worked there for two years before Westinghouse took it over with a rock 'n' roll format. Eventually he was half of a two-man morning comedy show.

"It hit the air and the whole thing took off in 90 days," he said.

Then WXYZ made them an offer to come to the Detroit area, where their show hosted major stars like Sonny and



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student numbers – and programs – are growing at Specs Howard School in Southfield, where they learn about everything from radio to film.



Specs Howard, 83, is still working and loving it.

Cher and Phyllis Diller and the two hosts did skits. It didn't last long, though.

"The world came apart for us in two years," Howard said. "Detroit was not ready for us."

Faced with losing his radio spot, Howard acted on a friend's suggestion that he open a broadcast school, which he did on Jan. 14, 1970 at Schoolcraft and Beech Daly roads in Redford Township, near the current Beirut Bakery.

That location didn't last long. Once again, technology would play a role in Howard's career. "They were putting in the (I-96) freeway," Howard explained. The construction work disrupted technology used at the school.

"Remember the old turntables?" Howard inquired. "You could see the arm of the turntable (bouncing)."

Radio stations and the school

played records at the time, having to sort through them, many of which came from record promoters, he said. "The studio had two turntables and two tape machines," he recalled.

Soon Howard moved his school to Eight Mile Road and Northwestern Highway, where it was located for 24 years. In 1994, Howard leased a building at Nine Mile and Evergreen, where the still growing school is headquartered. A branch also is located in Farmington Hills.

The school has evolved along with the technology used in the business. "Technological advances in the business...have been so monumental," Howard said. "We send people to Vegas" to buy leading edge equipment. But by the time the school gets the equipment – it takes eight months – there is already something new on the market.

"Our main job is to stay on top" of the changes, he said. Vice President for Industry Relations at the school, Dick Kern, said that high definition and digital technology also is providing more diversified options for listeners and viewers.

The changes have meant adding television and graphic design to the curriculum, and this year film was added. Digital media is the next addition, coming next year. "Every TV station has three added channels," and "internet radio is embryonic," he said. The result is going to be more competition, he added.

Howard uses a walker now to move through the halls at the school, where he and Kern both seem to know all the students by name, pausing to chat with them.

The school has 800 students enrolled with a staff of 85. Howard said the school is liable for placement of the students, since they get federal funding for 55-60 percent of the tuition costs. Howard said the school requires students to come up with the balance, a policy that he believes makes the school more successful.

The school offers a number of scholarships, including one to the Detroit Hispanic Development Center that Kern described as "very personal" to him.

One of the new students, Glynn Gaston Jr., 34, of Detroit said he spent four years in the music industry. Now married and a minister with four boys, he said he came to the school because "it was time for me to mature and grow...So I'm excited."

Eventually, he would like to own his own production company.

Accredited since 1978, the school has a number of articulation agreements with area colleges.

"The essence of this place, by the way, comes from the guy who sits at this desk," Kern said, referring to Howard. He has worked at the school for 37 years. "The environment makes people feel very close...It's a marvelous place to work."

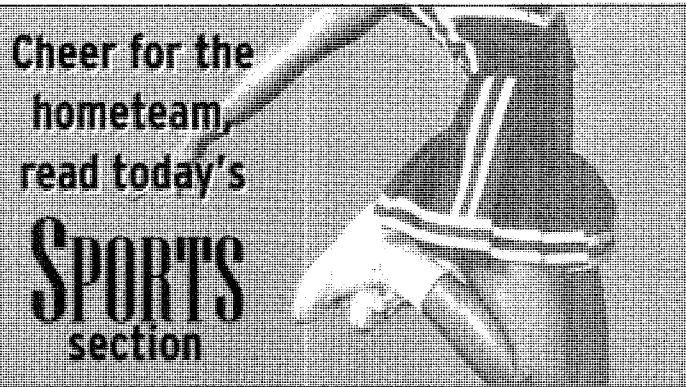
Howard said he was very honored and "extremely gratified" in receiving the award.

"It's a tough marketplace, but we're doing well," he said. So there really is a "Specs" Howard, a nickname he said he got as a child from wearing thick glasses.

Perhaps it the holiday coming, or perhaps his early relationship with Sir Graves Ghastly, but Howard admits that "sometimes I'm called 'Spooks.'"

Now, that's scary.

sarmbruster@hometownlife.com



Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 18 09/21/09

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer
170: Appr. minutes of 9/8/09.
-Approved Lutheran HS homecoming parade on 9/25/09, @ 5:30 p.m.
-Approved Westland Jaycees Haunted House @ Wayne Ford Civic League, on 10/2 & 3, 10/9 & 10, 10/16 & 17, & 10/23-30.
-Adopt. Prep. Res. regarding City's bonds to be issued & sold to Municipal Bond Authority's SRF Program.
-Intro. Ord. 242-A, amending Westland DDA & TIFA.
-Adopted Ord. 222-A-2, repealing Ch. 2, Art. III, Div. 9, Sec. 2-451 thru 2-460 that amended the Westland Cable Commission.
-Adopt. Prep. Res. to use NSP funds to purchase 1 property.
171: Appr. checklist: \$1,121,232.59 & Prepaid: \$877,620.01.
Mtg. adj. at 8:12 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout Council President Eileen DeHart, CMC City Clerk

Publish: September 27, 2009

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ORDINANCE NO. 222-A-2

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 2 OF THE WESTLAND CITY CODE BY REPEALING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 9, SECTIONS 2-451 THROUGH 2-460 ESTABLISHING THE WESTLAND CABLE COMMISSION

The City of Westland Ordains:

Section 1. That Chapter 2, Article III, Division 9, Sections 2-451 through 2-460, of the Westland City Code is hereby repealed.

Section 2. That all other provisions of Chapter 2 of the Westland City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

Adopted: September 21, 2009
Effective: September 27 2009

Publish: September 27, 2009

06967414 - 2x.5



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Amnesty offers better deal for unreported income

Q: Dear Rick: My husband and I have a disagreement and I hope you can help us. For over 10 years we have invested money overseas. We have never paid taxes on the money. My husband figures that since the income is not reported to the IRS we have nothing to worry about. I'm concerned about what could happen if the IRS discovers our overseas account. I have heard the government has some sort of amnesty program for people like us. My husband says that under the amnesty program we have to pay the taxes, interest and a penalty which he says would be the same situation if we are discovered. I think we should bite the bullet and pay the taxes. What do you think?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: You should take advantage of the amnesty program. The law is clear regarding that as American citizens it really doesn't matter where money is earned or whether those earnings are reported to the IRS. You are liable to pay taxes on those earnings. I believe no matter what one's personal views regarding tax laws, those views are not the issue. The issue is what the law states. The second issue is whether you will get a better deal from the IRS if you voluntarily come forward as opposed to them discovering you. As far as I am concerned, it is a slam dunk. You will get a better deal from the IRS by coming forward and admitting your mistakes. In your case, you potentially will have to pay less in penalties on the unreported income. According to the IRS, the amnesty program will result in reduced penalties for taxpayers who voluntarily report their income. In addition, let's not forget that failure to properly report income can be a criminal offense. When you voluntarily come forward to report previously unreported income, the IRS does not pursue criminal proceedings. On the other hand, if the IRS discovers that you have undisclosed income, they can pursue criminal sanctions against you and your husband. After all, you both signed the tax return. The IRS recently extended

the amnesty program deadline. Originally set to expire mid-September, taxpayers now have until Oct. 15. You still have a few weeks to apply. In that regard, I recommend that you hire a tax attorney. He or she will have attorney-client privilege which potentially may be useful in negotiating with the IRS. Many individuals have either not filed tax returns or

have unreported income and are living on the edge hoping that the IRS does not contact them. As far as I am concerned, that is no way to live. A much better course of action is to either file an amended return or for those who have not yet filed their original return, file it now. I've dealt with many taxpayers over the years who did not file their tax returns on

time. When they finally came forward and did file their returns, all said they felt relief. In fact, many were surprised that the amount of money they actually owed the IRS was less than they had originally thought. For those who have not yet filed their tax returns, there is another incentive to getting them filed and that is access to financial assistance programs.

In many state and federal programs, in order to qualify for assistance you must show a tax return. By failing to file a return you are potentially disqualifying yourself from many government benefits. Like many of you, I believe our tax laws are archaic, cumbersome and unfair. However, that does not diminish our responsibility as citizens to pay taxes.

To be a good citizen and have peace of mind, I always recommend complying with the law. And when we make mistakes, correct them. Good luck!
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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- MONROE** 2161 Mall Rd. 734-241-4099
- NORTHVILLE** 20580 Haggerty Rd. 734-779-0148
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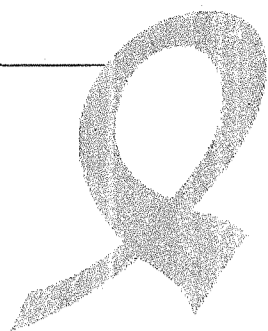
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Rockets escape

Langford figures in four TDs in 34-28 win vs. Pats

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland John Glenn emptied the playbook Friday night and it was a good thing.

The Rockets built a 34-14 lead through three quarters before holding off a furious late rally by host Livonia Franklin to earn a 34-28 KLA South Division football win.

Glenn, getting 213 yards rushing, a touchdown pass and a key interception from tailback Jeremy Langford, improved 4-1 overall and 2-1 in the division.

Franklin, meanwhile, falls to 3-2 and 2-1.

"There wasn't anything new. Those were the plays we've been running for a while," Glenn coach Tim Hardin said. "We've slowly opened the

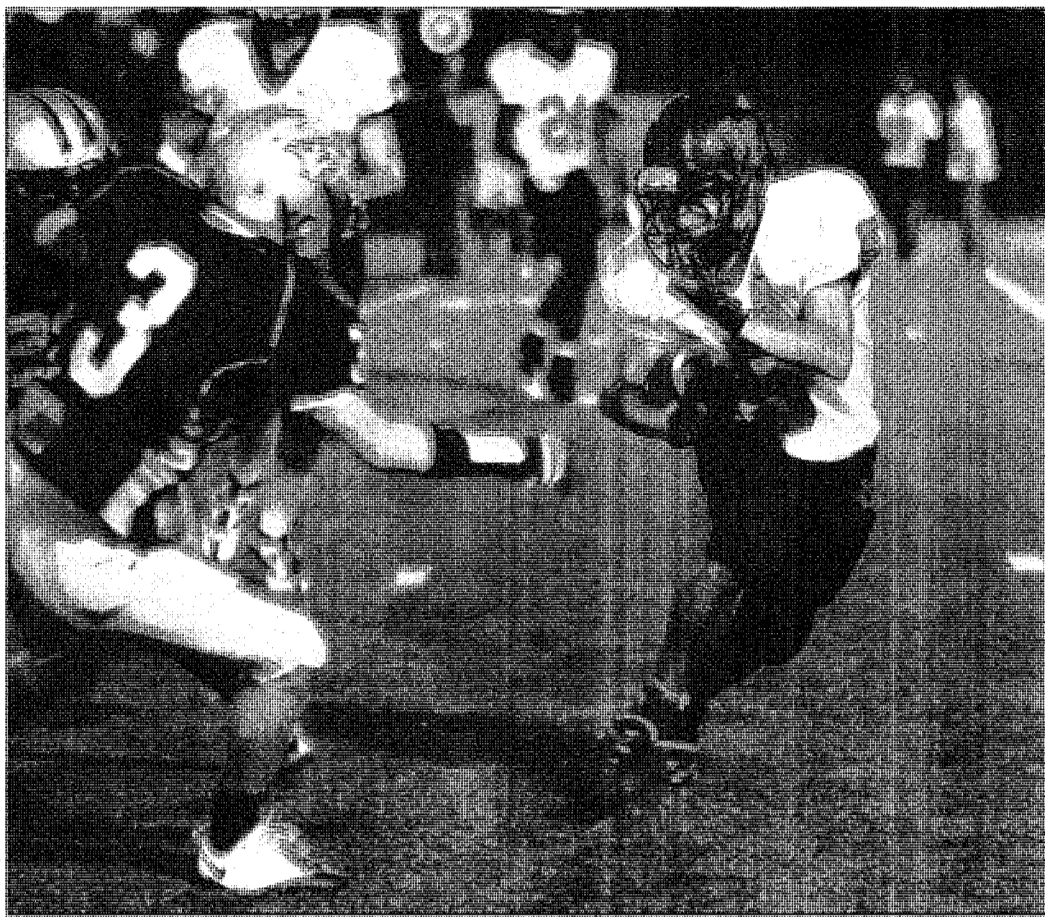
playbook more and more each game. We just wanted to mix it up more. We were not in the same formation twice because we wanted to make their defense think."

Langford, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior tailback, ran his season rushing total to 988 yards. Running part of the time out of the "Wildcat" formation in a single-back set, he scored on touchdown runs of 64, 48 and 16 yards.

"He's got it all — the speed to get to the edge, and he has the ability to cut back when it's time to cut back," Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said. "And he does a nice job of finding the seams."

Langford also played QB, finding 5-foot-6, 130-pound

Please see **GLENN, B5**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking for daylight

Churchill's Dean Bokuniewicz (5) avoids Plymouth tackler Tyler Grosh during Friday's KLA South Division football encounter. See story on page B5.

Churchill blocks Canton in key test

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kellogg Arena at state finals time might not have the same snap, crackle and pop as the Livonia Churchill gymnasium did Thursday night.

Fans were treated to a rip-roaring varsity volleyball KLA South Division matchup between the host Chargers and Canton in a match that featured playoff tension and every-play-counts intensity.

Churchill — led by the deadly offensive combo of senior outside hitters Sarah Suppelsa and Cierra Yetts — finally earned a 3-1 match victory to improve to 22-3 overall and 3-0 in the division.

"We've got a lot of work (to do), we've got to go to their place," said Churchill head coach Mark Grenier. "This is only the first half. The only thing we have is an advantage. I'm glad we have that but this thing is far from over."

Canton (8-1, 2-1) came out swinging, taking the opening game 25-23 and having a 16-12 edge in the middle of Game 2. But then the bottom fell out and the Chargers roared back for a 25-20 win to even the match.

Game 3 was a nail-biter that ultimately went to Churchill,

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

25-23. The deciding game was an anticlimactic 25-14.

"I'm not disappointed with how we played but I know that we are not going to hang our heads low after this," said Canton head coach Mary Kryska. "We're going to move on. They're at our tournament on Saturday and then we play them again at home."

The opener saw the Chiefs rebound from a 19-14 deficit, with senior outside hitter Jordan Kielty going on a five-point service run (including an ace) to lift Canton back into the fray.

Canton finally broke even at 23-23 on a defensive point scored by sophomore outside hitter Kristen Muir and senior setter Traci Breitmeyer served up the winning points.

The Chiefs then surged ahead in Game 2, temporarily quieting the loud home faithful. Kielty went on another five-point serving run to go up 8-2.

But Churchill quickly closed the gap when senior defensive specialist Taylor Kerr scored five points from the stripe. Unfortunately for the Chiefs, a couple close calls went Churchill's way (an official

took a point away from Canton because a player apparently touched the net) and the tables turned.

"It completely shifts momentum," lamented Kryska. "It gets them (Chiefs) upset, it gets me upset. I'm not going to say we lost because of calls, but I am going to say that it definitely did hurt us at some point."

The third game had Churchill leading or tied throughout except for a brief moment when the Chiefs rallied to take a 22-21 lead. Kielty's blistering return landed just inside the back line for the lead-changing sideout.

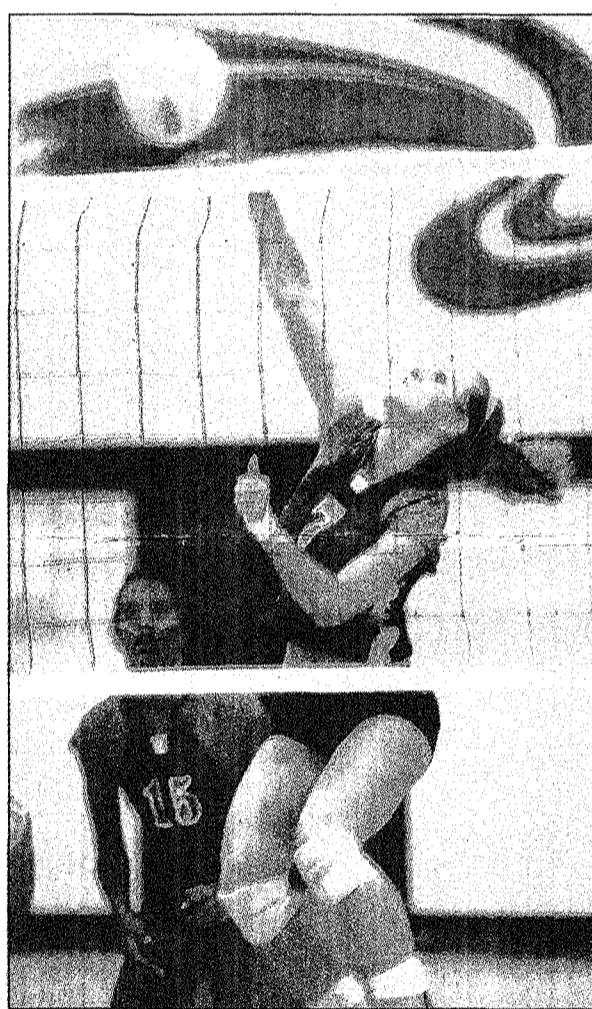
Canton then had the chance to seize control of the game and match, but a service error made it 22-all and Kerr aced her first serve to restore Churchill's edge.

"We missed one and then they get an ace and now they're up two," Kryska said. "Critical, critical points we missed."

Canton still had opportunities to rebound, even after those missed chances. But the Chargers always managed to go to Suppelsa and Yetts for dependable scoring.

"I think overall we need to work on really shutting down those two outsides," Kryska

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

High riser

John Glenn's Robbie Robinson (7) makes a strong swing during Thursday's KLA South Division matchup with host Wayne Memorial. Glenn won in three straight. For a roundup of area games, see page B4.

Chargers hit on all cylinders in 2-0 win vs. Wildcats

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill wasted little time in establishing itself in Thursday's KLA South Division boys soccer showdown with host Plymouth at Centennial Educational Park.

The Chargers swarmed. They were all over Wildcats goaltender Kyle

BOYS SOCCER

Brindza — like bees to honey — during the opening 10 minutes of play and it resulted in two early goals.

That was more than enough as Churchill, ranked No. 3 in the latest Division 1 statewide coaches poll, made the early two-goal lead stand up in a 2-0 win.

Churchill, now 11-0-1 overall has a

leg up in the KLA South race with a 5-0-1 record and 16 points.

Plymouth, meanwhile, is 7-5-1 overall and 4-1-1 in the division with 13 points.

Just two minutes into the match, Churchill's Tim Devine ripped a shot off the crossbar. Devine rifled another shot on goal just seconds later and Tyler Varney jumped on the rebound after Brindza deflected

the first shot off the post to make it 1-0 at 38:04.

The Chargers continued their relentless pressure after going up 1-0, including a sequence where they were awarded four straight corner kicks.

Reeling from the first goal, Plymouth was back on its heels

Please see **SOCCER, B4**

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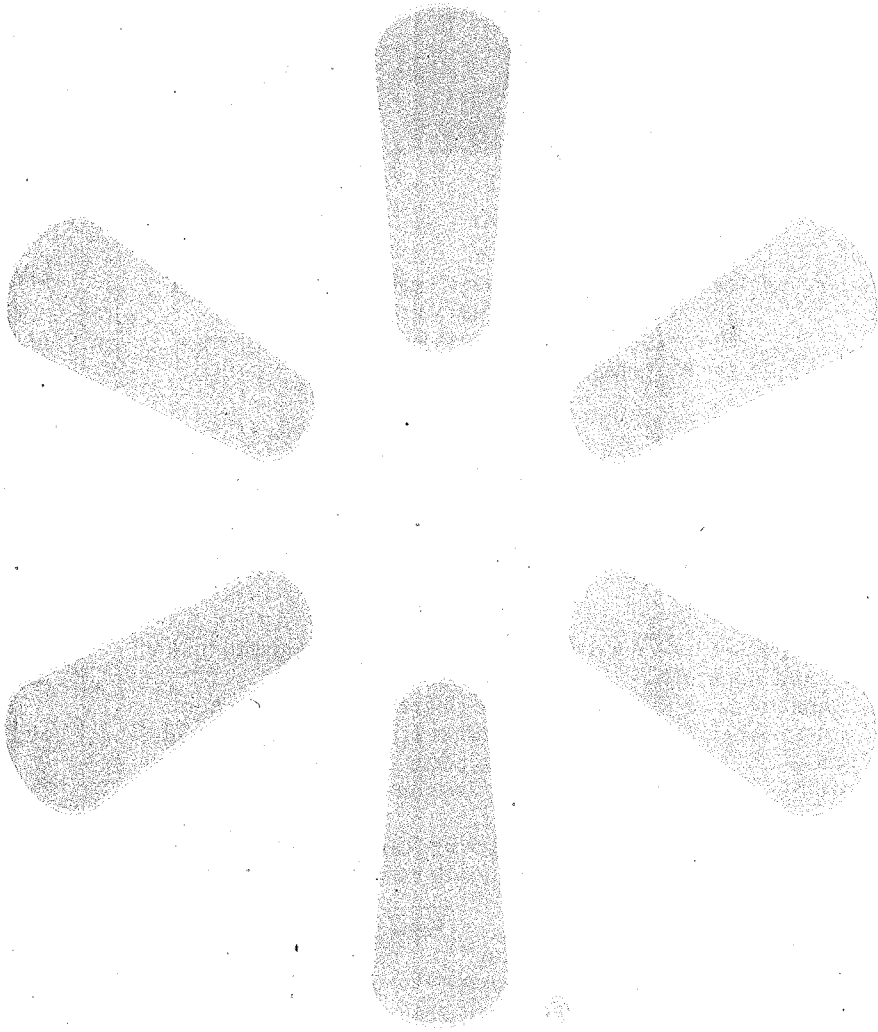
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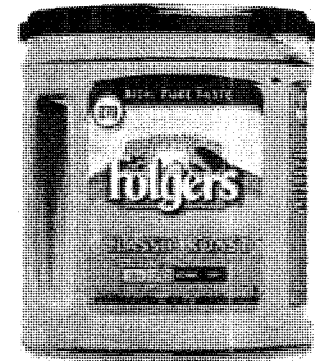
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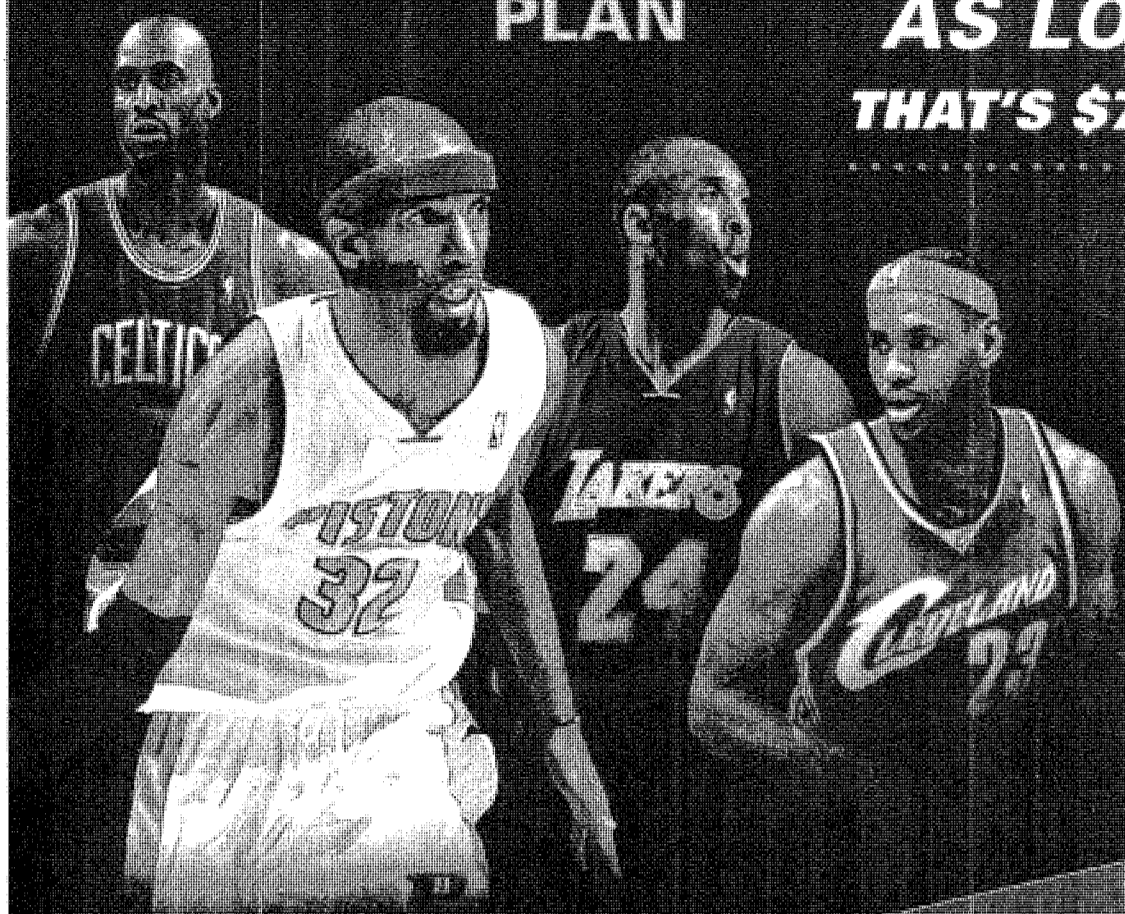
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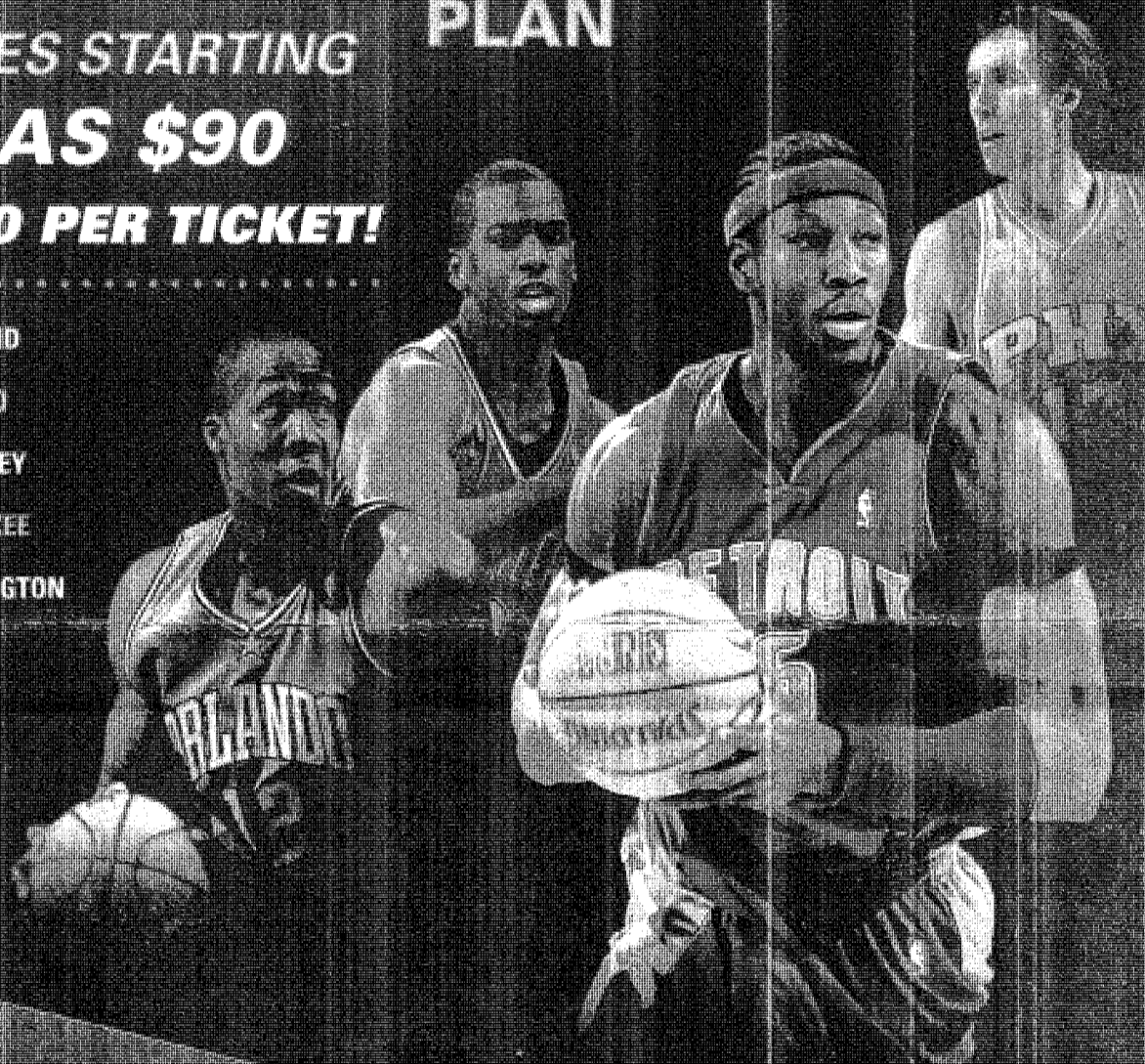
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| DEC. 10 @ 7:30 PM vs. DENVER | MAR. 16 @ 7:30 PM vs. CLEVELAND |
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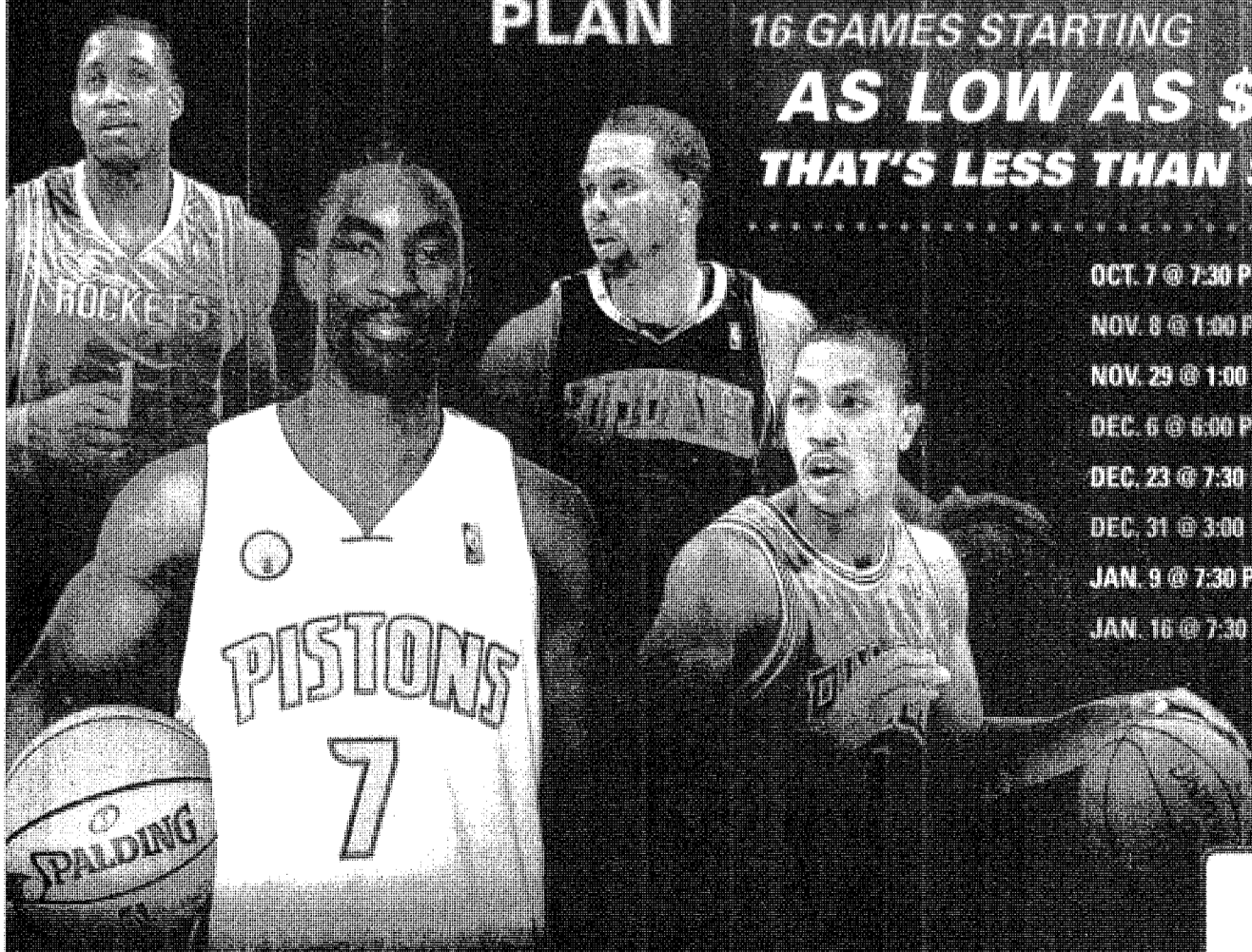
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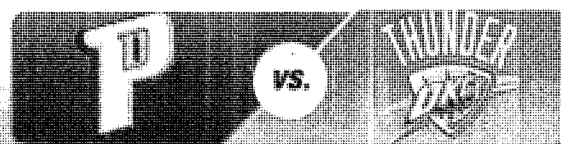
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| NOV. 29 @ 1:00 PM vs. ATLANTA | FEB. 16 @ 7:30 PM vs. MINNESOTA |
| DEC. 6 @ 6:00 PM vs. WASHINGTON | MAR. 7 @ 6:00 PM vs. HOUSTON |
| DEC. 23 @ 7:30 PM vs. TORONTO | MAR. 10 @ 7:30 PM vs. UTAH |
| DEC. 31 @ 3:00 PM vs. CHICAGO | MAR. 23 @ 7:30 PM vs. INDIANA |
| JAN. 9 @ 7:30 PM vs. PHILADELPHIA | MAR. 31 @ 7:30 PM vs. MIAMI |
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NEIGHBORS

Fashion show proceeds help autistic kids communicate

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Theresa Cook is still unsure which students will strut down the runway of the Redford Suburban League celebrity fashion show Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Burton Manor in Livonia. All she knows is that the kids are the real stars as they struggle to overcome the developmental disorder known as autism.

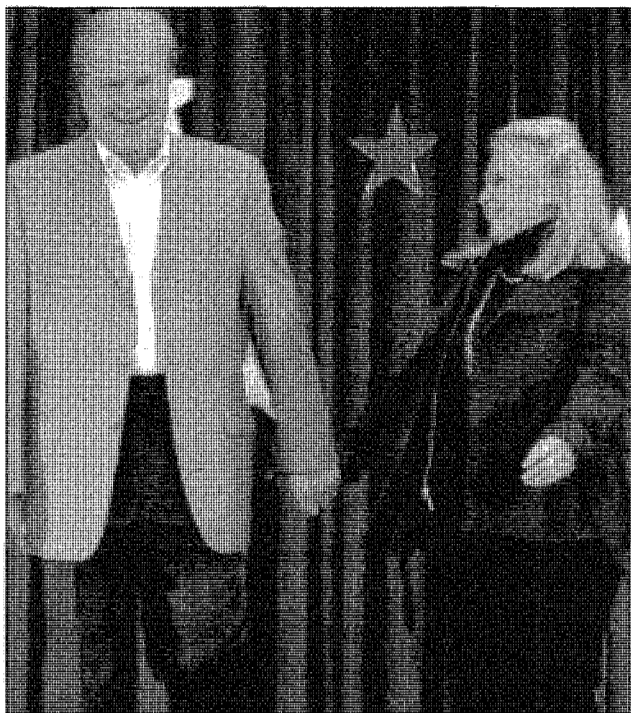
Cook and five of the teachers in the speech and pathology department of the Burger School for Students with Autism will be in the audience cheering them on. Proceeds from the Fall Festival of Fashion will help purchase software to help students from preschool to age 26 with speech impairments and learning disabilities.

"It's important that we be there on behalf of Burger," Cook said. "The Redford ladies are so generous. The funding, what we do with it, is unbelievable."

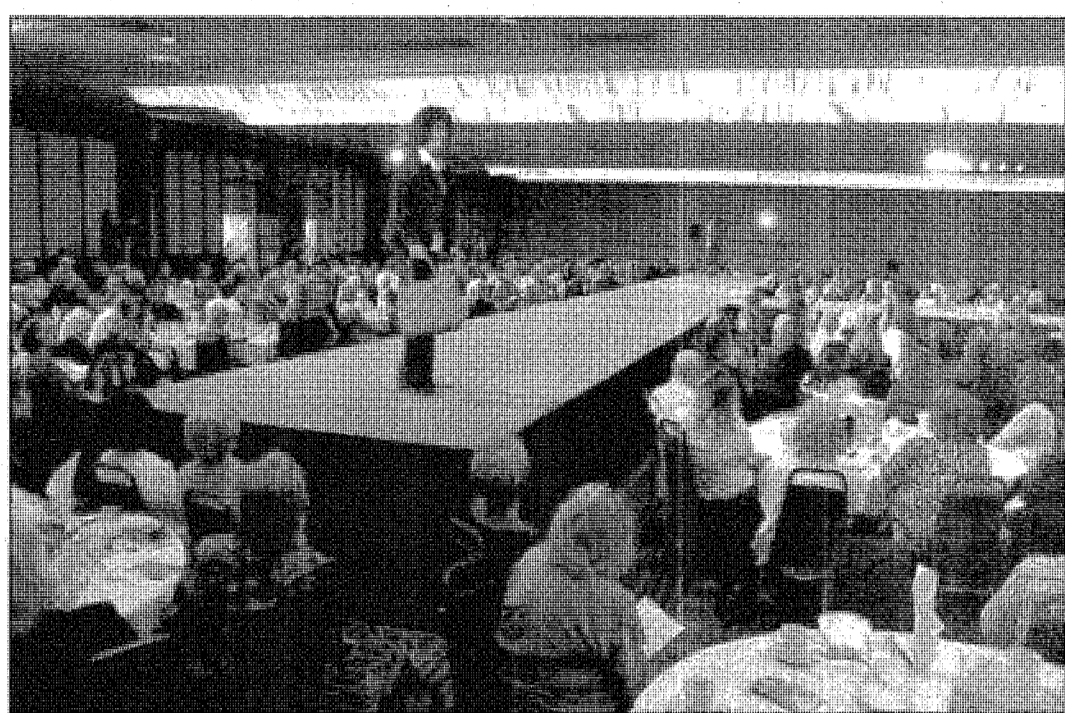
The end result makes the months of work worth it for Cynthia Jamieson, who coordinates the celebrities. This year, the 36th for the show, she's organizing a stellar lineup once again. Hosts Rich Fisher and Doris Biscoe return to announce the celebrities and describe the latest fall fashions from Dress Barn in Farmington and Men's Wearhouse in Novi. Parisian at Laurel Park Place in Livonia dresses the Burger students. Hair stylists from Lasting Impressions in Garden City add the finishing touches.

LOCAL CELEBRITIES

Reporter Glenda Lewis of WXYZ-TV is among the models who include traffic reporter Heather Zara, WDIV-TV, weather meteorologist Jim Madaus, WWJ-TV; traffic reporter Jo-Jo Shutty MacGregor, WWJ Radio 950 and her colleagues Beth Fisher and Terry T. Brown, and sister Sharon Shutty-Wright of Chicago's WMAQ-TV; actor Robert Paul; Audrey Sommers from the Catholic Television Network; Jim Hughes and Pam Rossi, WCSX



Jim Madaus of WWJ-TV and Jo-Jo Shutty-MacGregor make their way down the runway during the 35th Annual Redford Suburban Celebrity Fashion Show last year.



Robin Sullivan of WMUZ pauses at the end of the runway during last year's 35th Annual Redford Suburban League Celebrity Fashion Show in Livonia.

Radio hosts; comedian George Young; chef Larry Janes; Joe Gannon, the Appliance Doctor columnist for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Gannon's heard regularly on WAAM Talk 1600 Radio.

"I'm excited about the whole show, putting it all together and seeing the end result. This year we're doing something different. We have live music and something lined up special for the finale that no one on the committee knows about," said Jamieson of Redford. She's been lining up celebrities for the show for 18 years.

"I don't know where the energy comes from. By the end of the day I'll go home and collapse. I make sure I wear comfortable shoes and have some good assistants, all volunteers from the Redford Suburban League. David Tyler is my assistant and helps with the male models. We appreciate all the models who donate their time and energy, go for their fittings, rush from the stations."

Cook is elated the way everyone pitches in to help the students. Autism is a neurological disorder that impairs development and causes social, behavioral and communication challenges. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate autism and related disorders affect one in 150 children.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

"Our population, all of them have a language deficit," said Cook. "Funding goes to communication. We're trying to make a universal design for learning throughout the building. What that means is creating picture systems, communication systems all over the building. Students with autism, research has shown, they think in pictures so the way they learn is different, so we want more pictures around the building and pair it with text."

The project requires expensive software programs to create visuals not only for walls but story books to

help students overcome individual behaviors. Communication devices give students who are nonverbal or with limited verbal skills a voice to tell teachers when they need a drink of water or to go to the bathroom.

"We're trying to make them as independent as possible," said Cook. "We want them to be active members of society. We want to give them the skills."

The speech and language pathologists are doing their part to raise funds for the Burger students. Each purchased \$90 worth of raffle tickets in addition to paying for their lunches. They're also making baskets with donated items and gift certificates.

More than 100 baskets, the majority assembled by League members, will be raffled off. Miriam Skinner coordinates the prizes as well as luncheon tickets and reservations. A boutique or craft show kicks off the event at 9 a.m. with lunch at noon followed by the fashion show and raffle.

Skinner became a member of the Redford Suburban League when she was living in Redford in 1996. She has since moved to Canton.

"We're a philanthropic organization and we help children with autism," said Skinner. "Last year, we had over 170 raffle prizes and are hoping for 120. We're so grateful for anything anyone wants to give. We're still looking for items and gift certificates."

For fashion show ticket reservations or to donate raffle items, call Skinner at (734) 981-6003.

This year prizes include a Jasper cherry wood hunter's chest valued at \$2,475 from Chris Furniture in Livonia, amethyst necklace and earrings (\$770) from Orin Jewelers in Garden City, and \$500 cash donated by members of the Redford Suburban League. Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe in Westland and Cookies by Design in Livonia also donated gift certificates.

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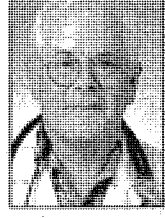
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Home tour brings out the readers with many questions

On a recent Saturday afternoon during the Northville Victorian Festival I had the privilege of sitting in the back yard of a very old beautifully restored home and talked with many readers of this newspaper.

The topics were all related to major home appliances and some parts of the conversation kept several people in attendance for a while. The fine ladies of AAUW made sure that I was comfortable and provided me with fresh water and cookies.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

The subject of the recently recalled Frigidaire smoothtop stove came up and I informed the audience that a service call was scheduled at our home for later this month. I also told them that my friend Barb Bennett was still waiting for her range to be repaired. So far, Frigidaire has scheduled three service dates for the repairs and has cancelled all three because the parts are still not available. Needless to say, Barb is not too happy with the lack of service on her kitchen range.

Speaking of ranges, there were several negative comments made on the smoothtop ranges and how hard they are to maintain and keep the top looking perfect. The consensus is that you have to be immaculate in order to maintain a perfect appearance of the range top. If not you will have stains that are difficult to remove. I explained that for that reason, some manufacturers are including in the instruction package a razor blade mounted in a holder for cleaning the top. Always follow the instructions to a letter T.

The real hot button of the afternoon was the discussion on the drinking water dispenser on refrigerators. When I told the group that I would never drink a glass of water from an older refrigerator that didn't have a filter installed on the cold water plumbing line leading to the refrigerator, you could hear a pin drop.

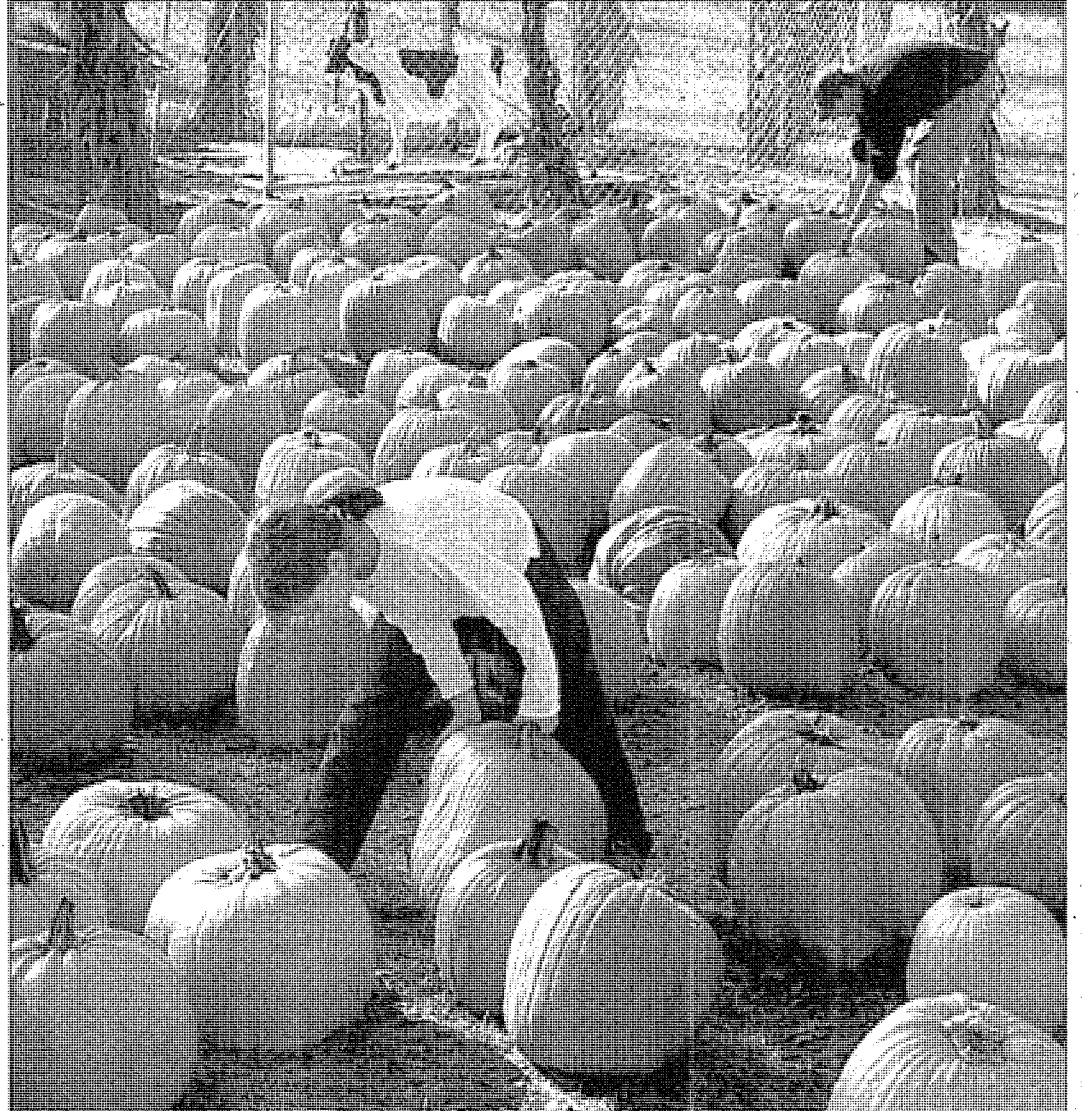
Previous to the current refrigerators which have a changeable filter built into the product, the refrigerator with a water dispenser

The subject of the recently recalled Frigidaire smoothtop stove came up and I informed the audience that a service call was scheduled at our home for later this month.

had no filter what so ever. You as a consumer had to purchase one and install it on the water line leading to the refrigerator. Many millions of Americans didn't do this and as a consequence people were drinking just plain simple tap water. Water treatment facilities will tell you that there is nothing wrong with their water and that may very well be true but as the water sits in a reservoir tank inside the refrigerator, the small amount of impurities settle onto the inside on the plastic tank. As there are many hours accumulated where the water never moves through this tank and dispersed into a container for consumption, the by-products of the water will build up to something that appears very gross and I'll be darned if I would drink it. Having removed several of these tanks and rubbed my fingers in the residue, I am firmly convinced that it can't be good for one's health. The analogy I like to use is: Place a glass of tap water on your sink area, cover it and let it sit there for a week or so. Would you drink it?

Now let me give you a theory that is shared by many in the appliance industry. In recent years manufacturers have installed a filter that you must change at certain intervals. These are installed at the factory and they charge you a pretty penny to purchase a new one. This change in policy happened overnight by all manufacturers at the same time. Is it possible that someone got terribly sick from drinking water through a non-filtered dispensing system and caused a suit to be settled out of court?

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to apldr@twmi.rr.com



A youngster compares pumpkins at Wilson Barn in Livonia last year.

Get into fall spirit at Wilson Barn

It's almost pumpkin fest time at Wilson Barn in Livonia.

Every weekend through October visitors will find lots of autumn activities at the Barn, located at West Chicago Road and Middlebelt.

Pumpkins, corn stalks, and pony rides will be at the barn daily, through Oct. 30. Pick out the perfect pumpkin from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and ride ponies beginning at noon. On the weekends look for

crafters inside and outside the Barn and cider, doughnuts, and hot dogs inside the Barn from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Take a hayride throughout the day. DJ Arnie of 90.3 FM will be on hand to rock in classic style. Joyous Noise will perform at 2 p.m., Oct. 11. The dulcimer-guitar-violin folk group plays music for all ages.

The historic Wilson's caretaker's house will be open for viewing, 3-5 p.m., Oct. 10 and 18.

The children's friendly Halloween story book readings will take place at 2 p.m., Oct. 25, on the porch in the Family Picnic Area.

The Haunted Barn, open 5:30-8 p.m., Oct. 16-18, 23-25 and 29-30, offers spooky but friendly fun.

For more information call Jane at (734) 558-5506, Ricky at (734) 358-1733 or visit the Barn's Web site www.wilson-barn.com

Guide to Employment

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For Southfield Law Firm. 2 yrs. legal &/or bookkeeping exp. Salary commensurate with experience. Fax resume: (248) 357-3404
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DENTAL ASSISTANT, PT
Self-motivated team player for caring, quality oriented practice. Farmington Hills. Call: 248-932-1280
Dental Front Desk Exp'd. only. Garden City, Ins/ Eaglesoft req. No eve/ weekends. 734-522-3510 Fax 734-522-3526

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
Admissions, Marketing & Business Office/HR Director:
55 bed, Not-for-Profit Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation facility. full time, must be experienced, knowledgeable with HR, Supervision, computer skills in addition to Marketing, Admissions process for Medicaid, Medicare and other insurance rules & requirements. Must have excellent customer service, leadership, telephone & office skills. Include salary requirements w/resume to: Marycrest Manor Attn: Administrator 15475 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154 jim@marycrestmanor.org
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Ophthalmic Work-Up Technician / COA needed full-time for Ophthalmology group located in Livonia. Must have strong skills in the following areas: patient relations, communications, and be an excellent team player. Prefer someone with past work-up experience or COA. Benefit program and 401(K) available. Fax resume to 248-319-0168.

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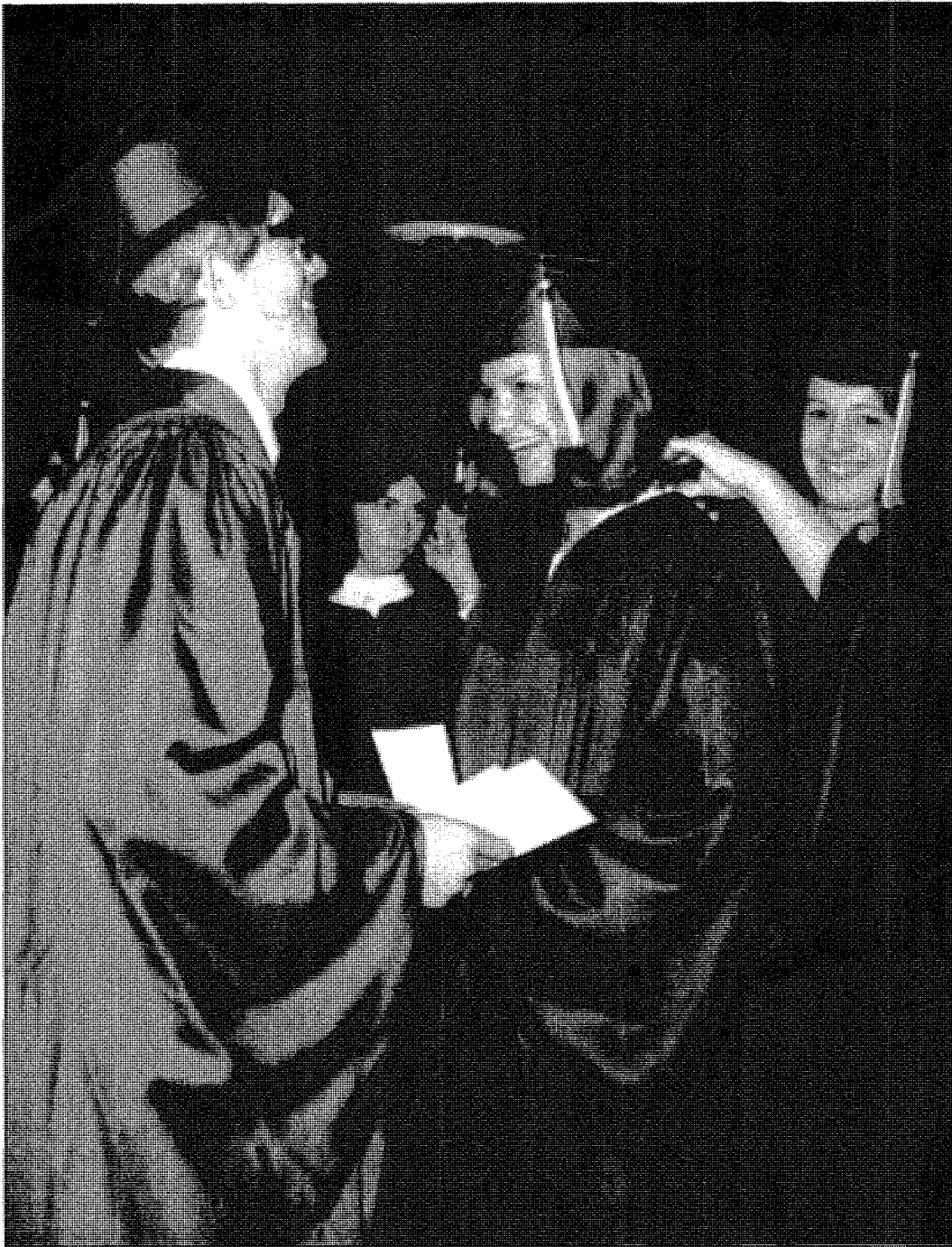
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Steve Micklea (left) and Linda Krause celebrate graduation from Westland's John Glenn High School in 1969. 'Happily married all this time,' reports Sandra Shepherd Legg, an organizer of the class's upcoming 40th reunion weekend Oct. 9-10 at Hilton Garden Inn.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Got a photo of your graduating class? Send it along, too, as a jpg attachment.

Andover and Lahser High Schools
Class of 1969

Joint 40th reunion Oct. 3, at the Birmingham Athletic Club. Andover graduates e-mail to Liz Buckner at Bucknerliz@gmail.com. Lahser graduates contact Linda Hague Sykes at lsykes@woh.rr.com.

Birmingham High School
Class of 1953 and 1954

55th reunion weekend, Oct. 9-10, at Centerpoint Marriott, in Pontiac. Call Denise Baldwin at (248) 540-4078 for details.

Detroit Pershing
Class of 1960

50th reunion festivities in September 2010 will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit Redford

Classes of 1954-1955
5 p.m., Oct. 13, at the Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth; \$45 per person. See www.redfordhighschoolreunion.com for details. Class of '54 contact Doug King at dking000@ameritech.net. Class of '55 contact, Mary Morris Hunter at m.morris.rhs55@wowway.com

Detroit St. Brigid

Class of 1959
Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Detroit St. Thomas

Reunion for anyone who attended Detroit St. Thomas Apostle, 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, at The American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple, Troy. There will be a complete sit-down dinner including all drinks and music. The cost per person is \$45. For information, call Rose Ann Filar-Novik at (248) 770-1271.

Farmington High School

Class of 1970
Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblehn@aol.com.

Ferndale High School

Classes 1962-66
Reunion class of 1964 invites classes 1962-66 to the homecoming game and a tour of Ferndale High on Oct. 2 and a party at Via Nove, Oct. 3, in downtown Ferndale. Contact Barbara Tierney at (248) 910-9908 or bjs202@aol.com; Susan Payne at suspayne@msn.com; Donna Wilson at donnagillespie83@yahoo.com, or Peggy Connolly at pegbar@centel.net.

Fordson High School

Class of 1954
55-year reunion Oct. 1 at the Stitt American Legion Post 232 in Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Nancy Barlow Gaspar at (313) 581-6623.

Class of 1984

25-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Nov. 28, Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$65 per person and includes dinner, dancing/DJ, and full bar. A photographer will be on-site taking and selling group and individual photos. Invitations will be mailed out in October. E-mail Michele (Tonna) Belczak at michelebel@sbcglobe.net or Melanie (Monaghan) Scharboneau at mscharboneau@yahoo.com to provide current mailing address.

Garden City High School

Class of 1960
Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Garden City West

Class of 1979

Holds a 30-year class reunion on Oct. 24, 2009 at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road in Westland. Classmates should register on the private Web site, <http://www.classcreator.com/Garden-City-MI-Garden-City-West-1979>, to get all information. Tickets will go on sale in the upcoming months on the Web site. E-mail questions to gcv79reunion@yahoo.com.

Dearborn Heights Huston High

Class of 1965

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24, 2010; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com **Ladywood**

Class of 1984

25th reunion, Dec. 26; for information e-mail to Sara Czarnecki Levitsky at saralevitsky@comcast.net

Livonia Bentley

Classes of 1968-1970

Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, I-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit www.bentley686970.org to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of 1968 at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of 1969 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembor class of 1970 at (734) 455-1395.

Classes of '78, '79, '80

Combo-Class Reunion Friday, Nov. 27, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100, Livonia. Tickets are \$50 before Nov. 1 and \$60 after. Doors open at 6 p.m. The event includes food, live music and an open bar. Visit www.bentleyclassof1979.com. Contact bentleyclassof78@yahoo.com or call John at (734) 358-3272.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969

40th high school reunion, 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Nov. 14, at Lyon Oaks Banquet Center, 52251 Pontiac Trail, Wixom. No tickets will be sold at the door. For information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail Kaynilitu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge at Klivingstone@nu-core.com.

Livonia Stevenson

Class of 1979

30th reunion, 6 p.m., Nov. 28, Station 885, 995 Starkweather, Plymouth. Tickets cost \$35 per person before Nov. 14 and \$50 per person after the date and at the door. Contact Lisa Falk at lisannefalk@comcast.net

Oak Park High School

Class of 1980

30th reunion, July 2-4, 2010; for information e-mail to ophighschool1980@yahoo.com

Redford Union

Class of 1989

20 year reunion Saturday, Oct. 24 at Warren Valley Golf Club. For information or to register call Sharon at (734) 261-3264 or e-mail to celebrationstoremember@yahoo.com

St. Mary of Redford

Class of 1969

40-year reunion, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus in Livonia. If interested in helping to plan the event or contacting classmates call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or e-mail to mcoulter@gr-lakes.com.

Westland John Glenn

Class of 1984

25th reunion, 6-11 p.m., Oct. 3, at Wayne Tree Manor. \$45. Send checks to 25th Class Reunion, PO Box 222, Wayne, MI 48184. For more information e-mail to kellybellym3@yahoo.com or MPRESS66@hotmail.com

Class of 1969

40th Reunion Weekend, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 9-10. Friday activities: 6:45 p.m. football game JGHS vs. WMHS; 7:30-11:00 p.m. social mixer at Hilton Garden Inn, near airport. Saturday activities: 10:30 a.m. tour of John Glenn High School, 6 p.m.-midnight reunion dinner at Hilton Garden Inn. For tickets and information, contact Jghs69@aol.com; Facebook JGHS Class of 1969 or Sandra Shepherd Legg at (313) 273-7950. Some events walk-in, some require advance registration at JGHS69@aol.com.

More greyhounds need homes as racing tracks close down

Cider and Abby are the retired racing dogs featured by Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption this week.

Cider, a 2 1/2 year old female, recently retired from racing and lives with a foster family. She has a reddish brindle colored coat, a sweet disposition and is learning that toys are fun.

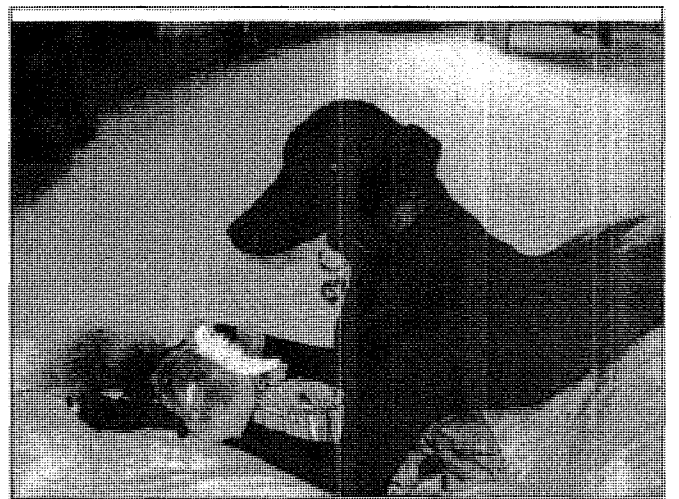
Abby is 3 1/2 years old and also recently retired from the track. She has settled into retirement easily. Abby is a petite girl with a cute white chest and soulful eyes.

If you're interested in Cider or Abby, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Check out the organization's Web site at www.greyheart.org for more of their photos.

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption plans several adoption events next month, including a "meet and greet" from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, at Pet Supplies "Plus," 29493 W. Seven Mile, Livonia and noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, at PetCo, 43435 For Road, Canton.

Jackie Bowen, public relations coordinator for the group, says more greyhounds will be "desperate" for homes as tracks close.

"We just got word that another



Abby

track is closing very soon which means all of those beautiful dogs will be out of work and extremely disposable," she wrote in a press release. Parks in Massachusetts and Texas were scheduled to close last week.

"While that is marvelous news it may prove to be a death sentence for some of

the hounds that haven't been picked up by rescue groups such as ours. Therefore, it is so important that we are diligent and try to continue to educate people on the fact that greyhounds make wonderful family pets."

For a complete list of "meet and greet" adoption events, visit the group's Web site.



Cider

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Think before you buy pink, make sure cause gets benefits

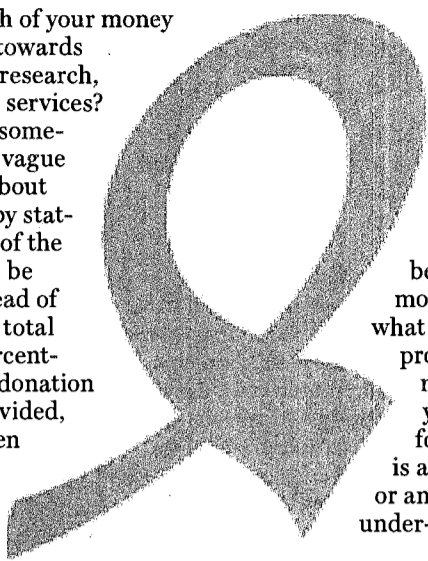
You may have heard of people going "green," but October is all about going "pink" for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Pink jewelry, key chains, candles and even clothing are used to raise money for breast cancer programs and services.

Some companies use the pink-ribbon campaign solely to benefit their image, profile and sales, according to the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division.

The Web site thinkbeforeyououpink.org, suggests that consumers think about the following questions before opening their wallets to buy a pink item:

■ How much of your money actually goes towards breast cancer research, programs and services?

Companies sometimes provide vague information about the donation by stating that "part of the proceeds" will be donated, instead of disclosing the total amount or percentage. If a total donation amount is provided, consumers then need to decide if it's adequate.



Usually you are better off donating directly to your organization or program of choice.

■ What breast cancer organization or programs does your money support? It may not always be clear where your money is going. Consider what kind of research, program or service your money will fund. Is your money being used for something that is already well-funded, or an issue that is often under-funded? Is the dona-

tion reaching those that are most in need?

■ How are the funds being raised? Make sure you know exactly how a company is raising money. Buying a pink product doesn't always ensure that a company will donate to the cause; sometimes consumers need to take an extra step by going online or mailing something in before a donation is made. Make sure you read the fine print!

■ Is there a limit on the company's total donation?

Companies often put a cap on the total amount they donate. This means that only a certain amount will be given, despite how many products are sold. Ultimately, your

purchase may not be contributing to the cause if the cap has already been met.

■ Is the company contributing to the problem?

Some companies sell pink products and donate to breast cancer organizations, but their products are actually contributing to the problem. Make sure the company you are buying from is helping fight breast cancer, not cause it.

The American Cancer Society plans its 12th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5-mile walk 8 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 in Belle Isle Park. To register or for more information, call (248) 663-3400 or visit www.cancer.org/stridesonline.

Pink Fund event mixes fashion, health information

The Pink Fund is sponsoring a new event that mixes learning about breast cancer with fashion, big fun and fund raising.

"Turning Burdens into Blessings" which features two noted physicians, Dr. Daniel Sherbert and Dr. Jen Green, will raise awareness and funds to ease the financial worries of women and families currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer, as well as discuss innovations in the treatment of the disease.

Sherbert, a plastic surgeon, is a specialist in breast reconstruction; and Green, a Beaumont Integrative

Medicines Naturopath, specializes in cancer care. The two speakers, both of whom are residents of West Bloomfield, will discuss how they work hand in hand with breast cancer patients in an attempt to achieve a healthy, positive outcome.

During lunch, there will be a 2009 Fall/Winter Fashion Show, featuring exclusive women's apparel by Doncaster. The program also will showcase high fashion eyewear currently offered at Clavenna Vision Institute, Optik and Optimeyes. There also will be drawings for prizes.

Turning Burdens into

Blessings program runs noon to 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 West Thirteen Mile, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$45 for guests and \$40 for cancer survivors and are available at www.thepinkfund.eventbrite.com. Tickets for the full program including a lunch reservation must be purchased by Oct. 14. Tickets are available at the door but do not include lunch.

The Pink Fund provides financial support for women and families undergoing treatment for breast cancer. All proceeds raised from "Turning Burdens into

Blessings" will directly benefit Michigan breast cancer patients who are in active treatment and are unable to meet their basic monthly living expenses.

The Pink Fund is an organization that provides short-term financial aid to women, men and families who are in active treatment for and recovery from breast cancer. An innovative and unparalleled program, The Pink Fund makes direct payments for rent, COBRA, car and utilities on behalf of families in need.

The Pink Fund was founded by Molly MacDonald, a working mother of five who

underwent cancer treatment.

"Women with breast cancer have enough on their minds, yet all too often they also are worried about money and the financial burdens of battling the disease," MacDonald stated. "What I have learned from my own situation, and confirmed by other women in treatment, is that the financial fallout from breast cancer causes stress that often is as devastating as the disease. I founded The Pink Fund to help women in treatment so they could focus their mental and emotional energy on healing and recovery."

For more information visit www.thepinkfund.org.



Molly MacDonald of The Pink Fund (right) with her daughter, Erin Noel MacDonald, Thursday, Sept. 24 at Fashion for the Cure in West Hollywood, Calif. MacDonald modeled in the show. Her daughter works for Diane von Furstenberg, the showcase designer for the event.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

SEPT. 28-OCT. 4

Fund-raiser for mental illness

Devin Scillian and Vickie Thomas will host the first annual Funky Fresh Fashion Show, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at The Athenaeum Hotel's international Ballroom, 1000 Brush, Detroit. The show's proceeds will benefit more than 20,000 Michigan middle and high school students who participate in the MINDS mental health education series. MINDS is committed to erasing the stigma surrounding mental illness. More than 100 metro Detroit leaders will model their own clothing in one of four categories that include casual, business, black tie or ethnic wear. The models will strut their stuff to the rock and roll, Motown, jazz or big band tune of their choice. Tickets are \$100 each and 95 percent is tax deductible. Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6-7 p.m., and a cash bar is available. Adults and children are welcome. Buy tickets at (248) 644-8003.

Pain awareness

7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30, in classroom #1, in the administration building at William Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. 13 Mile, west of Woodward, Royal Oak. Martin Tamler and Sharon Ostalecki, will sign their recent book, "100 Questions & Answers About Fibromyalgia." Virginia Drouin-Berry will talk about managing the pain of Fibromyalgia. Carol Young present an interactive talk, with chair exercises, about Fibromyalgia and exercise. The conference and book-signing are free and refreshments will be served. RSVP to hope@hffct.org.

Pampering for cancer patients

Just for You, a free day of education, emotional support and pampering for

women with cancer, their family members and friends, runs 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 2, at Edgewood Country Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce. Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital presents the program which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, hand and chair massages, Reiki therapy, reflexology and information about stress management, sleep, cancer and sex, pain management, and maintaining a positive outlook. Health and fitness expert Peter Nielsen will be the keynote speaker. Register by calling (888) DMC-2500 or by visiting www.dmc.org/peoplesmedicalcollege/

Prostate screening

Free screenings, consisting of a blood test and a digital rectal exam, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Vattikuti Urology Institute at Henry Ford Hospital 2799 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Appointments are required. To schedule one, call (313) 916.2062.

OCT. 5-11

Ladies night out

"Women's Health 101" Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Bone density screening, blood pressure screening and massage, 5:30 - 7

p.m.; lecture 7 - 8:30 p.m. The speaker is St. Mary Mercy Hospital Physician, Karin Dimon. (734) 655-4800

OCT. 12-18

Depression

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a free educational seminar called "Depressed - or Know Someone Who is?" 10-11 a.m., Monday, Oct. 12 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center. The speaker is John Tait of St. Mary Mercy Hospital. The presentation is free but registration is required. To register, call (734) 655-8950.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

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One could say that control of the inflammation of arthritis is the best way to counter arthritis associated pain. While stopping inflammation is necessary, it is not always sufficient to end joint pain. Individuals with burned out rheumatoid arthritis may have considerable pain in their hands, shoulders, knees and feet because of the distortion and strain placed on limbs by previous active arthritis. Also, pain in joints can come from damaged nerves or reflect a person's depression over the loss of previous ability to lead an active, orderly and independent life. Arthritis changes may force a person to spend hours in the seated position with resulting stiffness and pain from inactivity and loss of conditioning. In caring for arthritic pain, a physician attempts to create a balance between medication and changes in the patient's way of life. The role of medication needs to consider the patient's age and other medication. Non steroidal prescriptions need to be limited in the elderly because of the bad effect these medications exert on kidney function. Experience has found that patients with fibromyalgia should not take opiates or cortisone. The public already knows, that as safe a drug as acetaminophen (Tylenol) is, high doses can cause liver damage. Changes in lifestyle have limits. Impaired knees and hips cannot readily take on daily walking, and use of massage and pools can prove expensive. For the physician, caring for arthritic pain requires more than a prescription and a single visit.

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