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League officers face trial in embezzlement case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A former officer charged with embezzling money from the nonprofit Wayne-Ford Civic League was accused in court Friday of writing league checks to herself, depositing some of them into her personal bank account and cashing others.

Shari Kay Greenfield, former league vice president, wrote single checks as large as \$5,000 to herself from an organization that sponsored bingo and other fund-raisers to support community programs such as youth baseball, according to court testimony.

When former league treasurer Michael

Strebbling was asked Friday whether he authorized Greenfield to take the money, he replied, "No, I did not."

However, Strebbling conceded under questioning from defense attorney Paul Bricker that the league kept sloppy financial records and that officers sometimes signed each other's names on checks to pay vendors.

"The league's records were a mess, weren't they?" Bricker asked.

"Yes, they were," Strebbling replied, although he said he tried to straighten out the financial books as treasurer.

Strebbling's testimony came as Greenfield, 41, appeared in Westland 18th District Court for a preliminary hearing on charges of embezzling

more than \$20,000. However, special Wayne County Prosecutor Abed Hammoud said during Greenfield's arraignment in August that the amount is likely closer to \$113,000.

Greenfield's hearing ended with Judge C. Charles Bokos ordering her to stand trial, but he also added four more counts of embezzling over \$1,000 and two counts of embezzling under \$1,000.

Greenfield decided to proceed with testimony on the same day that Neal Greenfield, her ex-husband and former league president, chose to give up his right to a hearing. Neal Greenfield, 42, was also ordered by Bokos to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Neal Greenfield is charged with embezzling

more than \$20,000, although the amount he is accused of taking has been estimated by Hammoud at \$32,000 during a several-year period ending in 2004.

The league, on Wayne Road south of Ford, once brought in gross revenues of \$1 million a year yet showed financial losses, authorities have said.

With not-guilty pleas on record for them, the Greenfields are free on bond as they await the outcome of their cases. If convicted, they could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison.

In court Friday, Hammoud produced checks from two league bank accounts. Strebbling said

PLEASE SEE LEAGUE, A7



Sassy Diva, a geisha and hairy godmother are just three of the pumpkins created by the staff at Secretz Salon in Westland in a contest started by owner Ann Armstrong of Canton.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hairy Halloween

Salon challenges its stylists to be creative with pumpkins

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It's amazing what some people can do with a hank of hair.

Just ask the people at the Secretz Salon where stylists have turned craft pumpkins and hair into a geisha, the hairy godmother and a bride.

"The requirement was that they had to have hair, now some actually have bodies," said Gail Kottyan who shares the reception area with the creations. "They're all very unique."

Owner Ann Armstrong came up with the idea as a way of decorating the salon on North Wayne Road for Halloween. Last year, her mother had done pumpkins, but it was time-consuming process, so Armstrong decided to have a friendly competition among her staff.

Seven stylists accepted the challenge, creating the pumpkins with more than a pretty face. There's wild colored hair on top and clay flower pots draped in fabric and decorated with feather boas and flowers on the bottom.

"I told them they could do whatever they wanted as long as they had hair on them," said Armstrong. "They all have



Miss Hollyween

faces, one has a doll body and some actually have bodies.

The pumpkins have been on display since Oct. 7. Each pumpkin was given a number, and customers have been given a ticket each time they come in to vote for their favorite one.

The jars are looking quite full with the hairy godmother, the bride, geisha and witch running stem and stem in the voting. The ballots were counted at noon Saturday, with the winning

stylist receiving a \$100 Best Buy gift certificate.

From the customers' votes cast, one will be drawn to receive a gift basket filled with products from the salon and seven others will be drawn to receive one of the pumpkins.

This was the first year Armstrong did the contest and wasn't sure how it would turn out. But the response has her thinking about next year.

"Originally, I was going to keep them to decorate next year, but I've decided to make this an annual event," said Armstrong. "The girls enjoyed it, I enjoyed doing it and the customers enjoyed it."



The pumpkin bride

Audit: District uses surplus to maintain academic program

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With local educators blaming Lansing, a new audit shows that the Wayne-Westland school district's budget surplus has dipped to \$16.8 million — down from \$23.1 million in just three years.

"We are struggling to make ends meet," Superintendent Greg Baracy told the *Observer* after hearing a new financial report Monday from Plante & Moran auditing firm partner Kathy Downey.

Moreover, school officials heard even more gloomy news as Downey hinted that a state revenue shortfall could cost Michigan's school aid fund another \$90 million to \$150 million.

Wayne-Westland, alone, could lose \$800,000 to \$1.2 million unless state officials find a way to reverse the shortfall, Downey warned.

The latest troubles come as Wayne-Westland and other districts, already struggling amid a state economic slump, face rising costs for such services as health care and employee retirement.

Wayne-Westland's financial position has continued to decline despite prudent spending, Baracy said.

"The state hasn't kept its promise to fund education," he said after a school board meeting.

With a \$115 million budget, Wayne-Westland's surplus dipped from \$17.6 million to \$16.8 million during the last year alone, according to an audit report for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

Downey gave high marks to school officials for their financial record-keeping and gave them a "clean opinion" on the latest audit.

To that end, Baracy said, "it was an outstanding audit."

School officials have said they have tried to protect the district's budget surplus, but they said empty promises from Lansing legislators have made it difficult.

School officials used the latest audit to bolster their support of a ballot measure, Proposal 5, that Michigan voters will decide in the Nov. 7 election.

PLEASE SEE AUDIT, A3

District honors 2 schools for improved academics

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Forget the 2006 World Series for a minute. Two Wayne-Westland schools have knocked their own grand slams, albeit in academics.

Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton has nabbed the district's coveted Lighthouse School Award for

exceeding state scores in eight of 10 categories on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, or MEAP, tests.

The school matched state scores in two other categories.

And, Patchin Elementary School in Westland has earned the district's Golden Apple

PLEASE SEE AWARDS, A3

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Volume 42
Number 45

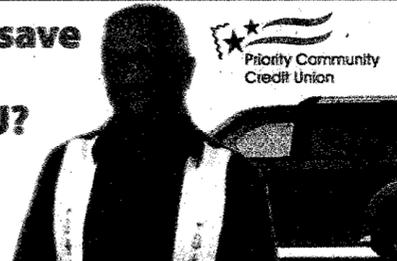


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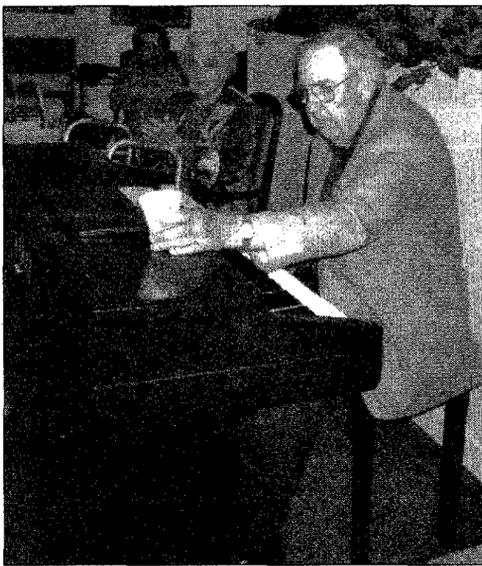
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Coming Thursday in Filter

Ready to rock!

Detroit's Electric 6 are ready to return home for an electrifying show at St. Andrew's Hall.





Charles Roach entertains residents of Marquette House.

Residents enjoy mini concerts by 'piano man'

Strains of tunes like *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* and *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* fill the air, and once it starts, it isn't long before a crowd gathers.

Some sit in wheelchairs, others find a chair to sit in. One lady dances back and around in her wheelchair, and is joined by another wheelchair dancer.

That's how it is on any given early afternoon at the Marquette House in Westland when the piano man, Charles Roach, stops by to bring joy and good memories to the residents.

"Our maestro has a real fan club who wait eagerly for his weekly visits," said Peggy Hibling, activities director at the senior residence. "It's really the highlight of their lives."

According to Hibling, there's no rock'n'roll, just the ballads of past years with a few more recent numbers. Residents may hear *St. Louis Blues*, *Don't*

Blame Me and Peg 'O My Heart during the afternoon "concerts."

Hibling said residents are fortunate to have Roach stay for a half hour and spends time chatting with his "audience."

"Our friend also is a talented poet, each visit he brings one or two selections of his poems, printed on beautifully decorated paper," Hibling said. "Every listener receives a copy."

She added that residents had thought Roach was their "special guest, their very own mutual admirer." However, they've discovered also performs at another retirement home, providing music and poetry.

Roach has been making the keys come alive at Marquette House for several years.

"We think the world of our special friend, a gentleman with a big heart," Hibling added.

LPS audit: Fund balance increased

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Even as Livonia Public School officials were planning and implementing the controversial Legacy Initiative program this past year, the district was able to add to its fund balance.

The district's annual audit shows the district's fund equity was \$10.9 million as of June 30. That's \$1.5 million higher than one year earlier. It's also well over the \$7.7 million fund balance the district had expected based on its final budget plan.

As a percentage of its budget, the LPS fund balance is about 7 percent; it was 6 percent a year before.

Frederick Hailer Jr., of Plante & Moran, the district's auditor, told the board Oct. 9 that in 2005 the average fund balance for school districts in the state was 14 percent. A week later, though, Trustee Cynthia Markarian clarified that figure, saying it didn't include the financially troubled Detroit Public Schools.

Trustees voted 7-0 on Oct. 16 to approve the audit, which presented an "unqualified" opinion, the highest degree of assurance a CPA can offer on financial statements, Hailer said.

The audit shows the district received \$159.7 million in revenue, which was about \$1.9 million more than was budgeted. It spent \$158.2 million, or about \$1.3 million less than budgeted.

That spending included buying 10 buses that came before June 30, part of the expense of the Legacy Initiative, a district restructuring plan that closed schools, shifted grade configurations and increased transportation of students. School officials have said the plan will save the district \$1.8 million this year.

CLOSE TO BUDGET
In answer to a question, Plante & Moran's Hailer said financial budgets can vary from the budget by half of a percent to 2 percent on revenue, and 1 percent to 5 percent on spending. Livonia schools' variance was within that rate.

"So, we're talking tight tolerances here that are being budgeted," Trustee Kevin Whitehead said. However, Trustee Steve King raised questions about the size of the unexpectedly large fund balance, in addition to a special education program fund balance of \$6.4 million. In the past, he said, the district had moved some of that special education money into the general fund to add to the fund equity.

"So we make decisions," King told the auditor, "saying we're not going to have money and then we have a surplus, that's why I question that." Hailer said the special education balance was there to "insulate for fluctuations in funding." Superintendent Randy Liepa said that in past years, the district has been forced to pay charge-backs on those programs, though he noted that hasn't been the case since a countywide special education millage was passed. Markarian, who chairs the board's finance committee, said that the board will review that fund.

The auditors noted the near-\$11 million fund equity isn't all cash, with about a \$2.2 million portion in reserve funds, inventory and pre-paid assets.

One major reason for the district's improved financial situation is a \$1.1 million state utility companies tax settlement, which added to the district's revenue. Changes in adult education funding rules also raised the district's bottom line.

IS BOARD INFORMED?
At the Oct. 16 meeting, district resident Eileen McDonald expressed concern that board members should know about a budget surplus. "I'm very concerned that the board isn't fully informed," she said.

This week, Markarian noted that the budget is amended three or four times a year — plus board members spend a lot of time talking to finance director Lisa Levesque "and it's not all on camera."

"I'm very comfortable with the amount of information we're getting," Markarian said. However, she understands the questions being raised. "I'm sure some people think that we were misled or it (the Legacy decision) was preemptive. But we use the information we have at the time to make the best decision we can, at that time," she said.

As for the fund balance, Hailer said the state will look closely at districts with a fund balance of less than 5 percent. "You can go through 5 percent in a heartbeat," he told the board.

School districts saw no state foundation grant funding increases in 2004 or 2005, while getting a \$175 per pupil increase last year. During that same time, the district's pension payments had gone up \$178 per pupil, Hailer said.

The economy is horrible and not getting better soon, Markarian said.

"We've got to play it safe and I think that's what we're trying to do as a board," she said.

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Roosevelt kindergarten teacher is honored

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

For Amy Atwater-Truchan, the third time is the charm.

A kindergarten teacher whose been with the district for 12 years, Truchan earned the nod as this year's Elementary Teacher of the Year. She's been nominated for the award twice in years passed.

Truchan isn't only a teacher in the district. She also grew up in Livonia Public Schools. She attended Hull, Frost, Churchill, the Livonia Career Technical Center and Schoolcraft College.

"I'm thankful to have always (worked) at Roosevelt with a wonderful and caring staff," Truchan said. "Even with these changing times, I'm still proud



Truchan

to be a Livonia 'product' and helping to build its future."

Her experience in the community places her in the unique position of understanding what it's like to be both a resident of and a student from Livonia Public Schools. Truchan heard the news of her award during a schoolwide assembly.

"Sure enough, the principals surprised me with a whole school assembly and revealed a giant banner that was soon hung in front of the school," she said.

Truchan was surrounded by

friends, family and co-workers. Through it all, she said, she's not one to draw attention to herself.

As she wrote in her nomination form: "A child's moment of discovery in learning or a parent's beaming smile at their child is all I desire. The most cherished times are on the last day of school when I read the very touching letters from parents and the children's wishes that they still had school the next day. I feel that my responsibilities are really no different than any other hard working teacher in our district."

She attributes her success in education to the "fabulous" paraprofessionals she's worked with — namely Linda Latham, June Watson and Liz Allison — and the administrators and par-

ents who have supported her through the years. The school has become family, she said.

"Children may not remember every single thing I taught them years from now, but they will remember how they felt while learning," said Truchan. "Or better yet, that all they did was play in kindergarten because they didn't realize they were learning. This is what motivates me to go that extra mile, spend that extra dollar, or do that extra something just because the kids would love it."

Livonia Public Schools will honor three educators next month, each has earned the district's Teacher of the Year award. The recipients are Amy Atwater-Truchan of Roosevelt Elementary, Isolina Carlini of Holmes Middle School, and Mary Clark of Stevenson High School.

CORRECTION

A story in the Oct. 22 edition of the *Observer* should have stated that a truck in which Ronald Wayne McClain was riding swerved to avoid hitting a group of young men playing basketball on a street in Detroit. The truck then hit a utility pole during the accident in 1993, and McClain of Westland was beaten to death after he got out of the truck. Four defendants are facing trial for his death.

Find out about Jaycees at information night

The Westland Jaycees will be holding an information night Thursday, Nov. 9.

The program will be at 7 p.m. at Marvaso's Italian Grill, 6569 Wayne Road, Westland. Appetizers and soft drinks will be provided.

The meeting is for people interested in finding out what the Westland Jaycees do for the community and what the group can do

for them. The Westland Jaycees is dedicated to training young leaders through community service. The Westland Jaycees have been responsible for such events as the Patriots Day ceremony, Tribute to the Stars and the annual Easter Egg Scramble. For more information on the Westland Jaycees, call (734) 226-0400 or visit the Jaycees' Web site at www.westlandjaycees.org.

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Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy and school board President Frederick Weaver were on hand to congratulate the staff of Patchin Elementary School which earned the district's Golden Apple Award.



It's all smiles for the staff at Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton which received the Wayne-Westland school district's Lighthouse School Award.

AWARDS

FROM PAGE A1

Award for making steady, significant gains during a three-year period on MEAP test scores.

Wayne-Westland school officials celebrated the victories last Monday by giving each of the two schools a \$10,000 prize, a banner and a

plaque honoring their achievements. Superintendent Greg Baracy praised Walker-Winter's staff for helping students rise above their counterparts statewide on MEAP scores.

"It is among the highest performing schools in the state of Michigan," Baracy said Monday, during a school board meeting.

Walker-Winter Principal Pauline Koulouberis, accompanied by some of her staff

members, smiled as she attributed the school's success to all of its employees.

"It takes everybody to sustain high achievement," she said.

Baracy noted that Patchin made an overall 60-point gain in MEAP test scores.

"That is a tremendous feat," he said.

Patchin Principal Molly Funk, also joined by some of her staff, said her school will wisely spend the \$10,000 it earned.

"We're excited to see what the award can do for the students and staff at Patchin - and where it can take them in the next few years," Funk said.

The district has continued to single out schools for significant achievement even though Baracy said the state has cut grant dollars for buildings that make enormous strides to improve their MEAP scores.

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AUDIT

FROM PAGE A1

Under the plan, current funding for K-16 education would jump by \$565 million, and then the state would be forced to allocate yearly increases that would keep pace with inflation.

Critics say Proposal 5 could force state officials to siphon

Critics say Proposal 5 could force state officials to siphon money from other areas...

money from other areas, such as public safety, to pay for education. But school officials view the measure as a way of ensuring that legislators keep good on their pledge to properly fund education.

Baracy voiced concerns that Wayne-Westland could soon be forced to start cutting into programs unless its budget decline is reversed.

For years, he has warned that state officials need to address school funding shortfalls, but he said legislators have failed in their responsibility to pay for education.

"If the state wants a world-class educational system," he said, "it will have to fund it like a world-class educational system."

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AROUND WESTLAND

10th anniversary

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 5. The public is invited.

The library, named after the late state senator, will begin its celebration at 11:30 a.m. with the Westland John Glenn High School marching band playing the national anthem and the Livonia Franklin High School's junior ROTC carrying flags.

At noon, former library board President Jim Chuck, the master of ceremonies, will welcome visitors and make introductory remarks. There also will be a coffee-and-cookies reception.

Open house activities 1-4 p.m. will include a piano player, a balloon twister, book characters and much more, according to the library staff.

Giving thanks

The Westland senior Friendship Center will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with dinner at noon Friday, Nov. 17, at the center at 1119 Newburgh, north of Ford.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. In addition to the traditional Thanksgiving feast, there will be music by the

Tommie James Trio, dancing, sing-alongs and prizes.

Tickets are \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members and are on sale at the Friendship Center. For more information, call (734)

Democratic Club

Westland Democratic Club has changed its October meeting to a meeting at the 11th District Democratic Campaign Office, 13740 Merriman, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Club members will work as phone bank volunteer, calling Democrats and supporters to remind them to vote. The board will not meet prior to the meeting.

Pancake breakfast

Westland Civitan Club will hold an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at Applebee's Restaurant on Warren at Central City Parkway in Westland.

Breakfast includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee, tea or milk.

Tickets are \$6 each with children age 3 and under free. Proceeds will be used for ongoing community projects that enhance the quality of life for those in the Westland community who are physically

and mentally challenged.

Absentee ballots

Westland residents who want an application for an absentee ballot for the Nov. 7 election should call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3188 or (734) 467-3187. Voters who think they might not be able to make it to the polls are encouraged to request an absentee ballot.

Poker game

The St. Theodore's Men's Club will hold at Texas Hold 'Em poker game 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, in the church social hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be available and there also will be a 50/50 raffle. Players must be at least age 18 to play and age 21 to drink. Top prize will be \$500.

The cost is a \$40 buy in and only 110 tickets will be sold in advance. No tickets will be available at the door. For tickets, call Mary at the parish office at (734) 425-4421, voice mail No. 10 or Ken at (734) 634-4898.

Finance talk

The Livonia Board of Education will host the next in its series of "community conversation" meetings, this one focusing on finances and audits, from 6:30-8 p.m. Oct. 30.

A limit of about 25 people will be allowed and those interested should call Suzanne Steffes, executive assistant to the superintendent and board of education, at (734) 744-2510. The meeting will include to three board members and school administrators.

Attention, shoppers

Westland Shopping Center and Macy's will sponsor a half-day "shopping extravaganza" starting at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the mall. The cost is \$25, and the event is open to the first 100 people who respond. The event is being presented by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Guests will report to Macy's for a continental breakfast provided by Panera Bread and a holiday make-up presentation by Clinique.

The day will continue with shopping for holiday gifts at participating merchants. Every participant will receive discounts and giveaways at certain stores. The day will end at 1 p.m. at Lakeshore Grill with lunch and door prize drawings.

To sign up or for more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Toy show

Westland Rotary will hold a toy show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Romanowski VFW Post 6896 in Westland.

There will be new and antique toys, collectibles, non-sport cards, action figures, die cast toys, movie items, model cars, NASCAR, Matchbox, Hot Wheels and more as well as raffle prizes and refreshments.

Admission is \$3 with kids under age 12 free. The VFW Post 6896 is at 28945 Joy Road. For more information, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.

Holiday helpers

Community Hospice is seeking volunteers to help

with its Tree of Memories holiday fund-raiser. Activities include setting up Christmas trees at local businesses, assembling mail pieces, and collecting donations at the Westland Shopping Center exhibit.

No experience necessary, just a desire to help others facing terminal illness. Training will be provided. For more information, call Vicki at (734) 522-4244.

Crafters wanted

Crafters are being sought for a craft show 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland.

Registration is \$20 and must be paid Oct. 28 to hold a spot. The money will be applied to the \$20 table rental charge. Any remaining balance for additional tables must be paid at time of set up. For more information, call Marge at (734) 729-2578 or Jean at (734) 421-0733.

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is seeking crafters for an annual fall craft show that will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. The post is at 28945 Joy Road. Tables and chairs are available. Reservations are needed by Oct. 4. Call Dianna Welchman at (313) 278-3784.

Craft show

The Frost Middle School PTSA hosts its 30th annual Holiday Craft Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the school, 14041 Stark Road in Livonia, west of Farmington Rod and north of I-96.

Admission is \$2. No strollers allowed. More than 170 exhibitors will be featured, plus a lunch room, bake sale and more.

Euchre games

Friday Night Euchre/Pinochle Card Parties start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernardine Parish in Westland. Doors open at 7 p.m. No partner is needed. Admission is \$5 admission includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available. The dates are Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 1, 15, Jan. 7, 5, 12, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16. Call (734) 427-5150.

Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play Bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. Call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Adoption event

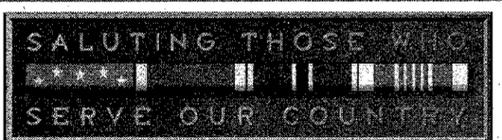
The Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven is hosting an adoption event noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 to raise funds and awareness for pet rescue and help find local, homeless Samoyeds a new home for life at the Petco, 35725 Warren Road, Westland.

Praise and worship

Westwood Community Church holds praise and worship services at 10 a.m. Sundays at 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. The church also offers a children's church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford. The cost \$4 per person for pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available.



Do you have a loved one who served our country in the armed forces? Would you like to give them a special message this Veterans' Day?

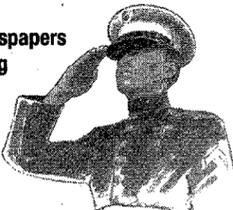


The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will be running a special page devoted to the many men and women who have served or are currently serving our country to protect our freedom, on Thursday, November 9th!

You can place your message and include a photo for only \$10

Send your message with payment by November 1st to ensure that you are included on this page. Be sure to include the Branch of Service and when they served. Send to:

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Attn: Classified Advertising
36251 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150



For more information call
734-953-2070

CITY OF WESTLAND PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeals will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2570-5691 N. Dowling (Postponed from October 18, 2006 meeting)
Request for a non-conforming structure variance from Ordinance 248 in order to construct a 14' x 38' addition to the rear of the existing non-conforming home.

Petition #2573-Cal Sign Company/Harlow Tire, 1849 N. Wayne Road
Request for a ten (10) foot front setback variance from Ordinance 248 in order to install a 36 square foot, ten (10) foot high free-standing sign five (5) feet from the front lot line at the Harlow Tire site.

Petition #2574-665 S. Wildwood
Request for a front yard fence location variance from Section 22-304(3) of the Westland City Code of Ordinances in order to install a 32" high pillar and chain fence in the front yard of the home along the front lot line.

Petition #2575-29124 Eton
Request for a non-conforming structure variance, a 2.4% lot coverage variance, and a 28.81' front yard setback variance from Ordinance 248 in order to construct a 4,879 square foot addition to the southeast side of the existing church building.

Petition #2576-8577 Hubbard
Request for a 2.9 foot front yard setback variance and a 1.5% lot coverage variance from Ordinance 248 in order to construct a 5' x 9' covered front porch addition and a 10' x 14' porch addition to the rear of the existing home.

Petition #2577-30726 Hivelay
Request for a 5.4 foot front yard setback variance from Ordinance 248 in order to construct a 5.5' x 19' covered front porch addition to the existing home.

Petition #2578-8260 Fremont
Request for a four (4) foot front yard setback variance from Ordinance 248 as a result of the construction of a covered front porch addition to the existing.

Publish October 29, 2006

City of Garden City County of Wayne State of Michigan Board of Canvassers Meeting Wednesday, November 8, 2006

This is your official notification of a Board of Canvassers meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 1:00 P.M. in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan to consider the following:

1. Approval of the November 9, 2005 Board Minutes.
2. Canvass and certify results of the City Special Election of November 7, 2006.
3. Adjournment.

Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: November 2, 2006

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

A public accuracy test will be conducted at the time and location listed, for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulating equipment, and programs which will be used to record and tabulate voted ballots for the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan.

Location: Civic Center (City Hall)
6000 Middlebelt
Garden City, Michigan 48135

Date: November 1, 2006
Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
734-793-1620

Publish: October 26 & 29, 2006

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

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EAT HEALTHY ALASKAN COD FILETS \$5.99 lb. SAVE \$1.00 lb.	USDA GRADE A BONELESS • 2-PACK PORK TENDERLOINS \$3.79 lb. SAVE \$1.20 lb.	MADE FRESH HOURLY FRESH GROUND BEEF FROM GROUND ROUND \$2.09 lb. Family Pack 5-10 lb.

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We Accept:

Auto dealer grant helps First Step fund kids' safety program

First Step, Western Wayne County's only agency providing comprehensive services to support victims of domestic and sexual violence, got a \$30,000 grant from the Detroit Auto Dealers Association Charitable Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

The grant money will be used to support and expand First Step's Keeping Kids Safe program, which seeks to increase awareness, provide education, and information regarding family violence and available community resources to elementary aged children, parents and educators. The Keeping Kids Safe program began in 2000 with a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Working with schools and summer camps, the Detroit Auto Dealers Association grant will allow the program to reach over 1,300 new students (primarily third and fourth graders). In addition, follow-up individual sessions and materials will be offered to at-risk students, parents and teachers requesting more information.

"Teaching children about family violence—how to recognize it, how to cope, how to reach out for help—is a key step in reducing violence," said Desiree Herrick, First Step's Children's Program Coordinator. "We are grateful for the support of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, and are excited about the impact this partnership will have on our community."

The sessions will be offered throughout the 2006-2007 school year. Over 40 Wayne County schools have participated in the program to date. Schools interested in having a parent-teacher orientation session and/or receiving the program in their third- or fourth-grade classrooms should call Rebecca Wiggins, Prevention Specialist at First Step at (734) 416-1111, Ext. 208. Sessions will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis as scheduling allows.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, founded in 1984, is a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations commit-

ted to the future of southeast Michigan. The Foundation works to improve the quality of life in southeast Michigan by supporting a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs.

Governed by a board of 50 community leaders, the Foundation makes grants to outstanding charitable projects in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair, Livingston and Washtenaw Counties. The Foundation has assets of \$492 million and, since its inception, has distributed more than \$235 million in 25,159 grants to nonprofit organizations. The Foundation Web site is www.cfsem.org.

ABOUT FIRST STEP

Founded in 1978, First Step is a Wayne County-based service whose mission is to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and to provide services to individuals affected by these crimes. First Step offers shelter, 24-hour assault response, a 24-hour hotline, food, clothing, transportation, legal information, legal clinics, court accompaniment, parenting education, community education/prevention programs, group counseling, individual counseling, transitional supportive housing, aftercare, housing assistance, children's counseling, children's art therapy programs, information and referral. Last year, more than 6,500 people were helped by First Step.

First Step has developed at least five award-winning programs including an on-site medical clinic developed in partnership with Oakwood Healthcare System at the First Step shelter facility. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has partnered with First Step for over five years to bring model-prevention programs to children in Wayne County. First Step's pro-bono legal program was lauded as a model and replicated throughout the state of Michigan.

Prevention of domestic and sexual violence through education, advocacy and appropriate intervention is the ultimate goal of First Step. The work of First Step is based on the belief that domestic and sexual violence are damaging to those individuals directly involved and to society as a whole. For more information, see www.firststep-mi.org

YOUTH ASSISTANCE

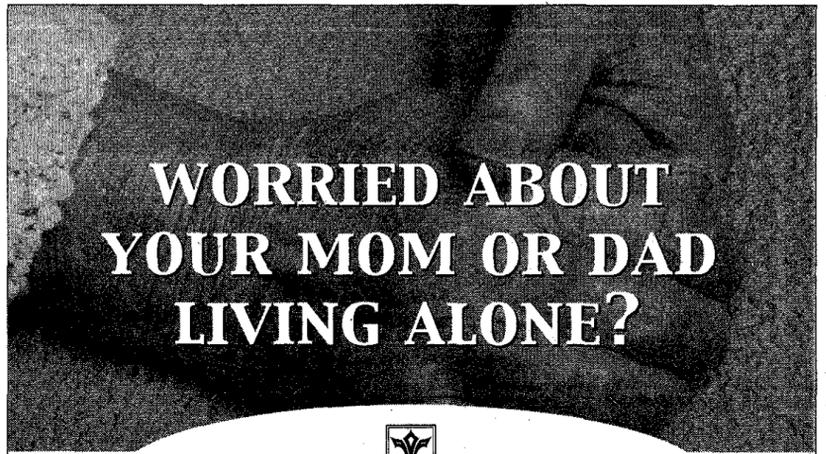
The Westland Youth Assistance Program is at 36701 Ford Road in an addition to the Westland Police Department. The separate glass entrance facing City Hall and comfortable waiting area allows for private, professional, environment to assist families in Westland.

Westland youth ages 7 through 16 are referred to Youth Assistance by the police, courts, schools, parents and other agencies.

Once referred, an intake appointment is scheduled to explain the program's services to the youth and parents (guardians), and to offer them

the opportunity to discuss their concerns and to ask questions. All information discussed is confidential. All services are free to Westland residents.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Evening appointments are available by request. Call (734) 467-7904.



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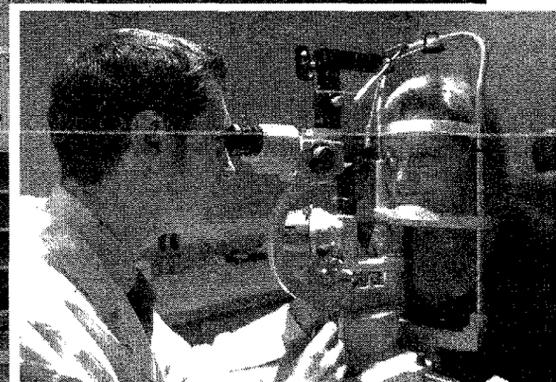
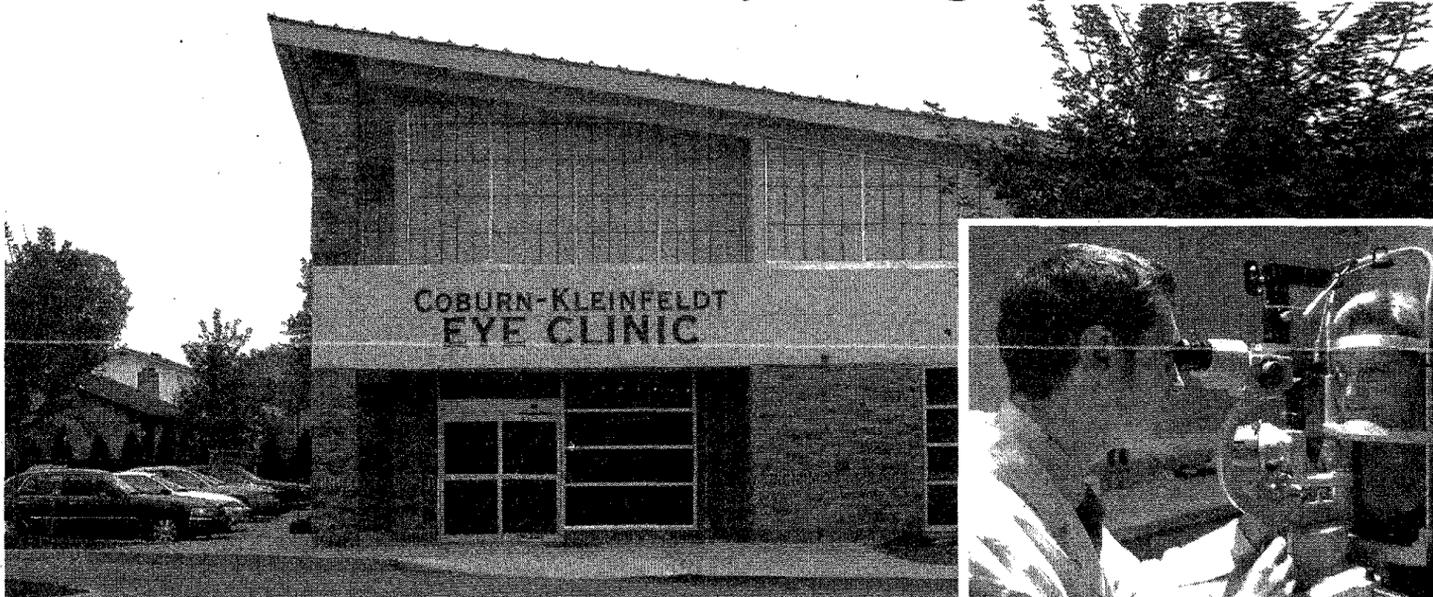
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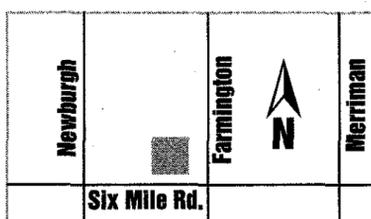
Saturday, November 4th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

FREE
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FREE
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-Macular Degeneration
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-Cataracts

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(734) 421-2020



CITY OF GARDEN CITY

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan:

Notice is hereby given that the General Election will be held in the City of Garden City on,

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006

From 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the regular polling places. Candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices are to be voted upon:

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- United States Senate
- Representative in Congress
- State Senator
- Representative in State Legislature
- County Executive
- County Commissioner
- Delegate to County Convention
- Judge of Third Circuit Court, Non-Incumbent Position Vote 1

The following proposals will also be voted on:

**PROPOSAL 06-1
A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE THAT MONEY HELD IN CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES**

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Create a Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund within the Constitution and establish existing conservation and recreation accounts as components of the fund.
- Use current funding sources such as state park entrance and camping fees; snowmobile, ORV and boating registration fees; hunting and fishing license fees; taxes and other revenues to fund accounts.
- Establish the current Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund within the Constitution.
- Provide that money held in Funds can only be used for specific purposes related to conservation and recreation and cannot be used for any purpose other than those intended.

Should this proposal be adopted?

**YES
NO**

**PROPOSAL 06-2
A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO BAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS THAT GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THEIR RACE, GENDER, COLOR, ETHNICITY OR NATIONAL ORIGIN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR CONTRACTING PURPOSES**

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Ban public institutions from using affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes. Public institutions affected by the proposal include state government, local governments, public colleges and universities, community colleges and school districts.
- Prohibit public institutions from discriminating against groups or individuals due to their gender, ethnicity, race, color or national origin. (A separate provision of the state constitution already prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.)

Should this proposal be adopted?

**YES
NO**

**PROPOSAL 06-3
A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 160 OF 2004 - AN ACT TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUNTING SEASON FOR MOURNING DOVES**

Public Act 160 of 2004 would:

- Authorize the Natural Resources Commission to establish a hunting season for mourning doves.
- Require a mourning dove hunter to have a small game license and a \$2.00 mourning dove stamp.
- Stipulate that revenue from the stamp must be split evenly between the Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- Require the Department of Natural Resources to address responsible mourning dove hunting; management practices for the propagation of mourning doves; and participation in mourning dove hunting by youth, the elderly and the disabled in the Department's annual hunting guide.

Should this law be approved?

**YES
NO**

**PROPOSAL 06-4
A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT GOVERNMENT FROM TAKING PRIVATE PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR CERTAIN PRIVATE PURPOSES**

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Prohibit government from taking private property for transfer to another private individual or business for purposes of economic development or increasing tax revenue.
- Provide that if an individual's principal residence is taken by government for public use, the individual must be paid at least 125% of property's fair market value.
- Require government that takes a private property to demonstrate that the taking is for a public use; if taken to eliminate blight, require a higher standard of proof to demonstrate that the taking of that property is for a public use.
- Preserve existing rights of property owners.

Should this proposal be adopted?

**YES
NO**

**PROPOSAL 06-5
A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY SCHOOL FUNDING LEVELS**

The proposed law would:

- Increase current funding by approximately \$565 million and require State to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, intermediate school districts, community colleges, and higher education (includes state universities and financial aid/grant programs).
- Require State to fund any deficiencies from General Fund.
- Base funding for school districts with a declining enrollment on three-year student enrollment average.
- Reduce and cap retirement fund contribution paid by public schools, community colleges and state universities; shift remaining portion to state.
- Reduce funding gap between school districts receiving basic per-pupil foundation allowance and those receiving maximum foundation allowance.

Should this proposed law be approved?

**YES
NO**

**City of Garden City
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SECTION 7.03 OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY (COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY PROPOSAL)**

A City Charter Amendment is proposed by the City Council to amend Section 7.03 of Article VII of the City Charter to authorize the levy of two-tenths of one per centum of the assessed value (2 mills) on all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City as new additional millage for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing additional funds for acquiring, constructing, financing, equipping and operating a Community Center/Library and appurtenances thereto. It is estimated that 2 mills would raise approximately \$1,369,787 when first levied in 2007. Shall the proposed amendment be adopted?

**YES
NO**

I, RAYMOND J. WOJCIWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of June 22, 2006 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

WAYNE COUNTY			
Local Unit	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increases Effective
County of Wayne	08/08/2000	1 mill	2005 thru 2009
Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency	08/06/1974 11/08/1988 08/06/2002	1 mill 1 mill 1.5 mills	2005 indefinitely 2005 indefinitely 2005 indefinitely
Wayne County Jail	08/06/2002	1 mill	2005 thru 2010
Wayne County Parks	08/02/2005	0.25 mills	2005 thru 2010
OTHER TAXING AUTHORITIES			
Schoolcraft Comm College	10/07/1985	.05 mills	Unlimited
GARDEN CITY SCHOOLS			
Garden City Schools	08/08/2000 06/11/2001 06/10/2002 06/10/2002	1 mill 3.1 mills 18 mills 2 mills	2005 thru 2011 2005 thru (not to exceed 30 years) 2005 thru 2012 2005 thru 2012
GARDEN CITY			
Garden City	05/03/2005	1.3866 mills	2006 thru 2020

The places of voting for the General Election to be held on November 7, 2006 will be as follows:

Precinct 1	Farmington School 33411 Marquette
Precinct 2	Memorial School 30001 Marquette
Precinct 3	Lathers School 28351 Marquette
Precinct 4	Lathers School 28351 Marquette
Precinct 5	Memorial School 30001 Marquette
Precinct 6	Garden City Middle School 1851 Radcliff
Precinct 7	Maplewood Center 31735 Maplewood
Precinct 8	Henry Ruff School 30300 Maplewood
Precinct 9	Civic Center 6000 Middlebelt
Precinct 10	Douglas School 6400 Hartel

All polling places are handicapper accessible. If you anticipate difficulties at your normal polling place please phone the City Clerk's office to arrange an alternate location. Absentee Ballots for this Election are available at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, through 4:00 P.M., Monday, November 6, 2006 to anyone who meets one of the following requirements: Electors age 60 or older; Electors who expect to be absent from Garden City the entire time the polls are open on Election Day; Electors who are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; Electors who cannot attend the polls due to tenets of their religion; or Electors who are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial. Furthermore, any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

In addition to our regular hours, the City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, November 4, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of absentee voting.

**ALLYSON M. BETTIS
CITY CLERK
CITY OF GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN**

Salvation Army's Coats for Kids kicks off today

The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division will today launch its 24th annual Coats for Kids clothing drive in an effort to provide warm coats to 50,000 children in metro Detroit this winter.

The month-long initiative will include radiothons, special events and hundreds of drop-off locations through Thanksgiving Day.

"This is one of the most critical drives we conduct each year," said Major Norman Marshall, divisional commander of The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan.

"What's impressive is how many community leaders have come on

board to help support this important effort."

Lead partner FM 98 WJLB will present the drive's signature event -- the 24th Annual WJLB Coats for Kids Radiothon, Nov. 3-4 at Hoop City Grille in Southfield. The Radiothon will ask for cash donations with which The Salvation Army will purchase new coats.

Hundreds are expected to attend the radiothon with family activities planned and entertainment by national music artists including Marques Houston, Ciara, Pretty Ricky, Lil Scrappy, Shareffa, and Letoya. FM 98 WJLB will broadcast live from the

Southfield restaurant on Friday, Nov. 3 from 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. All ClearChannel stations and FOX2 will begin promoting Coats for Kids events and drop-off information beginning Oct. 30.

Additional Coats for Kids' partners include:

FOX2, also a lead sponsor, which will broadcast hundreds of announcements to garner support for the variety of Coats for Kids events.

LaSalle Bank, which will support the campaign by providing customers the opportunity to make cash and coat contributions at more than 200 branches.

The Detroit Lions, who will hold a major coat drive at the Thanksgiving Day game against the Miami Dolphins on Nov. 23 at Ford Field.

Rasheed Wallace, the Stand Tall with Sheed Foundation and the Detroit Pistons, who continue their support by holding their annual coat and warm clothing drive from Nov. 1-30 at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Cabela's, which will donate new coats to the effort in addition to acting as a drop-off location.

Martinez Dry Cleaning, which will launder and perform simple repairs on the gently used coats donated during Coats for Kids.

Frito Lay, Pepsi and Farmer Jack, who are partnering to make a cash donation to Coats for Kids.

Hennessey Capital, which will support the program with a cash donation. McDonald's, which will host smaller Coats for Kids WJLB radiothons at various locations around metro Detroit during the four days leading up to the main November 3-4 Radiothon at Hoop City Grille.

SMART will be collecting at various bus locations.

For more information on how to make a donation to Coats for Kids, call (866) 985-COAT (2628) or visit www.salvationarmyemich.org.

LEAGUE

FROM PAGE A1

he recognized Shari Greenfield's signature on numerous checks that she wrote to herself and signed.

But Bricker cautioned, "The signatures on there may or may not be genuine."

When Strebbing became league treasurer in 2002, he said the Greenfields didn't allow him to oversee the check books, telling him that he was "too new" to the position.

Although the league is a nonprofit organization, Strebbing testified that its employees were paid for their work. He said Shari Greenfield received \$1,400 every two weeks as vice president for such duties as supervising the league's kitchen workers, handling outside catering services and scheduling building repairs.

Strebbling said he was paid \$300 a week for handling bingo fund-raisers and working as a bartender for certain events. He estimated he worked 35-45 hours a week.

Bricker indicated in court that Shari Greenfield, in writing checks to herself, may actually have been obtaining money to pay bills for insurance policies, furnace repairs and other league business.

However, police and bank witnesses testified Friday that Shari Greenfield deposited some league money into her personal bank account and cashed some checks outright.

Strebbling testified that Neal Greenfield had told league officers at one point that Shari Greenfield had taken some money. Strebbing said the Greenfields also had "personal problems" and that Neal Greenfield ultimately fired Shari Greenfield.

Under questioning from Bokos, Strebbing called it unlikely that checks for several thousand dollars would be made out to Shari Greenfield so that she could pay league vendors in cash.

However, Strebbing said he couldn't say whether Shari Greenfield may have been reimbursing herself for money she was owed by the league.

Meanwhile, Neal Greenfield has told the Observer that he didn't embezzle any money from the league. An earlier larceny charge involving the league was dropped against him after he agreed to plead guilty to cocaine possession, which resulted in a probationary sentence.

Police found cocaine in Greenfield's house in Westland when they executed a search warrant as part of their embezzling investigation.

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

INFORMATION CENTRAL

SCIENCE FICTION @ YOUR LIBRARY

Some of you may have noticed a considerable upheaval in the Science Fiction/Fantasy collection recently at the library.

We have just performed our first thorough analysis and weed of the collection, and some of our older and/or unpopular materials have been pulled - look for them in upcoming book sales. But don't worry. This just gives us more room for up-and-coming authors like Audrey Niffenegger (*The Time Traveler's Wife*) or David Louis Edleman (*Infoquake*).

Of course, we've got all the old favorites, too - Mercedes Lackey, Poul Anderson, Piers Anthony and more.

Speaking of Poul Anderson, we are making a special effort to cover the grand masters - we might not have every one of every master's books, but we should have at least one representative book for each of them, once the reconfiguration is done.

Also, we are attempting to gather most Nebula and Hugo award winning books, though this might be a little difficult for the really early winners.

We're always looking for good books, though, so if you have an author we might not have heard of, let us know.

We are expanding the collection to include more international authors - Canadian, British (MAN are the Brits hot right now ... and yes, we do own Robert Charles Wilson's *Spin*, which just won the Hugo), or you name it.

And we're not forgetting the series - as we all know, why write one science fiction book when you can write a trilogy ... wherever possible, any holes in series are being filled, but, again, science fiction and fantasy books tend to pop in and out of print like starships out of stable wormholes.



Or dragons out of dark caves. Or swords out of scabbards in sword-and sorcery ... Oh, you get the picture.

And don't forget, once a month we all get together to talk about all this - science fiction and fantasy books, films, TV productions, you name it. The last Wednesday of each month, be here, or be a Ferengi. Or bantha fodder. Or a Tribble ... Oh, enough.

Keep up the search for new life and new civilizations here at the library.

Have all your science fiction needs met at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Highlighted Activities

"How can a person 'keep up' these days?": 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6.

Brush up on your coping skills for the holiday. Join popular motivational speaker, Sylvia Rubach for a lively and informative talk to help you on your way to a stress free holiday season. Stop by the library or call to reserve your seat - (734) 326-6123.

Teen Anime/Manga Discussion Club: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7.

All seventh-12th-graders are welcome to join us as Science Fiction @ Your Library.

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

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 Physicians remain divided on the question of how often to inject an inflamed joint. Estimates of that number range from no more than 3 per year to no limit at all. A definitive answer to the question is not possible as the medical literature provides no studies, and individual medical opinion is subject to faulty recall and personal bias.
 Commonly quoted limitations such as three times a year or no more often than every 3-4 months, often are based on concern for infection. But the chance of infection occurring is not related to number but to the circumstances of each individual injection.
 Ultimately, the timing of a joint injection depends on your needs. In particular in arthritis, your doctor's training emphasizes tailoring this common therapy to the particular patient. The decision to undertake injection and to repeat it relates best to expected benefit rather than arbitrary limit.
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It's all in a name

Fish Doctors hook patrons with variety

BY NANCY DEUTSCH
CORRESPONDENT

If your fish is sick, don't despair. Call The Fish Doctors. The Fish Doctors, located on North Lilley in Canton, do more than sell scores of both salt and fresh-water fish and fish supplies in their retail store. They make house and business calls to clean and maintain aquariums, help design large aquariums and stock them with colorful under-water fare, and will diagnose what is wrong if one of your fish is sick, hence the name, said co-owner Juan Yaksic.

"It's what we sell and descriptive of what we do," he said. "Primarily we're a store. We sell corral reef, invertebrates, anemones, crab, salt and fresh-water fish."

They probably sell more of the saltwater fish, he says, and popular species are fairy wrasse and tang, which are very colorful.

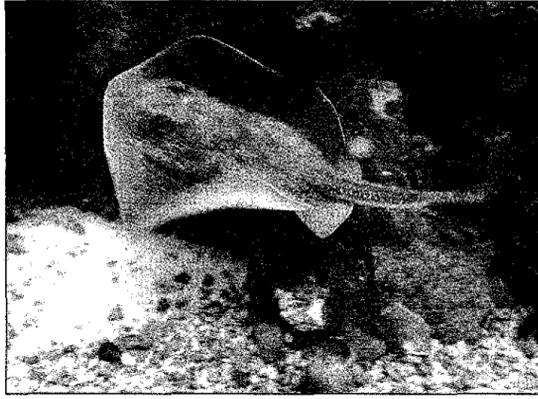
Some types of saltwater fish can live as long as canine pets—up to 15 years, he said. So while some people "get sticker shock" because they are used to fresh-water fish which live for a much shorter time, the price of about \$30 for a saltwater fish is not out of line, Yaksic said. In fact, saltwater fish range in price from about \$18 to several hundred. Some come from as far away as Fiji, he added. "We've got distributors in Florida and Los Angeles."

While most of the tank cleanings in businesses and private residences are done on Friday, Yaksic and partner Marcus Zevalkink try to accommodate customers, he said. "I'm fairly flexible."

Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth keeps a 150-gallon tank. Funeral director Jeff Bell said he's bought fish from The Fish Doctors for about three or four years now. "I'm more into the hard to find stuff," he said.



Juan Yaksic builds and sells and maintains salt water aquariums as well as selling exotic fish.



A small ray, whose larger cousins delivered the coup de grace to Steve Irwin, swims around a tank at The Fish Doctors.

"They find it for me."

He also trusts The Fish Doctors to keep his fish healthy when he's away. "If I go on vacation, they come in and keep an eye on them," he said.

A good-sized residential tank needs to be cleaned about once a month, Yaksic said. A commercial one, like the new 1200-gallon tank at the Canton Center Animal Hospital, needs to be cleaned once a week.

"That's just an awesome tank,"

Yaksic said. "We designed it."

It took a while to find a supplier, Yaksic said, because only a few places in the country make tanks that big. Right now the tank has about 40 to 50 fish, he said. There are more in a separate holding tank while they make sure the fish will get along and are healthy. "We're still stocking fish in there."

The Fish Doctors began their career at the first store in Ann Arbor, Yaksic said. They were a

group of friends with varied backgrounds (Yaksic is a biology major) who opened the store there 15 years ago. When it became profitable, Yaksic and Zevalkink branched off to open the Canton store five years ago. Other friends just opened the most recent store in Trenton, about a year ago, Yaksic said.

In addition to selling and maintaining, the fish doctors also diagnose, usually by phone because it's a bad idea to take a sick fish away from its environment, Yaksic said. Sometimes owners bring in photos of the fish to help in the diagnosis.

From a description by the owner, he can usually tell if the fish has felt aggression from other fish or is genuinely ill, Yaksic said. For regular illness, "we have medicine very much like what you or I would take."

Every now and then, the fish doctors get unusual calls. Yaksic has received calls from panicky owners of venomous lionfish who have been stung, Yaksic said. Unless you are allergic to them, there usually isn't a bad reaction, he said. "I've worked in the business 15 years and I've only seen one person whose arm was swollen" after being bitten, he said.

Coin laundry gets friendly; scrapbooking craze thriving

SOAKING IT IN

When Amy and Leonard Goodlesky decided to go into business, they did so in their hometown, Livonia.

"It's a wonderful city," said Leonard Goodlesky. "When I hear about people moving out of Michigan I say 'That's because they don't live in Livonia.'"

Earlier this month, the couple purchased the coin laundry business located on Joy Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. They've changed the name from Happy Coin Laundry to Friendly Coin Laundry.

The Goodleskys aim to make a name for their new business as being the "best in the city."

"This coin laundry has been there for decades," said Amy Goodlesky. "Grandmothers bring their kids and grandkids. People tell us fond memories of coming there as a child. We want to give them a great experience when they visit our facility."

For Leonard Goodlesky, the building was a sort of local landmark in his grandparents' neighborhood. When the business was put up for sale, he knew he had to snap it up and keep the tradition alive.

The coin laundromat offers a drop-off service, dry cleaning, washing and ironing, and 74 commercial-grade machines. The couple plans to offer contests for free laundry, discounts on services and more for to draw in members of the community.

Leonard Goodlesky said they've already hired four employees and future plans include offering a pick-up and drop-off service that caters to Livonia's residents. Goodlesky said the service would particularly appeal to elderly residents.

"There's a need," he said. "We're really looking forward to getting involved in the community."

Friendly Coin Laundry is located at 28450 Joy Road at Harrison in Livonia. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays, 8 a.m.



to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday though they won't "close on

a customer." For more information, call (734) 522-2454.

GET THE GOLDEN TICKET

Chris Nicholson is ready to hand out the golden tickets.

As owner of Scrappy Chic, a new scrapbooking store coming to Livonia next month, she's found a way to draw attention before the store even opens its doors.

"We will be giving away 100 specially-wrapped chocolate bars, some of which contain Golden Tickets," Nicholson said.

Scrapbooking enthusiasts can win anything from discounted supplies to \$100 worth of classes to a grand prize worth \$2,000.

One in about every four chocolate bars will contain winning tickets. The first chance to try for one will be 7 p.m. this Friday, Oct. 27, at the Country Cupboard, 15970 Middlebelt Road north of Five Mile in Livonia.

"The chocolate bars will be given on a first-come, first-served basis, and each one contains either a coupon or Golden Ticket," said Nicholson. "Lucky ticket-holders will bring them to our Grand Opening week in November to enter to win the Grand Prize."

The store will sell scrapbooking supplies as well as host crops and classes. Scrappy Chic, set to open in early November, will be located at 33509 W. Eight Mile just west of Farmington Road in Livonia.

For more information, call (248) 426-9020 or check the Web site at www.scrappychiclivonia.com.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail future tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to hgallagher@hometownlife.com.



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Making silence leads to drug use recovery movement

I'd like to thank Diane Montes for her efforts in planning and facilitating Save Our Youth Taskforce meeting, but did an even better job planning the meeting. She created a safe and respectful space for people to share their experiences and views.

I spent most of my youth in Livonia and neighboring communities. I used drugs and alcohol for the first time at age 11, developed serious problems by high school, and hit bottom by age 19. This taskforce has been badly needed for a long time. This month I'll celebrate 16 years in recovery. In those years my family relationships have since been healed, I have a satisfying career helping people recover, and I have a wonderful family of my own. As someone with personal and professional experience with addiction, I'd like to offer a few points of perspective on what this force faces.

First, something is not always better than nothing. The history of substance abuse prevention is full of programs that makes adults feel good about doing something, but under closer scrutiny they had little impact and in some cases had a negative impact. For example, a recent study found that viewing anti-drug television ads by the Office of National Drug Control Administration was correlated with increased drug use. It appears that many of the programs created the perception that young people use marijuana at higher rates than they actually do. They changed the viewer's perception of what is "normal" among their peers and many people tend to base decisions on what they believe is normal. This isn't to say that prevention is not worthwhile, the key here is to choose prevention strategies carefully, monitor their impact, and make adjustments as needed.

Second, addiction is a chronic illness. Like many people experience a transitional change that leads to stable recovery on their first attempt, this is always the case. Like other chronic illnesses, the path to recovery is often rocky and not always assured. The good news is that more than 600 scientific papers have concluded that treatment works and consistently find outcomes that compare favorably to hypertension, type

II diabetes and asthma. Third, we appear to be at the end (I hope) of a period in which addiction has been radically recriminalized and demedicalized. In response to the rise of crack cocaine in the 1980s, incarceration rates for drug crimes have skyrocketed.

Federal prison inmates whose most serious conviction was a drug crime rose from 4,749 in 1980 to 77,867 in 2004 (a 1,540 percent increase). In state prisons, they rose from 19,000 in 1980 to 246,100 in 2001 (a 1,195 percent increase), in jails they rose from 20,420 in 1983 to 155,249 in 2002 (a 660 percent increase). In addition, the average term drug offenders entering prison could expect to serve rose from an average 30 months to 66 months from 1986 to 1999 (a 120 percent increase).

While incarceration rates have risen, access to treatment has dramatically decreased. Twenty years ago just about every community hospital in the area had addiction treatment units and many had adolescent treatment units. Almost all of these are gone today and most health plans severely limit access to treatment my imposing coverage limits and high copayments. Health care spending on addiction treatment fell over 73 percent from 1992 to 2001 - this was a period where annual double digit increases in spending are the norm.

Fourth, concerned family members and recovering people are crucial to advocacy efforts to challenge stigma and change social policy. History teaches us that when professional treatment systems collapse, recovering people and loved ones affected by addiction will rise up to create new systems to support recovery and challenge the beliefs that led to demedicalization and recriminalization.

Most people would be surprised to learn that there were relatively large recovery movements and treatment systems in the late 1800s.

By the time prohibition was passed, these systems were destroyed, only to be reborn 20 years later by a new movement of recovering people and their families.

Over the last several years, communities of people affected by addiction have banded together to address these problems. I'd like to thank Diane Montes and the Montes family for breaking the silence and creating conditions for such a movement in Livonia.

Jason Schwartz is a Livonia resident and clinical director of Dawn Farm.

Rotarians reach out to bring life-sustaining water to all

As residents of the "Great Lakes State," it is easy to take safe, clean drinking water for granted. A simple turn of the faucet brings a cheap, unlimited supply of water for drinking, cooking, laundry and watering lawns.

That is why the following statistics from Rotary International and the Centers for Disease Control boggle my mind, and break my heart.

- Consider:
- One in three people in the developing world do not have access to safe drinking water.
 - 1.7 million deaths each year (est.) are caused by unsafe water.
 - An estimated 30,000 children die each week from illnesses linked to unsafe drinking water.

How can it be that in a world so rich, and in a land of such plenty, such a tragedy is allowed to continue to exist? Because for most of us, the untold suffering is out of sight, happening in third-world countries far from our borders and out of the camera lens of the mass media.

But not all is lost. A worldwide effort is under way, spearheaded by Rotary's 1.3 million members belonging to more than 32,000 clubs in 171 countries to ensure that children everywhere have safe, clean and life-giving water available to them.

Rotary clubs everywhere are raising money and partnering with clubs in developing countries to design and install bio-sand filters to make existing water sources safe to drink, and construct deep wells to bring new sources of water to the surface.

One of the more ambitious undertakings is taking place right here in Oakland County. The 80 professional men and women that comprise the Birmingham Rotary Club have partnered with a Rotary club in the Philippines to construct an entire water system to serve a village on the outskirts of Manila.

When completed, the 10 artesian deep wells will bring life-sustaining water to more than 2,600 households and nearly 16,000 people.

Currently, villagers in the Bagong Silang region rely on water being trucked into the village by the local government and have to purchase it on a daily basis.

The stagnant water is responsible for a number of illnesses and diseases caused by parasites and other water-borne contaminants. Local Rotarians have tried to convince the local government to improve the situation, but have been told there is no money to construct the wells.

The Birmingham Rotary Club - of which I am a member and proud to play a small role in the effort - has pledged to raise \$21,000 to pay for the construction of the 10 wells. The local Rotary Club has secured the land where the wells will be built, and has also agreed to help residents pay for electricity and maintenance of the wells. It is a real team effort in the true spirit of Rotary and its motto of "Service above Self."

While the Birmingham Rotarians are spearheading the effort, they are not selfish in taking credit for it. In other words, they need help raising the cash.

Rotary Clubs from surrounding communities are being invited to join in the fund-raising effort; grants from the international Rotary Foundation are being sought, and a 50-50 raffle is being conducted in conjunction with a wine tasting dinner scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the Birmingham Athletic Club.

In addition to the "official" fund-raisers, anyone who wants to help make a real difference in the lives of these underprivileged children and their families can do so by simply writing a check in any amount to the Birmingham Rotary Endowment Fund, and mailing it to the club in care of The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham 48009.

Donations of \$100 or more enters the donor into the 50-50 raffle with a grand prize of up to \$12,500 cash if the maximum 250 tickets are sold.

These are tough times in our state. The auto industry is slumping, home sales are in the tank and the unemployment rate is at or near the highest in the country. Asking people to give money to help children who look different from most of us and live in a place that few have ever visited is no easy task.

In the past week, this newspaper's editorial board interviewed the two major party candidates for governor in next month's elections. As part of the interviews, I asked Republican challenger Dick DeVos to comment on a report that estimated more than \$60 million will be spent just on the governor's race alone, which is unprecedented in our state's history.

DeVos seemed irritated at the question, saying what I was really asking was for him to justify spending so much of his personal fortune on the campaign.

He went on to explain he had to spend lots of money early on to build his name recognition, and then had to continue to spend to combat all of the cash that was pouring into Gov. Jennifer Granholm's political war chest from all over the country. Mr. DeVos has every right to spend his money as he sees fit, and there is no questioning he and his family's long and proud history of philanthropy in the state. A quick trip to the Grand Rapids area is proof of how his family has used its good fortune (and fortunes) to improve the quality of life in their home community.

Still, as I sat in that interview with the thought of this clean water project swirling in the back of my mind, I couldn't help but think that if we can spend more than \$60 million to elect a governor, should it really be so hard to raise \$20,000 to bring health, hope and happiness to so many innocent children.

Joe Bauman is managing editor of the *Eccentric Newspapers*. To learn more about the Philippines clean water initiative, e-mail him at jbauman@hometownlife.com or call (248) 901-2563.



Joe Bauman



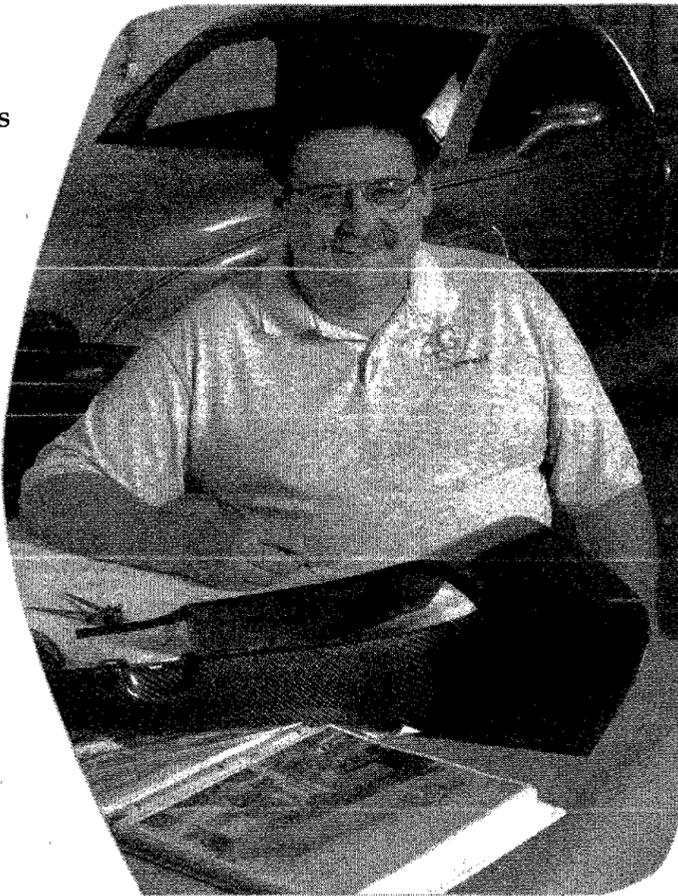
Jason Schwartz

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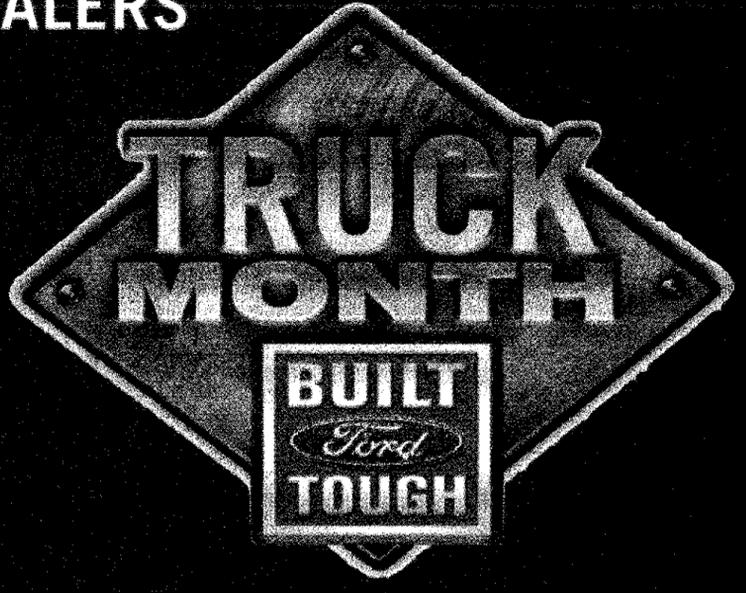
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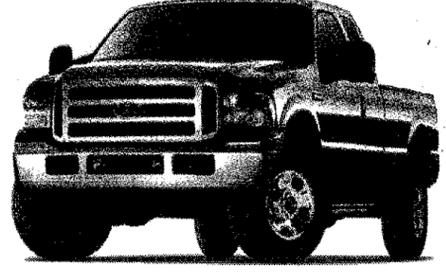
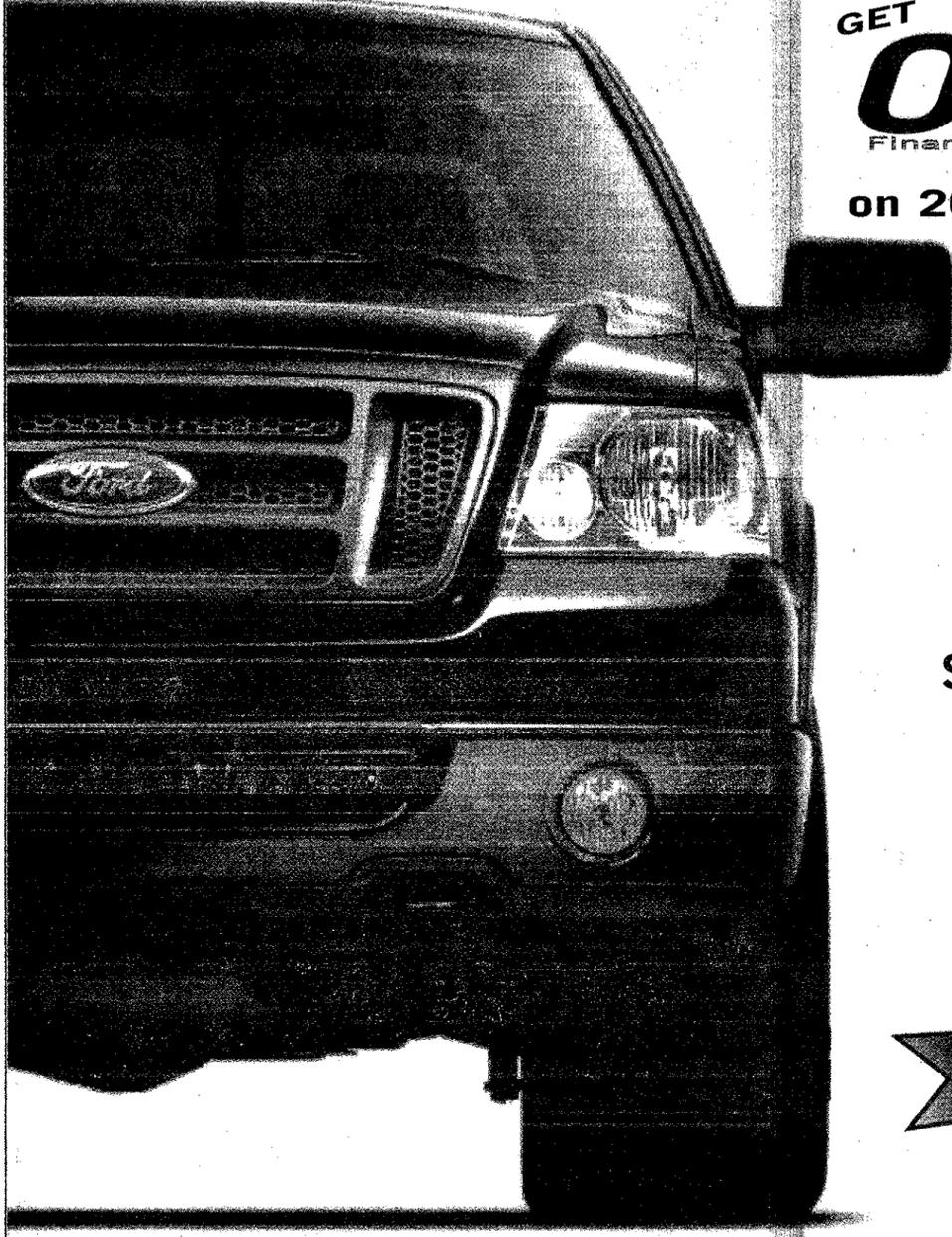
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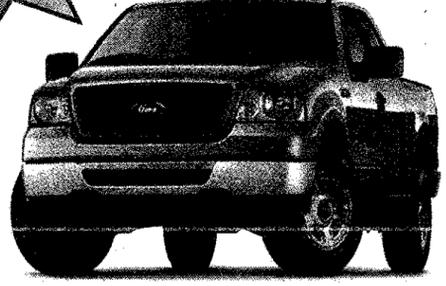
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