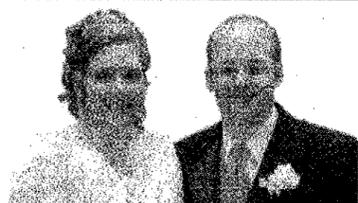


How to tie the knot without going broke

OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C



Prep sports week 7

SECTION B



Assembling your desk drawer survival kit



PINK PAGE C8

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SUNDAY
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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Got the spirit

Wayne Memorial High School mathematics teacher Marji Wright as Minnie Mouse, the coach of the mouse staff dancers, gets the student body into the spirit at the Homecoming pep assembly Thursday. For more on the festivities, see Page A3.

Salvation Army leader aids victims of Katrina

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Capt. Matt O'Neil didn't really know what to expect when he left recently for Biloxi, Miss. "It's a tough scene, but we're working through things," the Wayne-Westland Corps Salvation Army commander said Thursday by cell phone. He's working in pastoral ministry, offering counseling, spiritual direction and hope to Hurricane Katrina victims.



O'Neil finds that God is working through him in ministry. It was difficult to leave his family, wife Mindie who's expecting their third child and their two other children.

"It's almost unexplainable," said O'Neil, who's seen construction crews at work and some improvement since his Sept. 28 departure. "For a while there it was pretty rough with people coming back to see their homes. It's a slow process down here."

"He does share what he's doing," Mindie, who shares her husband's rank and duties, said Thursday from Westland. They talk about the office and family. "He's doing all right."

O'Neil, who will be coming back next week, has seen some frustration among people that cleanup isn't faster. He's staying at a nearby hotel which sustained some water damage.

O'Neil urged that those who are helping provide monetary donations, as items don't always reach those they're intended for. "I see lots of donations from people all over the place," he said.

"People are camping out in tents all over the place," he said, adding that the Salvation Army is serving

Salvation Army donations may be made by calling (877) SAL-MICH or (800) SAL-ARMY.

"I'm looking forward to coming home," he added.

Backpack project helps kids with their studies

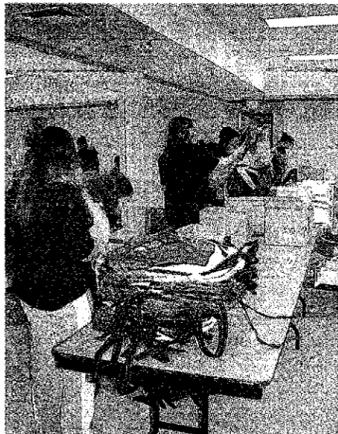
BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

If you'd been at the Bailey Center on Wednesday afternoon, you would have seen some busy teen volunteers spending a couple hours packing backpacks. "They were workers," said Lou Toarmina, a local businessman and head of the Norwayne's Good News

effort. "It was like a little assembly line." The teens packed blue and gold backpacks (Wayne Memorial High colors) for children, who will attend Wayne High when they're older. The backpacks, with the Westland Community Foundation and Westland Rotary logos, were filled with notepads,

PLEASE SEE **BACKPACK, A6**

Volunteers form an assembly line to fill the yellow and blue backpacks destined for students at Wayne-Westland elementaries.



Brazier: City issues include attracting new business

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council candidate Normie Brazier cited trash-hauling contracts, redevelopment and financial concerns as the top three issues facing elected leaders.

Brazier, 58, is making her second bid for a \$12,150-a-year council seat in the Nov. 8 election. She is one of eight candidates for four seats.

When asked to cite the top three issues facing the city, Brazier said, "The city trash contracts, redevelopment and attracting additional businesses to fill vacancies, and the financial health of the city."

"I will look at the trash contract diligently, impartially and look for the best service and value that will also include curbside recycling with no additional cost to the taxpayers," she said. "Four years ago, I said Westland needed to establish a program matching new busi-



Brazier

ness with existing vacant buildings - however, not just any new business.

"I will be very selective choosing those that fit well in our community such as service-based, retail, entertainment and light manufacturing to help increase our tax base."

A corporate sales manager with a major hotel, Brazier is a mother of four adult children. She graduated from Redford High School in Detroit.

Her community involvement includes serving on the Westland Planning Commission, the Westland Disabilities Committee, the SPARK (Sports, Parks & Recreation for Kids) Foundation, the Kicks for Kids soccer program, the Concrete Jungle skate park, the Westland Summer Festival committee,

PLEASE SEE **BRAZIER, A4**

Brist: Public safety, senior services are top priorities

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council candidate Lori Brist cited public safety, senior services and recreation as the top three issues that city leaders need to address.

Brist, 38, is making her first bid for a \$12,150-a-year council seat in the Nov. 8 election. She is one of eight candidates for four seats.

When asked to identify the top three issues facing the city, Brist said, "The safety of our children and families is the most important foundation of a community. Ensuring adequate staffing in the police and fire departments will top my list."

"We need to explore the possibility of additional transportation services for older adults (and) a well-developed outreach program," she said. "As a former Senior Resources Department director, I recognize that continuing to improve the quality of life for our older adults is



Brist

an ongoing challenge.

"An enhanced recreation complex that will serve all ages is needed," Brist said. "I would like to research partnering with large corporate sponsors or private investors to assist with this project."

Brist, president of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, is a married mother of two. She is a John Glenn High School graduate and completed the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University in 2005.

Her community involvement includes chairing the Downtown Development Authority and the Tax Increment Finance Authority. She has served on a Westland Youth Assistance task force and on the Wayne-Westland school dis-

PLEASE SEE **BRIST, A4**

Westland ELECTION 2005

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

In today's Observer, we begin a series about the eight candidates competing for four seats in the Nov. 8 Westland City Council race. Voters will choose among four incumbents - Cheryl Graunstadt, Michael Kehrer, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlemyer - and four challengers: Normie June Brazier, Lori Brist, James Davis and Robert Thomas. The top three vote-getters will earn four-year terms. Fourth-place finisher will win a two-year term.

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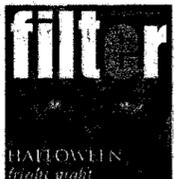
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Coming Thursday in Filter



Scary places, parties and clubs in next week's Filter

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32nd Degree Masons sponsor walk to benefit learning center

The Nankin Mills shelter in Hines Park will be the starting point of a 5K Walk aimed at generating awareness and raising funds to help children with dyslexia.

Sponsored by the 32nd Degree Masons from the Valley of Detroit, the 5K "Walk to Help Children with Dyslexia" will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16. The 3.1-mile is open to the public. There is a \$15 registration fee for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under.

Walkers will receive free commemorative T-shirts and water bottles as well as refreshments. Interested persons may call (248) 689-8519 or the Children's Learning Center at (313) 832-2084, or log online to for more information.

Pledges also are being collected for walkers for the Children's Learning Center. The Valley of Detroit 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Center for Children presently tutors 30 children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities at no cost to the children or their families. It also has more than 20 chil-



Showing off the proclamation are Donald A. Sedestrom, past trustee of the 32nd Degree Masons, Valley of Detroit, and 5K Walk committeeman; Corbin P. Elliott, 32nd Degree Masons, Valley of Detroit Officer, and 5K Walk committeeman; Mayor Sandra A. Cicirelli; City Clerk Eileen DeHart; Dennis R. Williamson, executive secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Valley of Detroit; and Robert W. Pate, officer of the Valley of Detroit.

dren on its waiting list. There are currently 53 Masonic Learning Centers for Children in 15 Northern Jurisdiction states, which provide professional tutoring, free of charge, to more than 1,200 children from kindergarten through high school.

The Learning Centers are open to all children regardless of economic status, race, religion

or Masonic affiliation. The Learning Centers use the state-of-the-art Orton-Gillingham method of one-on-one tutoring.

To help promote the event, Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli recently gathered with members of the 32nd Degree Masons from the Valley of Detroit in issuing a proclamation declaring October as Dyslexia Awareness Month in Westland.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Are you interested in ghosts and the afterlife? Do you know what kinds of sounds a ghost makes? Are you scared of things that go bump in the night? Not sure if you believe in ghosts?

A 2003 Harris poll found that 51 percent of the public believe in ghosts, including 65 percent of those age 25-29.

Even if you're a skeptic, the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland has something that could satisfy your curiosity about the paranormal: If you're looking for a good scary story, you might want to take a look at some of the many ghost tales that the library owns.

Jeff Belanger's *World's Most Haunted Places* might be a good choice, if you're planning a field trip. For those sites a little closer, try *Ghost Stories of Michigan* by Dan Asfar.

If you're not quite sure what to believe, Tom Ogden's *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Ghosts and Hauntings*, and Brad Steiger's *Real Ghosts, Restless Spirits, and Haunted Places* might be good places to start.

Need visual proof of the supernatural?

Check out some of the video material at the library has: *True Tales of America's Haunted Houses*, *Haunted Lighthouses of the Great Lakes*, *America's Most Haunted Inns and The Complete Guide to Channelling*.

If you're interested in meeting someone who likes to track ghosts and wants to share his knowledge with others, join us at the library at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, when Tom Lundy of the Ghost Hunters of Southeastern Michigan (GHOSM) will be here.

GHOSM is a group of people from Southeast Michigan who all share an interest in the paranormal. A question and answer period will be held after the Powerpoint presentation.

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. Oct. 18. Join us as we discuss *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

Preschool Fair: 7-8 p.m. Nov. 7. Do you have a child about to enter preschool? Learn more about area preschools at our Preschool Fair.

Several area preschools will have their representatives available to relay information and answer your questions. No registration required. Call the Children's Services Department at (734) 326-6123 for more information.

The William P. Faust Public Library at 6123 Central City Parkway is open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

YWCA announces award winners

Eight women are in line for awards after being selected as Women of Achievement by the YWCA of Western Wayne County.



The YW has selected, Kathleen Ligocki as the 2005 Woman of the Year. Ligocki is president and CEO of Tower Automotive as well as a founding member of the Women's Leadership Forum, a teaching/charitable organization affiliated with the Women's Economic Club of Detroit.

The YWCA will host its 14th Annual Women of Achievement Awards and 50th Anniversary Celebration Thursday, Oct. 27, at the Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn.

Also being honored are:
 ■ Tawney Rose Fay of Dearborn, a student at Edsel Ford High School, in the Young Woman of Achievement.

■ Anisa Abdul-Ghafoor of Dearborn in Woman of Achievement-Professions. Ghafoor is a physicians assistant for ACCESS Health and Research Center in Dearborn.

■ Lucille Flint of Romulus as Woman of Achievement-Volunteer. Flint is President of the Western Wayne NAACP.

■ Kari Guido of Dearborn as Woman of Achievement-Arts. Guido is an art teacher at Sacred Heart School. She is the creative mind behind the "Stray Cat Strut" in Dearborn.

■ Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, as Woman of Achievement-Government. Toy represents the state's 6th

District in Lansing.
 ■ Francis Mifsud of Canton as Woman of Achievement-Senior.

■ Jumana Judeh of Dearborn as Woman of Achievement-Business. Judeh is owner of Judeh and Associates in Dearborn.

The awards luncheon Eleanor M. Josaitis, CEO and co-founder of Focus:HOPE, as the mistress of ceremonies. Ligocki will be the keynote speaker.

The program include a silent auction and special recognition of all past women of achievement. The silent auction begins at 11 a.m. and ends at noon. The awards ceremony begins at 12:15 p.m. Doors open at 10:45 a.m. Tickets are \$40, and \$400 for tables of 10. For tickets or for more information, call the YWCA of Western Wayne County Women of Achievement Department at (313) 561-4110.

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Juniors Adam Gorring and Nalise Smith, who teamed up to win the fairy tale obstacle course, eat their way through Snow White's poison caramel apples.



Wayne Memorial seniors LaDwan Jones (left), Gary Greene (right) and Nicole Franklin (behind) with their classmates win the tug of war over the other classes, but lost to the staff during the Homecoming pep assembly.

Fairy tales come true at Wayne Homecoming

Fairy tales – Dreams Come True, and they did for senior Alexandra Worthy who found out Friday evening she had been selected Wayne Memorial High School's 2005 Homecoming queen.

Worthy was the big winner in voting Friday. Members of her court include Teal Christoffersen, Kellee LaBean, Jessica Puschak and Alisha Schrader.

The excitement started Monday with students paying a \$1 to participate in Hat Day and Crown Day. Tuesday was set aside as Couple Character Day in which students were invited to pair up and dress like their favorite fairy tale character.

Wednesday was fairy tale prince and Princess Day, while Thursday afternoon students packed the Alumni Arena for the annual pep assembly where the Wayne High cheerleaders took time to pep up the crowd.

The got help from the staff dancers – Dewie Cole, Linda Coleman, Sandra Morante, Jan Pennington, Tim Purcell, Joni Van Campenhout, Kim Sharplin, Nicole Vasiloff, Katie Sullivan, Gretchin Thomas and Principal John Albrecht – coached by Minnie Marjorie, the Wright mouse for the job, also known as mathematics teacher Marji Wright.

In the class competition, freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors put their strength to the test in tug-of war and the bragging rights to repre-



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Memorial Homecoming Court includes: Alexandra Worthy (from left), Alisha Schrader, Jessica Puschak, Kellee LaBean and Teal Christoffersen.

sent the student body in a tug of war with members of the staff.

There also was a fairy tale obstacle course that included a pie eating contest called Cinderella's pumpkin, Aladdin's and Jasmine's magic carpet ride, Snow White's poison caramel apples, Dance with the Zebra Beast and find a matching pair of Cinderella's slippers.

It all led to final station –

kissing a frog.

Members of the JROTC program and its Step Team also participated in the festivities.

Friday afternoon the marching band took to the halls to serenade students during sixth hour, a prelude to the Homecoming parade at 5:15 p.m. and the Homecoming game at 7 p.m.

Closing out the weekend was the Homecoming dance.



2005 Homecoming queen Alexandra Worthy

Seeing blue

IKEA on schedule to open next summer

Canton residents may not be feeling blue, but they certainly are seeing it. A lot of it, in fact. The first big blue walls to the IKEA furniture store, scheduled to open next summer at Haggerty and Ford, went up last week.

Under construction on 21 acres at the intersection just west of I-275, the future 311,000-square-foot IKEA Canton will be the first IKEA store and restaurant destination in Michigan, and 28th in the U.S. The IKEA stores nearest the Detroit area are near Chicago and in greater Toronto. In addition to 500 construction jobs created to build the Swedish furniture superstore, more than 400 employees will be needed when the new store opens.

"With the store's structure now formed and blue paneling going up, we definitely are on track to a grand opening next summer," said Joseph Roth, IKEA public affairs director. "We hope to be fully enclosed before winter, and cannot wait to open IKEA Canton in summer 2006."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The blue walls of IKEA Canton rise from the site of what was a Super Kmart. The store, which will be enclosed by winter, is expected to be ready for its grand opening next summer.

IKEA currently has more than 220 stores in 33 countries, including 25 in the U.S., where other stores are being planned in: Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dublin, Calif.; Round Rock, Tex.; Somerville, Mass.; Stoughton, Mass.; and West Sacramento, Calif.

For three consecutive years, IKEA has been named to *Working Mother* magazine's annual list of the "100 Best

Companies for Working Mothers" and *Training* magazine's annual "Top 100" ranking of companies that excel at human capital development – as well as to this year's "FORTUNE's 100 Best Companies to Work For" list. To visit the IKEA Web site, visit www.ikea-usa.com. For information about working at IKEA, visit <http://JobsAt.IKEA-usa.com>.

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Healthcare employee receives state honor

A Hope Healthcare Center employee has won the CNA of the Year Award from the Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM).

Marion Johnson received the award for the exceptional care she provides residents as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) at Hope Healthcare Center in Westland.

For 14 years, she has comforted residents with her soulful voice, singing gospel songs that her residents know and love. Even when Johnson is caring for her residents' daily needs, Johnson does so with a gentle touch and kind words. Nothing is routine and every day is special.

To Johnson, every family member is unique. She always makes time to share a prayer, shed a tear and lend words of inspiration.

And when her coworkers need her, Johnson is there. In fact, she founded the Star Committee, a group of CNAs that strives to boost the morale of CNAs and to create a better environment for residents.

Her rare combination of grace and strength has earned Johnson recognition from her corporate company, Sava Senior Care, which voted her CNA of the Year. She sits on the company's CNA Professional Advisory Council and as a member of the council, she contributed to the book "101 Ways to Know If You're a CNA."

Marie Hall, administrator of Hope Healthcare Center, said Johnson deserves many thanks for the special role she plays at the facility.

"I have been in long-term care for many years and Marion will always stand out in my heart and mind as the perfect example of the consum-



Marion Johnson, who won the won the CNA of the Year Award from the Health Care Association of Michigan, is known for comforting residents at Hope Healthcare Center with her soulful voice.

mate professional with the heart and soul of angel," she said.

A family member echoed Hall's appreciation.

"She is an amazing person and truly an angel of mercy," said a resident's daughter. "I can think of no person more deserving of this award than Marion Johnson."

These words of praise earned Johnson HCAM's prestigious CNA of the Year Award.

"Marion is a professional in the truest sense of the word," said HCAM President/CEO Reginald Carter. "She has a gift of caring for others, and her gift inspires all of us."

On Sept. 20, HCAM honored Johnson in an award ceremony at its annual convention in Mt. Pleasant. She was featured in the association's video award presentation, which HCAM hosted.

BRAZIER

FROM PAGE A1

Westland Civitans, Women of Westland, the Athena Chocolate Fantasy Ball, Wayne-Westland Special Olympics and Relay for Life. She helped lobby for a Westland ethics ordinance.

Here's how Brazier responded to other questions posed by the *Observer*:

Why are you running for a Westland City Council seat, and what are your best qualifications?

I am committed to our community and chose to run to help make our city prosper, promoting Westland as being positive and progressive. Issues need to be decided remaining impartial, positive and using good, old-fashioned sense.

As a planning commissioner and vice chair of the city's Disabilities Committee, I have gained both valuable experience and knowledge. As a businesswoman, I possess the skills

needed to negotiate and comprehend contracts (and) budgets and to look at long-term goals.

Being a parent of a special-needs son has also really taught me the value of patience, love and understanding.

If the city's financial position were to worsen and budget cuts became necessary, how would you trim spending?

Although Michigan continues to struggle economically, Westland's budget is balanced, has increased and (is) in the black. So as to maintain city services and avoid layoffs should budget cuts become necessary, the city will need to go back and re-evaluate each vendor/supplier contract in order to maximize every dollar. We would need to seriously evaluate any new employee hiring.

What can be done to attract new businesses and new residents to Westland?

We need to actively solicit

and court the type of businesses that will be a good fit for our community, not wait for them to come to us. There needs to be a growth in entertainment venues making the city a destination point so people will spend their entertainment dollars in Westland and not in surrounding communities.

Westland needs to be presented and thought of in a positive, progressive, ethical image to stop the migration from our city.

Many residents say the city needs to be cleaned up, and a new blight ordinance has been approved to help with that. Will it work, and how long will it be before residents notice a difference?

The blight ordinance covers many different facets. It forces landlords to be held accountable for the condition of the premises they rent out so as to provide a safe environment for people to live.

As with any new ordinance of this magnitude, it takes time

to see the effects and changes. Those changes cannot happen overnight. The ordinance will work but it will take time so as to ensure it is done effectively, correctly and in a safe manner. A prime example is the old Cooper School remediation project.

How would you rate the city of Westland for the services it provides to residents - poor, average, above average or excellent? What improvements or changes need to be made?

I feel Westland provides many excellent services to its residents. However, we are remiss in not having a recycling program.

Many citizens have expressed their concern over the fact that all our neighboring communities have this service, and why don't we? The recycling program remains an absolute must without any additional cost to the taxpayers.

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BRIST

FROM PAGE A1

trict's improvement committee.

She served on a committee that authored the city's ethics ordinance and has volunteered with organizations including the Winterfest committee, the Westland Police Officers Association, the Westland Goodfellows, Relay for Life and the Family Resource Center's welfare advisory board.

Here's how Brist responded to other questions posed by the *Observer*:

Why are you running for a Westland City Council seat, and what are your best qualifications?

I have decided to run for city council because I feel it is time to take my commitment to public service to the next level. I have served on city boards and commissions for years, making recommendations.

I have very proficient analytical skills and an ability to see all sides of an issue. I am prepared to be one of the individuals that helps determine what happens in our city.

As a strong and independent individual, I am capable of standing up for what I believe in and I am also capable of understanding and respecting the opinions of others.

If the city's financial position were to worsen and budget cuts became necessary, how would you trim spending?

With the new technology the city is implementing, we will see an improvement in the ability to be more efficient, which will ultimately reduce the costs of providing city services. I would also like to see us continue to bid out products and services and further consolidate our purchases to save money.

What can be done to attract new businesses and new residents to Westland?

There are many things that

can be done to attract new businesses and residents to our city. The most important and first thing I would like to do would be to develop a marketing piece that reflects the true image of our city.

This piece would be utilized by our various departments in the city, such as the Economic Development Department and the Planning Department. This piece would be distributed to potential developers, residents and businesses.

Many residents say the city needs to be cleaned up, and a new blight ordinance has been approved to help with that. Will it work, and how long will it be before residents notice a difference?

Having the appropriate staffing in place is one way to ensure the success of this new ordinance.

A strategic plan needs to be in place to address the complaints on a regular basis. If these two elements are implemented, then I feel we will see

an immediate difference in our community.

How would you rate the city of Westland for the services it provides to residents - poor, average, above average or excellent? What improvements or changes need to be made?

There are some services we provide in our city that are exceptional. An example: the senior home chores program. This service provides grass-mowing, leaf-raking and snow removal for seniors who are physically and financially unable to take care of the chores.

We do not have a recycling program in place at this time. I feel it is our responsibility as a community to recycle the waste that it generates. I also feel that there are enough people in the community who will volunteer their time to this worthy cause. A volunteer program would make it less cost-prohibitive.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Octoberfest

The Westland senior citizen Friendship Center will host an Octoberfest noon to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21. The event will include a German feast including sausage and sauerkraut, crispy chicken, meatballs and other items.

There will be line dancing, including many dances for beginners.

Tickets are \$8 for Friendship Center members and \$10 for guests.

Town Hall

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli will have her next Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at Hayes Elementary School, 30600 Louise, south of Ann Arbor Trail and east of Merriman. All residents are welcome to make comments or ask questions of Cicirelli and her administration.

Mark your calendars

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Harris Kehr VFW Post 3323 has plenty of things going on during October and November.

As a fund-raiser for the VA Hospital and PAC projects, the ladies will be hosting a psychic fair with readings by Mystiques West 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.

On Saturday, Oct. 29 the auxiliary will conduct a chili cook-off and bake sale auction at 5:30 p.m. at the post at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 721-9879 after 5 p.m. for more information.

On Saturday, Nov. 5 and 19, the auxiliary will be holding marathon bingos noon to 5 p.m.

Halloween happenings

The Westland Jaycees is spooking up the neighborhood with their haunted house in the east parking lot of the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Ghouls, ghosts and screams await older children, teens and adults 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday and 7-10:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. It will close Monday-Wednesday, Oct. 10-13 and 17-20.

A special Friendly Haunted House event is planned for Saturday, Oct. 22. The haunted house will open one hour earlier to provide a friendly monster

night for smaller children. Call (734) 637-8415.

The Jaycees also will be offering a Friendly Monster Lunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, at the haunted house for kids under 12 years of age. The cost is \$1 per child and adults and includes lunch with some friendly monsters, face painting, pumpkin painting, games and a Moonwalk. Call (734) 226-0400.

Youngsters also will meet some friendly Halloween creatures in the forest at the annual Halloween Walk Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 27-29. The walk is sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, Westland Civitan Club, Dad's Athletic Club of Westland and the Westland Breakfast Lions Club.

Families will be guided on a walk through Central City Park where they'll meet the Neighbors of the Forest, including Little Bo Peep, the Friendly Troll and many others.

The non-scary, guided tour event created for younger children. Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes. Proceeds generated from this event benefit the Fun-4-All Fund that enables children from financially stressed families to participate in our various programs.

Tours start every 10 minutes beginning at 6:30 p.m. through 9 p.m. This program runs rain or shine. If there is rain, tours will take place inside the Bailey Center. Pre-registration is required, a tickets are available at the Bailey Center. The cost is \$3 per person.

Kids also can get spooky with Mad Science of Oakland and Macomb Counties, in a Friday, Oct. 28, program sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department.

Count Eggbert and Countess Eggberta will be at the Bailey Center for a special science and magic show that includes the melting wicked witch, bubbling potions, flying eyeballs, spider web cotton candy, hover craft demo, vortex generators and more. And kids will need to watch for foggy dry-ice storms, bubbling potions, giant balls floating in midair, flashy reactions that go poof.

The show for kids age 10 years of age and under is 6:15-7:30 p.m., and there will be a show for those 7 years of age and up 7:45-9 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.

Tickets are now available. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

For more information, call Mad Science of Oakland and Macomb Counties at (248) 293-0983 or e-mail them at madscioakland@yahoo.com.

Gala fund-raiser

Spectrum Human Services Inc. and Affiliated Companies will host the 2005 Celebration of Stars annual gala fund-raising event Friday, Oct. 21, at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include music, dinner, dancing and live and silent auctions. Special musical guests will be The Billy Rose Quartet, while the special guest will be national child welfare expert Carl Latona. Tickets for the event cost \$125. For more information, call Nikita Cargins at (734) 458-8736, Ext. 6701.

Support meeting

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All are welcome.

Candy check

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

Seniors flu shots

The Village of Westland will once again offer a limited number of flu shots to the seniors ages 65 and older 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14. Call (734) 762-8895 to schedule an appointment. The Village of Westland is located at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman.

Car donation

People with a car to donate can give it to Veterans Haven. The organization is accepting cars, running or not running, that are given to veterans to provide them with transportation to work, school of medical needs. To date, the agency has given away more than 250 vehicles and

three fully furnished mobile homes to needy veterans. To donate, call Veterans Haven at (734) 728-0527 or go to vetshaveninfo.org on the Internet.

Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Church is having a Las Vegas Party 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 21, at the church, located on the southwest corner Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland.

There will be blackjack, table games, hourly raffles and nonsmoking Blackjack rooms. Admission will be \$7 and includes food (hot dogs, potato salad), pop and potato chips. Beer available at \$1 per glass. Call (734) 427-5150.

St. Bernardine Men's Club also is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16, Jan. 6, Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 17 and Feb. 24. Participants don't need a partner to play. Snacks and soft drinks are included in the \$5 charge. Games start at 7:30 p.m.

Craft show tables

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women's craft show Saturday, Oct. 22.

The show will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall, 8200 Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) to reserve a table.

Crafters are needed for the annual Holiday craft show at Hawthorne Valley on Nov. 27. For information, call Sue or Paul at (734) 844-3128.

Crafters are still needed for the 19th annual Delta Kappa Gamma juried show on Saturday, Oct. 15. The show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth Township. Call Jan at (734) 844-1707 or e-mail to theways@comcast.net for more information.

Edison Elementary will have its Holiday Bazaar 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the school, 34505 Hunter at Wildwood, Westland. There will be 25 vendors, door prizes and bake sale. Admission is \$2. Children will not be allowed in the show area, however, there will be baby-sitting and crafts for available. Proceeds will benefit the Edison PTO.

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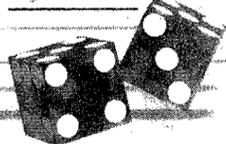
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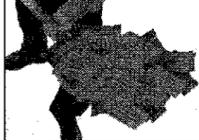


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BACKPACK

FROM PAGE A1

pencils and pens, crayons and rulers. The backpacks, about 700 in all, will go mostly to Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns elementaries, said Toarmina, a Westland resident. Also receiving some backpacks are Hicks Elementary and the Salvation Army. Toarmina publishes a newsletter in Westland's Norwayne area, and advertisers are among those whose efforts support the backpack project. The E-salon, businessman Sam Corrado, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, the William P. Faust Public Library and National City Bank are among others who supported the endeavor with donations. "I dropped them off this morning," Toarmina

said Thursday, noting schools will quickly distribute the stuffed backpacks to children. "It's wonderful for this community," said Jefferson-Barns Principal Michael Holuta. "We have enough for every student. We really appreciate that he has been a supporter of our school for a long time." Having the supplies helps kids with organization and achievement, he added. "Some of our parents have already seen them," he said. "The parents in our community greatly appreciate that help." The backpacks, which are all the same, help provide a sense of teamwork, Holuta added. "When children feel that way, they have a chance for improving their achievement and success," he added.



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FOR THE RECORD

B
Roy A. Bremer
Bremer, 64, formerly of Southfield, died Sept. 30.

C
Beverly D. Chudy-Estes
Chudy-Estes, 72, of Farmington Hills, died Oct. 3.

D
Frederic C. Doletzky
Doletzky, 76, of Westland, died Oct. 5.

F
Parker C. Finn
Finn, 73, of Beverly Hills, died Oct. 5.

J
Evelyn Jewell
Jewell, 67, of Westland, died Oct. 6.

L
Randall "Randy" Lockey
Lockey, 56, of Oviedo, Fla., died Sept. 23.

M
Isabell M. Maurer
Maurer, 93, of Livonia, died Oct. 5.

Joanne E. McCarthy
McCarthy, 64, of Plymouth Township, died Sept. 27.

N
Ethel C. Nelson
Nelson, 99, of Pontiac, formerly of Clarkston, died Oct. 6.

O
Kenneth D. Ockerman
Ockerman, 78, of Farmington Hills, died Oct. 1.

FOR THE RECORD appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life section in *Passages* on page C4.

R
Maxine Rumpa
Rumpa, 75, of Delaware, Ohio, formerly of Garden City, died Oct. 1.

S
Stella Szamborski
Szamborski, 86, of Farmington, died Oct. 3.

W
Lena M. Wahl
Wahl, 96, of Auburn Hills, died Sept. 4.

Krystyna Wierzbicki
Wierzbicki, 54, died Oct. 6.

Ernest A. Wilhelmi
Wilhelmi, 63, of Plymouth, died Oct. 6.

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Focus:HOPE - steps in the right direction

There's a lot of walking for us to do in Michigan and America today, Sunday, Oct. 9. Focus:HOPE, our nationally renowned human rights organization, sponsors its annual walk for diversity. Focus:HOPE seeks to make the world better — one step at a time.

Three events remind of us how far we have yet to go to end racial and ethnic inequality, injustice and discrimination.

REMEMBER VINCENT CHIN

Vincent Chin was a Chinese-American who was beaten to death in 1982 by two white displaced auto workers. The men believed they had lost their jobs on account of Japanese competition in the auto market. They chose to take out their anger on Vincent Chin.

Today, Asian bashing is back in full swing. Two angry men beat Vincent Chin to death, yet all of society must bear responsibility for setting the stage. Years ago it was acceptable to blame the Japanese for the auto industry's downward spiral. Today, the target of our economic fear is the Chinese.

Michigan is once again facing an economic downturn. We are experiencing the nation's worst jobless rate. Racial and ethnic intimidation is often exacerbated in tough economic times. Recently, Chinese students at the University of Michigan have experienced verbal intimidation. Some have even been urinated on.

Mary Sue Coleman, U-M's president, showed her leadership by strongly denouncing these unacceptable behaviors. Thank you, President Coleman, for standing up to preserve the rights and dignity of all. Remember Vincent Chin or, surely, history will repeat itself.

PROPOSAL BRINGS UGLY BEHAVIOR

Did you ever think that the idea of establishing a 24-hour super Wal-Mart in Livonia would stir racism and incivility? That is just what happened at a public hearing to discuss Wal-Mart's proposal. Livonia residents expressed fear that "blacks" from Detroit would come to mostly "white" Livonia to shop and work. And "oh my" that ultimately, Livonia would become a "ghetto" as a result.

This isn't the 1960s in Mississippi — this is Michigan in the 21st century. Southeast Michigan remains one of the most segregated regions in the nation. Livonia is one of the "whitest" cities with populations over 100,000. In contrast, Detroit is one of the "blackest" cities. Separated by only a few miles, the socio-economic status of each city's residents is unequal.

Hooray for Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano for stepping up to acknowledge this disparity and pointing out that "this behavior holds

the region back." The first step in problem solving is problem identification. Houston — we have a race problem!

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Hurricane Katrina was a disaster. Even more of a disaster was the response to help the countless families in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. We all watched the desperate situations portrayed by newscasts. We witnessed the loss of life and dignity. We also witnessed an array of emotions from anguish, anger and fear to hope, joy and love. We watched the most vulnerable among us virtually ignored as flood waters overtook them. Our eyes were opened to the separate and unequal worlds that exist in America today.

The scene in New Orleans should send shock waves to our sense of decency in the same way that seeing police dogs and fire hoses turned loose on peaceful 1960s civil rights demonstrators did. The 1977 book *The Land of Promise, The Rise and Fall of Social Problems in America* said that a social problem does not exist until enough people with power agree that there is a social problem. Social problems are produced by public opinion rather than a particular social condition.

These three events open our eyes to the social problems that surround us. We are waiting for leaders — those with power — to galvanize our social consciences. Perhaps ignorance, hatred, natural disaster and an inept government response can stir our emotions and activism. We must rise up like a mighty storm to shore up the social levees that have been neglected in our country. If we can conquer these evils, maybe there will be truth in Ralph Waldo Emerson's thoughts, "ever sweet has its sour and every evil its good."

Today is Focus:HOPE's March for Diversity. Please participate to honor longtime civil justice crusader, MaryAnn Mahaffey, who has announced her retirement after more than 30 years as a Detroit City Council member. Please show the world that Detroiters are willing to take necessary steps to eradicate racism and injustice wherever it rears its ugly head.

For more information on the Focus:HOPE Walk for Diversity, call (313) 494-5500 or visit the Focus:HOPE Web site at www.focushope.edu. Focus:HOPE's mission statement is "Recognizing the dignity and beauty of every person, we pledge intelligent and practical actions to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. And to build a metropolitan community where all people may live in freedom, harmony, trust and affection. Black and white, yellow, brown, red from Detroit and its suburbs and every economic status, national origin and religious persuasion, we join in this covenant." (Adopted March 8, 1968)

Tom Watkins is a former state superintendent of schools.

Low social science scores a problem for democracy

This year for the first time, the federal government mandated that schools set aside a day for all students to study the Constitution.

Constitution Day is Sept. 17 and has never gotten the PR or the fireworks of July 4. But it is the Constitution that provides the framework for our federal system of government. It is the Constitution that recognizes our liberties and guarantees their protection.

It isn't too much to ask that one day a year be set aside to remind students of how important that document is and what an inspiration it has been to the world.

This is especially true as we seem to be having a problem teaching children social studies. Scores on the annual Michigan Education Assessment Program tests regularly show that only a small percentage of students show proficiency in social studies. This past spring, the percentage of proficient fifth-graders dropped from 31 percent to 26 percent and eighth-graders edged up from a dismal 29 percent to 31 percent.

Sample MEAP tests show that students need to be able to read, have some knowledge of basic ideas appropriate for their age and be able to connect the dots between what they read in the question and what they are supposed to know. What they are supposed to know, based on the MEAP tests, are both some basic history and the ability to understand how to read charts, how to connect disparate ideas, how to understand the basics of democracy and how to relate those ideas to problems that might actually arise in their own world.

An example from the 2003 fifth-graders' test, for instance, has a brief news story type item on a new park for children and then asks several questions that would gauge a child's ability to read and understand the story and their understanding of their local government. As a newspaper editor, those are certainly important things for a child to understand.

We all know that for most kids, school work isn't at the top of their interest list. Video games, cheesy pop music and getting the right fashion look are all considerably more important. For eighth-graders, of course, the hormones begin to kick in and add another distraction that will stay with them for a while.

But these students do not fall this short in reading, science or even math (the creature that waited to devour me every day at school). It seems that for many children, social science is just so much "blah, blah, blah," that they tune out.

Yet, the social sciences are about life itself

Many are quick to blame teachers for this problem, but I've known imaginative teachers who worked long hours to bring history to life only to have children snicker, giggle and yawn their way through the class. Compared to video games and pop stars, social studies teachers don't make the grade.

— the life we led as explored in history and the life we are living in economics and government. Knowing these subjects is the first step in preserving that Constitution and the rights that it acknowledges and pledges to protect. The social sciences also place the United States in the context of the rest of the world and open minds to other ways of living, other ideas.

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Unfortunately, as a democracy we need our people to understand their history, to know the basics of economics, to know how the various levels of government work and interact. We need people to understand their rights and to understand that nobody gave them those rights, but that many have debated, fought and died to defend those rights. We need people to understand at least the basics of life, culture and government in other countries of the world.

If something as vital as this is a yawn to our children, it might be because their parents and other adults also don't take it seriously. They assume that democracy will continue to go along with or without them. At the local level, elections rarely draw out more than a hardcore of dependable voters. School elections are notorious for attracting 5, 10, 15 percent of registered voters, even though schools represent a major government expense.

Maybe we need to make a big deal out of other days as well as Constitution Day. The flood of current events, from the continuing war in Iraq to the devastating hurricanes in the Gulf to local disputes over building projects, are a teaching and learning opportunity to spark a child's interest in the real world.

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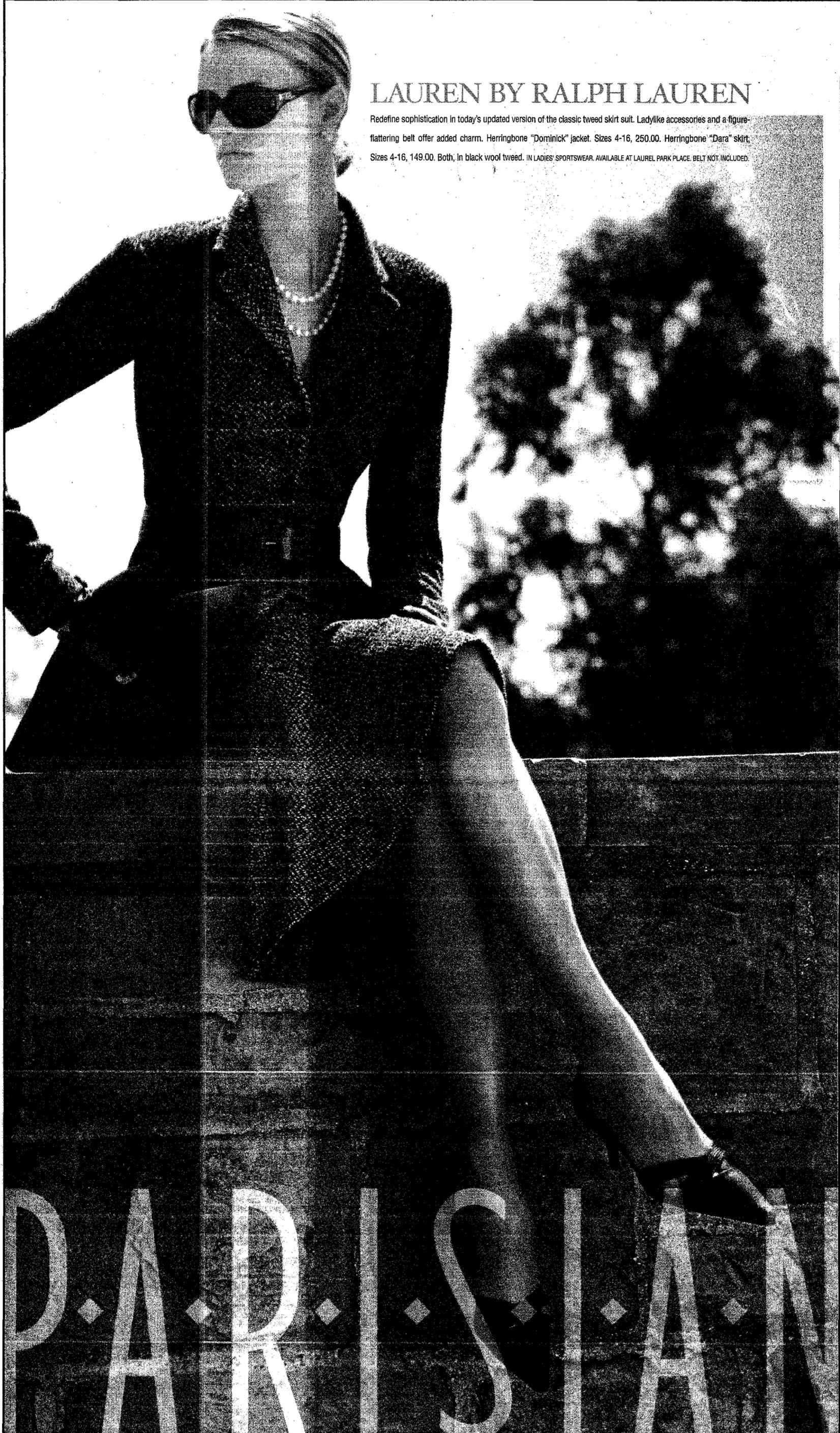
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