

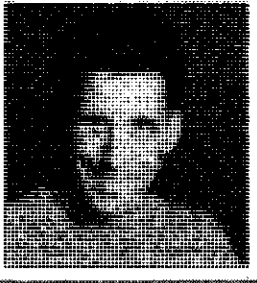
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REFERENCE ONLY

WILLIAM P. FAUST  
Public Library of Westland

### Peter's Principles

Fitness expert answers readers' questions  
HEALTH, PAGE C10



## Family praying for a miracle

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C

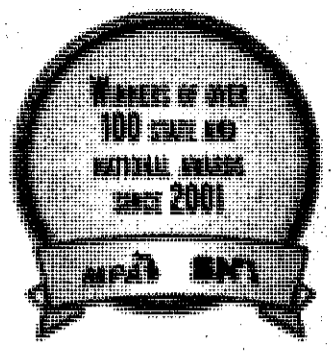


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PINK, INSERTED SECTION

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# WESTLAND Observer



SUNDAY  
March 20, 2005  
75 cents

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 85

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## Library takes tough stand on unpaid fines

BY KEVIN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The William P. Faust Public Library is taking a tougher stand on library fines under a new collection plan that goes into effect April 1. With the library owed \$180,000 in fines, the Library Board earlier this month voted to approve a new fine policy. Under the new rules, a patron who racks up \$5 or more in fines and lost or damaged item charges must pay the complete fine before they can check out more materials.

The current policy allows patrons with \$15 or more in fines to check out items, if they pay down assessed fines below \$15. "We're tightening the policy; it's just gotten to be a lot of money," said Michael Rintz, library board president. "It's steadily increasing. With the financial situation everyone in government is facing today we need to try to collect that money - books are expensive." Westland Library Director John Patane, who has worked in several libraries around the country during a 30-year career, said the problem of overdue fines in Westland is no better or worse

than in other cities. Still, he said unpaid fines and missing materials are a problem. "If they're overdue, it restricts the patron who would like to have the item," Patane said. "If it's damaged or lost, it may take a week or two to get the item, if it's still in print." "If they're not returning the item, technically that's theft. It's an item paid by taxpayers' dollars." Criminal prosecution is almost never sought, because of the cost. But the library's collections contractor on a fifth overdue notice will tell offenders their

record will be submitted to national credit bureaus, if their fine remains unpaid. Checkout times are one week for new fiction, two weeks for new non-fiction and DVDs and three weeks for general books, books on tape, CDs and videos. Fines are 20 cents per day. Maximum fines are \$4 for paperbacks and \$10 each for other items. Replacement charges can be added to late charges to surpass \$10.

kbrown@oe.hometownlife.com

## Let them cheer

### Center takes cheerleading to new highs

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

While students at Metro Cheer Training Center make commitments in time and energy to their sport, their parents show the same kind of dedication and fortitude making sure they make it to classes and competitions.

For instance, Cindy Kelly drives 90 minutes one way from her home in Rochester Hills to the studio on Executive Drive in Westland. And she does that three times weekly.

"We're traveling six to 12 hours a week and that doesn't include the travel time when we're competing," Kelly said.

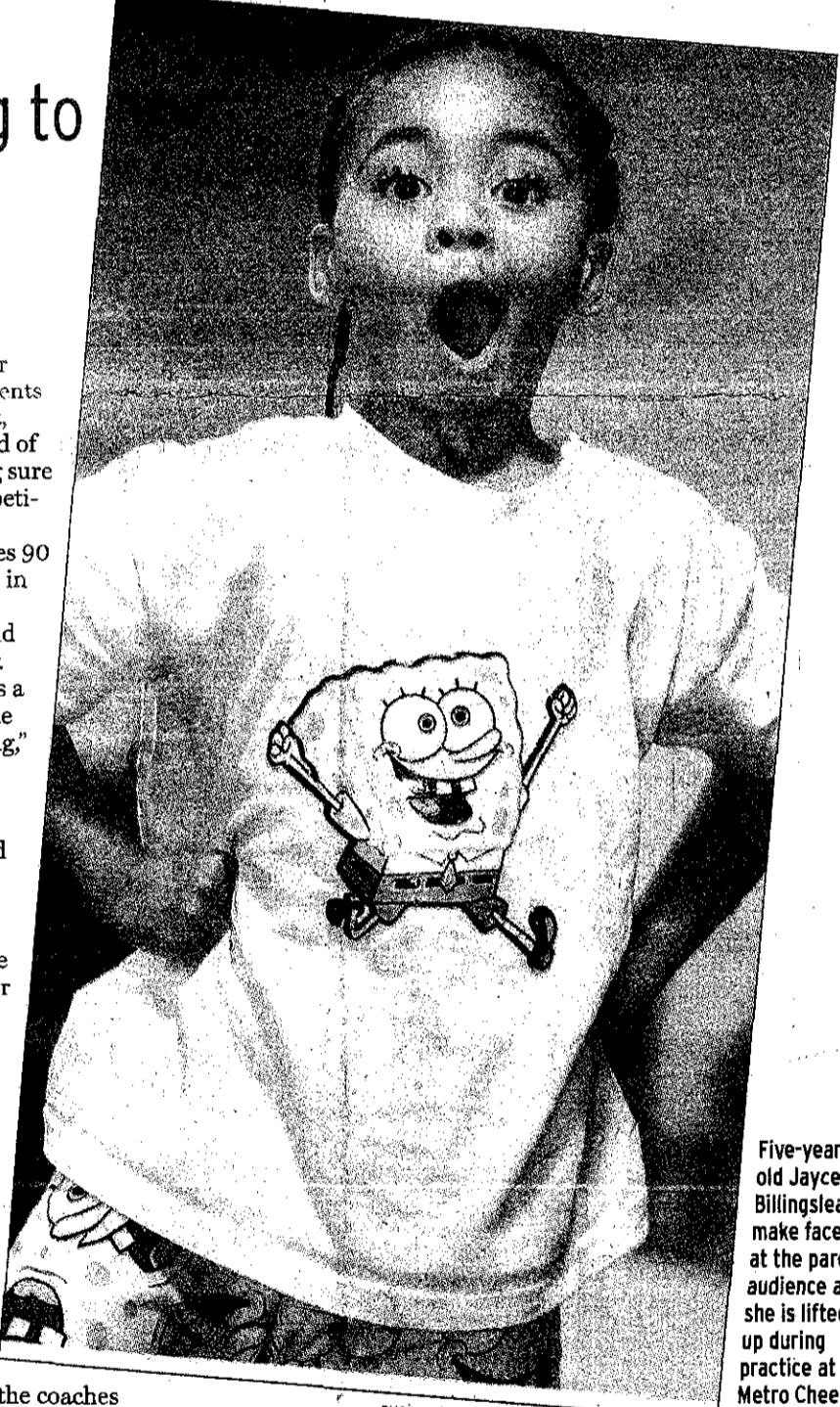
Her 14-year-old daughter, DesMarie Kelly, is on the Senior All Star team and her 11-year-old daughter, Denai, is on the Youth Team.

Kelly said this is the one team that has the flavor that DesMarie likes, she chose Metro Cheer over her high school cheerleading team.

"They allow her personality to come out, she likes to travel and the competition," Kelly said. "She has been here three years and it's like her family. Most of the time it's very family-oriented. They work together and the coaches are very devoted to them."

Denai said she likes the stunt work the best, especially round-offs with two back hand springs.

"I'm good at it," she said from a waiting room with a window that allows family members a good view as students practice. Denai watches her sister, and all the other All Star members, as



PHOTOS TOM HOFFMEYER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

they practice the pyramid, featuring two girls on the bottom and one on their shoulders. The girls catapult into the air, magically land on two separate shoulders and remain there until it's time to descend. The energy in the room is tremendous.

"It has given (Denai) confidence in herself," Kelly said. "There are things that she would not try and couldn't do."

Denai and DesMarie must maintain good

Five-year-old Jaycei Billingslea make faces at the parent audience as she is lifted up during practice at the Metro Cheer Training Center in Westland.

PLEASE SEE CHEER, A8

## Judge orders drug treatment, probation in Callanan Jr. case

Westland attorney Evan Callanan Jr. has been ordered to report to Target Cities, an inpatient drug treatment program at the Wayne County Jail in Hamtramck.

The treatment is part of the sentence he received Friday after he pleaded guilty to having crack cocaine when city police officers stopped his car late last month.

In addition to the drug treatment, Wayne County Circuit Judge Vera Massey Jones on Friday also sentenced Callanan Jr. to three years of probation and 100 hours of community service.

Callanan Jr., 52, pleaded guilty to one count in return for another cocaine charge being dropped. He was cleared of contributing to his 13-year-old daughter's delinquency by leaving pornographic materials where she could see them.

He was twice stopped by Westland police last summer after an informant told authorities that he was having crack cocaine parties at his house on Arrowhead, near Wayne and Warren.

Callanan Jr.'s decision to plead guilty to a charge of having less than 25 grams of cocaine averted a trial.

Police Sgt. Scott Murray testified in Wayne District Court last August that Callanan Jr. was arrested once after he bought drugs near Hunters West Apartments, on Yale south of Warren, and once after he received crack cocaine from a Garden City woman who lives on Marquette.

Murray testified that Callanan Jr. admitted to using crack cocaine since October of 2003 and that he had likely spent \$15,000 on drugs since then.

## Curbside ministry is answer to God's call

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

Every Saturday for nearly six years the Rev. Kenneth Hicks sits in the parking lot of Westland Christian Union Church with a simple wooden sign that says, "Need Prayer? Drop Off Your Request."

Some people leave written requests, others stop and pray. The sign also has the church number in case people are too shy to ask for prayers in person.

When Hicks dismantles the table for the day he takes the requests to the church altar and prays.

"People have been saved in that parking lot," said Hicks, a Westland resident. "If it's an urgent request we'll pray as a congregation, also."

Most of the prayers are pleas for the healing of a loved one. Others ask for strength to deal with drug and alcohol addictions, as well as broken relation-



For 2 1/2 years, the Rev. Kenneth Hicks has stood outside the Westland Christian Union Church on Saturday mornings collecting prayer requests from passers-by.

ships and marriages. "I was in prayer one day and God told me there are people out there passing everyday and maybe they would stop and make requests," Hicks explains.

PLEASE SEE MINISTRY, A4



Metro Cheer Training Center owner and director Perrymella Harris works with her students during practice.

**CONTACT US**

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**INDEX**

Apartments E3  
Automotive F1  
Classified Index D2  
Crossword Puzzle E2  
For the Record A4  
Community Life C1  
Health C10  
Jobs E6  
Obituaries C9  
New Homes D1  
Service Guide E5  
Sports B1

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**Coming Thursday in Filter**

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Members of the Merriman Road Baptist Church congregation will present their annual Easter play 7 p.m. Good Friday and Saturday. During rehearsal, Frank Sciatta, portraying Jesus, is surrounded by Emily Grosvenor, 8, left, Kelly Agnes, 9, Emily Weathers, 12, Deane Sciatta, 11, and Elizabeth Sciatta, 7.

## Church presents annual Easter pageant

John Rowe as the Roman soldier Marcus, and Russ Weathers as Eli the Hebrew slave rehearse a scene from Merriman Road Baptist Church's annual Easter play.



During a meeting, a local minister complained about having trouble filling the 7 p.m. slots for his church's round the clock prayers Easter weekend. Relatively new in the area, the minister didn't know 7 p.m. Good Friday and Saturday are the starting times for the annual Easter pageant at Merriman Road Baptist Church. "Not too many churches do plays anymore - we draw from a lot of churches and the community at large," said pastor Wayne Parker. "We get a lot of people not from our congregation who come every year." Add in the family and friends of the more than 100 people who are in the cast, choir and crew of the

Easter play and the 600-seat sanctuary at the church gets pretty full, said Parker. Rehearsals on the play, which focuses on a Roman Centurion who was present at the Crucifixion, began right after Christmas when the church presents its other annual play. "It was about 13 weeks rehearsal this year which was shorter than usual," said Parker. Along with the two performances, Parker said the Thursday dress rehearsal usually draws a crowd. Merriman Road Baptist Church is on Merriman just south of Ford. The Easter play is presented free of charge.

## PLACES AND FACES

### Coffee hour

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will have his District Coffee Hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday at the Westland Big Boy Restaurant, 6360 Wayne Road at Hunter.

### Blood drive

Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne will host its annual Red Cross blood drive 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the gymnasium of the school, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne.

The blood drive is open to the public and no appointment is necessary. Blood donors must be 17 years old or older and weigh more than 110 pounds. Piercing is acceptable, if it was done at a place that uses sterile needles or studs. Tattoos requires a 12-month waiting period.

For more information, call Vickie Lewis at (734) 419-2204.

### Let there be bingo

The Ladies Auxiliary of Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3233 will hold a marathon bingo noon-5 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the post hall, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale, Westland. Proceeds will benefit cancer aid and research.

### Historic fashions

Local historians will sponsor an "old-time" fashion show and luncheon at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13, to raise money to help repair the city's historic Octagon House.

The cost is \$12 per person. The event will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center, behind City Hall on Ford Road. The show will be held in memory of the late Howard Becker, who was a supporter of the Octagon House.

For more information or to inquire about tickets, call (734) 729-1605, (734) 522-3918 or (734) 729-2953.

### Mom to Mom sale

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold its first annual Mom to Mom sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the church, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland. Used infant and children's items will be for sale. There also will be a raffle and food will be available.

Admission is \$1 for adults and children free when accompanied by a parent.

### Poker Tournament

The Westland Jaycees is sponsoring a Texas Holdem Tournament and Vegas Night Saturday, April 16, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

The tournament starts promptly at 6 p.m. and runs until 11 p.m. Pre-register by mail by April 1 for \$40. Send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to the Westland Jaycees, P.O. Box 85191, Westland, MI 48185. Register at the door for \$50, beginning at 4:30 p.m. There will be no buy-ins during the tournament.

The Vegas Night will open at 7 p.m. and include blackjack, Let It Ride, Holdem and seven-card poker. Food, beer and pop also will be available.

Call (734) 228-0400 or by e-mail at wjholdem@yahoo.com.

### Spring bazaar

The Edison Elementary PTO will have its Spring Bazaar 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.

The bazaar will feature a collection of 25 vendors, mostly direct-sell businesses like Tupperware, DK Books and Party-Lite candles along with a few cash-and-carry vendors selling jewelry, denim purses, stamped greeting cards and other fun items. There will also be a bake sale held in conjunction with the bazaar, which will be held in the gym.

No children will be allowed in the gym, however, baby-sitting will be available. Edison School is at 34505 Hunter, Westland.

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Cristina Iate, MD

Kathy Kise, RNC, MS

A life-long area resident, Dr. Merkel has been in practice in the Canton area since 1996. He graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1992, is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and has practiced in the Oakwood Healthcare System. His professional interests include general obstetrics, laparoscopic and hysteroscopic surgery, colposcopy and family planning.

Dr. Merkel is looking forward to seeing patients in his new office. To schedule an appointment, please call (734)398-7888.

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PURE ENTERTAINMENT

## Program turns tots into germbusters

BY KEVIN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

"All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten," is a famous quote from author and clergyman Robert Fulghum.

But don't underestimate what kids learn in preschool.

On Tuesday, more than a dozen 3-4-year-olds at the Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool at Kirk of Our Savior Church learned they have the power to reduce their chances of catching illnesses.

Their lesson was in hand washing.

"Look at the flu this year," explained Darlene Taig, Willow Creek Preschool coordinator. "Young children can learn healthy habits."

"I think it's very good," said mom Melissa Homann, who watched daughter Carlyn take part as one of three helpers to program presenter Cheryl Grougan, a registered nurse and community outreach presenter with St. Mary Mercy Hospital of Livonia.

Carlyn and young helpers Caleb Bonno and Shelby Baker took part in a hand-washing exercise that got all the kids up on their feet and bunched together, to see simulated germs revealed under purple light on the three helpers' hands.

"It's very educational," said Westland mom Danielle Keedle, holding son Dakota. "When he saw the germs on their hands he freaked out and ran to the bathroom to wash his hands."

Grougan opened the lesson by asking kids if they've heard adults talk about "catching a bug."

"Do you think that germs are really bugs?" she asked, before showing pictures of germ bacteria and viruses.

The kids learned that covering a sneeze is important.

"The germs are in the water (sneeze) and they stick to the table or the ball or the door handle," she said.

Grougan urged kids to cover sneezes by sneezing into their arms or into their hands - and then washing.

"And they go down the drain!" one student offered.

Kids also learned to wash hands before meals, after playing outside, and after playing with animals.

They also learned that to wash properly, get hands very soapy, fan fingers open to wash in between, and wash fingertips by holding them facing down and rubbing into palms.

To show the kids how long to spend on hand washing, she had the class pretend to wash while singing "Happy Birthday to You" - about 15-20 seconds.

kbrown@oe.homecomm.net



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Willow Creek Preschoolers Carlyn Homann, 4 (from left), Caleb Bonno, 4, and Shelby Baker, 3, wash their hands as part of the St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Germbusters visit to the preschool at Kirk of Our Savior Church.



St. Mary Mercy Hospital community outreach nurse Cheryl Grougan talks with the preschoolers how important it is to wash their hands.



Preschoolers practice washing between their fingers.

### PRESCHOOLS

Preschool listings should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.homecomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

#### Willow Creek

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Newburgh and Wayne Road in Westland, is a non-profit co-op preschool for tots, 3 and 4 years old. It serves Westland, Canton and surrounding communities. The Moms and Tots program meets Friday mornings. Three-year-olds meet Tuesday and Thursday and four-year-

olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning and afternoon sessions available. For more information, call Lucy Arunachalam at (734) 453-5959.

#### Preschool program

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has registration for preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 419-2635.

### Arthritis Today

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#### DECEPTIONS IN HIP PAIN

The most common cause of "hip" pain comes from a site other than the hip. Trochanteric bursitis is the usual culprit when you present with "hip" pain. You may think of your hip as being that area on the outside part of your thigh, but that is incorrect.

True hip pain is groin pain, furthermore, with the pain comes impairment of motion that makes it difficult for you to cross your legs. In most cases of "hip" pain, discomfort resides at the outside of your thigh, near the trouser pocket, and radiates into the buttock area and/or down the outside of the leg to the knee. These are the features of trochanteric bursitis.

Another confounder of hip pain is sciatic nerve impingement. If you read the textbooks, you will learn that doctors identify sciatica by its characteristic radiation from the back down the buttock area to the lower leg and into the foot. The pain is like an electric shock often with a component of numbness or tingling.

In reality, sciatica can vary greatly from this description, causing problems for physicians. At times, radiation of pain is just to the knee. At other times, areas around the groin experience, simulate hip arthritis, as the discomfort is sufficient to stop you from moving the hip joint.

Remember, that you can have two conditions at the same time. A combination of trochanteric bursitis and sciatic could well look like a single diagnosis of hip arthritis. Thus do not be surprised if on seeing your doctor for "hip" pain you receive an entirely different evaluation.

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## EASTER BRUNCH

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11 am - 5:30 pm

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Grilled & Chilled Green and White  
Asparagus Salad  
Antipasto Display  
Norwegian Smoked Salmon Platter  
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**DEATHS**

**B**  
Clarice Jean Bailey, of Detroit, died March 16.  
Marie (Wadkins) Boughton, 81, of Farmington Hills, died March 14.  
Mary Louise Bryant, B2, died March 15.

**D**  
William C. "Charlie" Dennis Jr., 52, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Feb. 26.

**E**  
Gerald E. Elston, 83, died March 15.

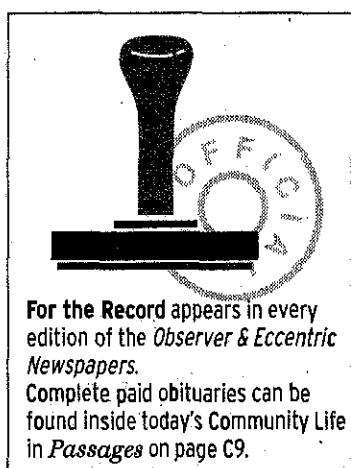
**F**  
Carl Lee Fox Sr., 89, of Farmington Hills, died March 17.

**G**  
Roger Royall Gay, 72, died March 18.  
Erma F. Gray, 93, of Frankenmuth, died March 12.

**H**  
Tracy Y. Halsey, of Davisburg, died March 16.

**L**  
Howard Angell Ladue, 83, died March 16.  
Beatrice M. Lamet, 86, of Birmingham, died March 14.  
William Ervine Lovell, 94, died March 12.

**M**  
Flossie B. MacDonald, 82, of Farmington, died March 17.  
Carolyn J. McCloud, 69, of



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life in Passages on page C9.

**Westland, died March 15.**  
Edna "Juanel" LaLonde Moore, 74, of Waterford, died March 16.  
Maxine W. Mormse, 84, died March 15.

**S**  
Melek Samarian, 82, of Bloomfield Hills, died March 14.

**T**  
Catherine T. Theisen, 76, of Plymouth, died March 16.

**U**  
Myrtle E. Umbaugh, 92, of Lady Lakes, Fla., formerly of Canton, died March 18.

**Z**  
Harry Zerbo, 88, of Livonia, died March 15.

**BAILEY RECREATION CENTER**

**COURT USE**

Court costs are based on prime time hours - 4-10 p.m. Monday-Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday - and non-prime time hours - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

- Racquetball Courts - \$9 per hour prime time and \$8 per hour non-prime time for residents and \$11 per hour non-prime time and \$12 per hour prime time for non-residents.
- Wallyball Courts - \$11 per hour non-prime time and \$12 per hour prime time for residents and \$16 per hour non-prime time \$18 per hour prime time for non-residents.
- Brewball - \$7 per hour non-prime time and \$8 per hour prime time for residents and \$10 per hour non-prime time and \$11 per hour prime time for non-residents.

**Court Gold Cards (10 hours of time) are available at \$80 resident racquetball and \$110 for non-resident racquetball; \$110 for resident wallyball and \$170 for non-resident wallyball; and \$70 for resident brewball and \$100 non-resident brewball.**

**Open Gym**  
The hours vary, so call ahead for times. Cost is \$2 for residents and \$4 for non-residents. Students pay \$1, but must show middle school or high school identification card.

**Weight/Fitness Room**  
The weight/fitness room is open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Residents pay \$4 daily (walk-in), with contracts for unlimited use costing \$25 per month, \$80 for six months and \$150 for a year. Non-residents pay \$6 daily (walk-in), with contracts for unlimited use costing \$35 per month, \$120 for six months and \$225 for a year.

**MINISTRY**

FROM PAGE A1  
"When 9/11 (terrorist attack) happened, I opened the prayer table up. It was on a Wednesday and I had a 13-year-old girl bring her mother there, because the mother was afraid the world was going to end. I prayed 45 minutes with them and they left there OK."

One man stopped on his way to the hospital. He was trying to decide whether or not to take his mother off life support. On his way back, the man stopped to thank Hicks for helping. Hicks doesn't say what the man decided.

**GOD'S WORK**

"Jesus does it all," Hicks said. "He takes care of everything and uses me as a vessel, I've had hundreds of hundreds of people come here. I'm out there summer, winter - I don't care if it's raining or snowing or zero."

Another man approached Hicks and said he needed to talk. "I told him he didn't have to go through all he was going through," Hicks said. "He accepted Christ. We talked out there for a long time and we prayed."

When Hicks isn't at his stand people are invited to leave their requests in a box by the church.

"That way people can be taken care of," he added.

Once a woman came to Hicks and said she was praying for her husband who was near death after he had stomach surgery to lose weight. A few days later Hicks saw the woman at Farmer Jack and learned her husband

was in the hospital. Hicks went to the hospital and prayed with the man.

"One month later he came to the parking lot, got out of his car and gave me a hug," Hicks said. "God just works in great ways."

Hicks, 64, has been a Christian 11 years.

"My daughter, who is 42 years old, went to that church at 5 years old," Hicks said. "A couple of bus drivers came and knocked on the door and took her to church. At the time, I was a drinker."

Everything changed 11 years ago when he lost his job at a trucking company.

"I told God, 'I don't know if you're real, but if you are, I need your help.' One month later I had a job," he said. "I accepted Jesus Christ when I asked for help. I told my wife, 'We're going to church,' and she said, 'No way.' She said, 'I always wanted to ask you, but I was afraid to.'"

Hicks said he was a member of the church about 2 1/2 years when he started taking prayer requests. "Christ spoke to my heart and said I want you to speak," Hicks said. "I don't like to speak in public, I don't like wearing a suit and I'm not educated and he said, you're going to do it anyway."

"I don't know why God uses me, but he does. I'm blessed for it. It's nothing about me it's all about Jesus. God wants people to ask him and trust him. We have to be faithful to God and we have to do what he tells us to do. And he'll be faithful to us."

**FAMILIAR SIGHT**

People who live and work in the area expect to see Hicks at his post every week. Westland

firefighters and police officers toot their horns and flash their lights as they pass. Hicks sent the firefighters a letter saying he prays for them and they gave him an honorary fire hat.

When it's cold, strangers give him hot chocolate. In the summer, they bring cool drinks and cakes. One gentleman who walks by Hicks' makeshift stand takes off his hat, in a show of reverence, and puts it back on once he passes.

"It's part of my every Saturday. If I don't do it, it's like I didn't eat breakfast or something," Hicks said.

Hicks first approached Westland Christian Union Church Pastor Neil Swanger with the prayer request idea in August 1999. Swanger offered to help.

"I said, 'I'll be an encouragement to you,'" Swanger said. "So, we set up a crude sign and things weren't really developing. I told Ken, 'You know I'm wondering if me being out here is a deterrent. Maybe it's too imposing with two men. I said I would bow out and people started stopping by.'"

Hicks also offers people a chance to write their requests in a book so their prayers can be more easily remembered.

"We didn't want to be real evangelistic with it," Swanger said. "We didn't want to get our Bibles out and beat people over the head and tell them what's wrong with them. It has an impact on people who are interested. If not with us, it spurs their interest to get back to their own church or get involved in a church somewhere."

"It's not Ken or I scheming. It's really the Lord opening up that opportunity. It's been wonderful."

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY**

To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at [www.gardencitymi.org](http://www.gardencitymi.org)

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

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk

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**NOTICE OF LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN ON MAY 3, 2005**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, who is not already registered to vote may register for the Special Election to be held on May 3, 2005 in the City of Garden City.

Persons residing in the City of Garden City registering after the close of business on Monday, April 4, 2005, will not be eligible to vote at the election. Only City residents who have registered to vote with the Clerk of the City, or through registration at a Secretary of State drivers' license bureau or other agency designated to accept applications for voter registration under Michigan law, are registered electors of the City.

The following proposition will be submitted to the electors of the City of Garden City at the election:

**JUDGMENT FUNDING BOND PROPOSAL**

Shall the City of Garden City, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Seventeen Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$17,500,000.00) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore in one or more series payable in not more than fifteen (15) years from issuance, for the purpose of paying a judgment in the Wayne County Circuit Court against the City of Garden City, Michigan (the "City") in favor of Wayne Oakland Contracting, Inc., the costs and interest on the judgment, and all cost in connection with issuing said bonds? The estimated millage to be levied in 2005 is 1.9856 mills (\$1,985.6 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 2.1498 mills (\$2,149.8 per \$1,000 of taxable value). The millage will be used to pay debt service on the bonds.

THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST OF THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE FROM THE GENERAL FUNDS OF THE CITY INCLUDING AD VALOREM TAXES LEVIED WITHOUT LIMITATION IN SUFFICIENT AMOUNTS TO PAY THE ANNUAL PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS.

THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 3, 2005, WILL BE APRIL 4, 2005.

This Notice is given by authority of the City Council of the City of Garden City, Michigan.

ALLYSON BETTIS  
Clerk, City of Garden City

Publish: March 20 & 24, 2005

**NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the annual election for School District of the City of Garden City will be held in said School District on Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended provides in part as follows:

The inspectors of election at an annual or special election shall not receive the vote of a person residing in a registration school district whose name is not registered as an elector in the city or township in which the person resides...

The last day for receiving registrations for the annual election will be Monday, April 4, 2005. Persons residing in said School District registering after 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2005, will not be eligible to vote at the annual election.

Under the provisions of Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, registrations will not be taken by school officials and only persons who have registered as general electors with the appropriate Clerk of the City or Township in which they reside, or through registration at a Secretary of State driver's license bureau, are registered school electors.

Members for the Board of Education of School District of the City of Garden City will be elected. At the annual election there will be elected two (2) Members of the Board of Education of the School District for four year term, beginning July 1, 2005 and expiring June 30, 2009. The candidates for said office to the Board of Education are as follows:

**TWO (2) FOUR YEAR TERM**  
(two shall be elected)

David Stapleton  
John Thackaberry

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education of School District of the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, Michigan.

Roy Watts  
Secretary, Board of Education  
School District of the City of Garden City

Published: March 20, 2005 and March 24, 2005

**Garden City Presbyterian Church**  
1841 Middlebelt (1 Block South of Ford Rd.)  
734.421.7620

**Holy Week Services**

**Palm Passion Sunday, March 20**  
Palms Processional Sunday  
Traditional Service 10:00 am  
Child Care • Youth Sunday School  
"Mustard Seed"-Contemporary Service 6:00 pm  
Come As You Are-Casual Environment

**Maundy Thursday Service, March 24**  
Traditional Service 7:00 pm  
Child Care

Participating in  
**Community Good Friday Service, March 25**  
First United Methodist Church 12:00 - 2 pm  
Merriman Road-2 Blks. North of Ford Road

**Easter Sunday, March 27**  
Traditional Service 10:00 am  
Child Care • Youth Sunday School  
Balloon Launch  
"Mustard Seed"-Contemporary Service 6:00 pm  
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# Cutting costs, technology split board candidates

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Cost-cutting measures, student programs and school property were just a few topics of debate Wednesday as five of the six Livonia school board candidates joined in discussions before the Livonia Democratic Club's first candidate forum.

The event, held at the Livonia Public Schools board office, gave William Fried, Frank Kalinski, Steve King, Dan Lessard and Cynthia Markarian their first public opportunity to share views and answer questions regarding the district.

Christopher Kaufman did not attend the forum. On the topic of districtwide budget reductions and loss of student enrollment, the candidates present shared their ideas on how to approach impending cuts.

Kalinski, father of two LPS students, said the closing of nearby parochial schools could be an opportunity, bringing in additional students. As far as cost-cutting, he named technology. "I think reading and writing takes precedence over technology any day," he said.

Fried, Livonia resident since 1972, said cuts could be made at the high school so that higher level courses are provided by Schoolcraft College, rather than LPS teachers. He said more money needs to be allocated to Head Start and pre-kindergarten programs.

King, a Bentley graduate and teacher in Berkley schools, supported minimizing administrative costs and looking into more outsourcing for non-instructional services. He said the board needs to look at the highest costs when evaluating cuts.

Lessard said he supports technology as the district's future. As for funding, he said, "Change needs to come from outside of our borders." He urged the audience to contact legislators and push for changes in the structure of school funding. Lessard has served on school boards for 11 years.

Markarian, a mother of three who was appointed to the board last year, said she plans to approach the budget by looking to the public to find out what is most important, what to keep and what can be cut.

## CLOSING SCHOOLS

Another issue facing the district is the possibility of closing neighborhood schools to consolidate the district and save money. The district's Demographics Committee is currently studying

this and other possibilities.

Lessard said the closing of a school, like Marshall Elementary two years ago, can be "tremendously traumatic." He said he can relate because the same thing happened to his family upon moving to Livonia.

"It's complex, and it's something we're addressing," he said.

Kalinski's solution to closing schools came from a contractor's point of view. He suggested the district has the option of building modular schools to fit the demographic needs of the district. They can be added or removed quickly and less expensively.

King agreed that it will take an "innovative solution" to handle the drop in enrollment. "I think there is a big disconnect between the district and the population," he said.

Markarian said the last thing she wants to do is put her 5-year-old on a school bus. She supports neighborhood schools, but would cope with that decision as a parent if she had to do so. She pointed to the demographics study to help shape the future.

Fried supported ways to redevelop and strengthen Livonia's neighborhoods — particularly in the southern and eastern sections. He said neighborhood schools make Livonia unique.

## STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES

When asked to relay the strengths in Livonia Public Schools, most candidates agreed that parental involvement and a good reputation holds the district in high esteem.

As for weaknesses in the district, Kalinski said "we're trying not to do anything wrong." He suggested a sort of "research and development" team might be established to try out new ideas and concepts. He said teachers could rotate out to fill that role.

King said the middle and high school curriculum is not as strong as its elementary program and staff. He would like to see changes made.

Markarian and Lessard both said the sheer size of the school district can be a weakness when it comes time to make a change. "It's hard to change that many people," Lessard said.

Fried said school finances are a weakness, and urged that funding should be spent on students first. He also said experienced teachers should be rewarded monetarily, as well as recognized for their efforts.

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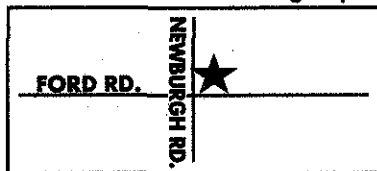
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# Home Chores Network finds contractors for senior citizens

BY DAVE VARGA  
STAFF WRITER

Senior citizens who need some work done around the house may pick up a newspaper or the yellow pages before hiring someone. But how do they know who to trust? Jack Kucharczyk and Bill Ansara think they have the answer. They've started the Home Chores Network, a nonprofit organization designed to help the elderly, disabled and homebound people by screening a network of contractors to do work for them.

"We're looking to develop a source list that these people can use," Kucharczyk said.

The Home Chores Network is creating a group of people or companies that will do home chores like grocery delivery, house cleaning, home improvement, yard work, appliance repair and personal care. Contractors will have their backgrounds checked by the police and the Better Business

Bureau, while business references will be checked, the organizers say.

The network will negotiate fair prices, which will be set in advance. "We're looking for good people," Ansara said. "We're trying to be competitive or give a discount."

Ansara, who started a Residential Grocery Service company and left it for his wife and son to operate, is hoping the service will especially help seniors who still live in their own home.

Children, grandchildren or others who look out for seniors might also want to use the Home Chores Network, knowing that the prices and background checks are set, Ansara said. People are careful "because of all the stuff you hear about seniors getting taken advantage of," he said.

For now, the network - which will take 15 percent of each job - is being operated at donated space in the Livonia Family YMCA on Stark Road,

as they work to interview and register companies. There, they hope to introduce the service to many of the members who come through the doors.

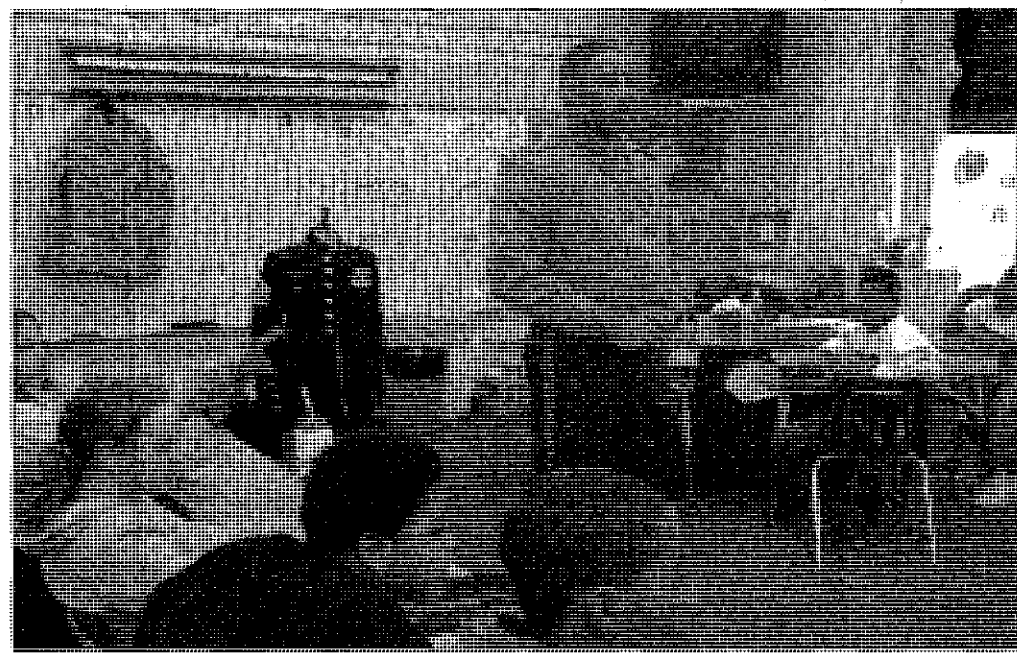
They've also enlisted the efforts of Wayne County officials, such as Kevin Kelley, director of senior services and veteran affairs. "I'm encouraging them as a nonprofit."

Home Chores hopes to be connected to the state-funded Senior Alliance, which provides Meals on Wheels or congregate meals for seniors. "This is kind of a natural extension, I think, of trying to meet the needs of seniors," Kelley said.

Once the program is up and running, Kucharczyk said, it'll offer a one-stop site for seniors or their children.

"We'll be able to have the senior call one number and then we'll take care of all their needs," Ansara said.

For more information on the Home Chores Network, call (734) 525-1700 or e-mail at HomeChore@aol.com.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## A few good stories

Staff Sgt. Phillip M. Callis, a U.S. Marine Corps recruiter in Westland, brought a few good props with him for a celebrity readers day with fifth-graders at Hicks Elementary School in Inkster. Callis was among local 'celebrities' who came to the school on Thursday. The program is part of the school's observance of March is Reading Month.

# Michigan Works Service Center holds job fair for unemployed

Looking for a job? Dress professionally, bring along multiple copies of your resume and visit the Michigan Works Livonia Service Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, for the spring job fair.

More than 30 local employers will be there seeking qualified candidates for their open positions.

The Michigan Works center is on Plymouth Road, between Sports Authority and Walden Books, across the street from Wonderland Mall.

Along with the chance to actually apply for open positions, job-seekers will get the chance to participate in free employment-related work-

shops.

The unemployed are invited to stop into the center during its regular hours - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays - for help on their resume, interviewing techniques or tips on how to work a job fair. There is no fee for any of the services offered; it is state and federally funded.

Businesses looking for employees at the job fair include: Comcast; Waste Management of Michigan; Orkin Pest Control; Iron Mountain; Speedway Super America, L.L.C.; Scott's Lawn Service; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; AFLAC; Riteway Marketing (Direct TV); At-Home-Services (Home Depot); Bartech Staffing

Group; Corporate Employee Services, Inc.; Platinum Professional Services; Kelly Services; HCR Manor Care; and Tender Care, Inc.-Wayne Total Living Center.

Also, Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc.; Northwood University; LaJoy Group; Opus Communications; Product Action; Salon X and Spa; Plastipak Packaging; Primerica Financial Services (Member of Citicorp); Account Temps/Office Team; United States Army; Office Depot; Transforce; United Parcel Service; Wendy's International; Western & Southern Financial Group; Tender Care; and Detroit Police Department.

# MHS: Give chocolate, not live bunnies

The Michigan Humane Society hopes this year's gift givers will resist the urge to present animals such as baby rabbits, chicks and ducklings as Easter gifts.

MHS's three shelters, including its facility in Westland, cite the problematic trend of animals purchased on impulse or as holiday "novelty items" ending up at their shelter doors, or worse, abandoned to fend for themselves.

"Rabbits are generally not good low maintenance companion animals for a young child and, as a result, many end up relinquished to animal shelters after the Easter holiday," said Ron Blauet, Michigan Humane Society education director. "After the initial excitement wears off, the children and their parents often find they are not prepared to care for a rabbit for the next eight-10 years."

"If you are considering a gift purchase, please stick to chocolate Easter bunnies."

Giving chicks and ducklings also should be avoided. While appealing when they are young, these animals grow up quickly and are not

appropriate companion animals for the average household. In addition, many local ordinances prohibit the keeping of chickens and ducks.

Along with chocolate Easter bunnies, other humane alternatives to giving live animals include stuffed animals or children's books about animals and how to care for them.

The Michigan Humane Society also pointed out that, in addition to the difficulty of placing all the relinquished animals into new homes due to companion animal overpopulation, purchasing animals as impulse gift items then surrendering them to shelters after the holidays does not teach children compassion, responsibility or respect for animals.

For information about companion animal adoption, health or safety, call the Michigan Humane Society at (866) MHUMANE 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or visit [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org).

The Michigan Humane Society is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the animals since 1877.

# Busy mom gets well-deserved break

Connie Knie is a busy mother of four children, ranging in age from 7 to 18.

Yet, she still finds time for lots of volunteer work. There's PTA room parent coordinator, Cub Master of Pack 226, Boy Scout Troop 45, and Girl Scout Troop 2394.

To top it off, Knie also works as a noon-time aide at Gill Elementary School. In her spare time, she cares for neighborhood children.

"My house is the common

playground," she says, with a warm laugh.

Her selflessness hasn't gone unnoticed.

"I don't know when she ever has time for herself," wrote her friend Lynn Halton when nominating Knie for the O&E and Buddy's Pizza Random Acts of Pizza Award.

"Connie is a tireless volunteer with endless ideas of how to engage and teach children. We are thankful to her for her interaction with our children and would like to thank her by

giving her a dinner that she doesn't have to cook," wrote Halton.

Well, Connie and a few of the Knie family members - Gilbert, 15; Nathan, 11 and Claire, 7, along with Connie's mother, Sue Waters - enjoyed their Buddy's Pizza dinner on March 9 in their Longwood Drive home in Farmington Hills.

Knie estimates she volunteers "40 hours a week - easily" but she loves it and wouldn't have it any other way.



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR LIFE, IT'S TIME FOR US TO MEET. LET'S TALK.

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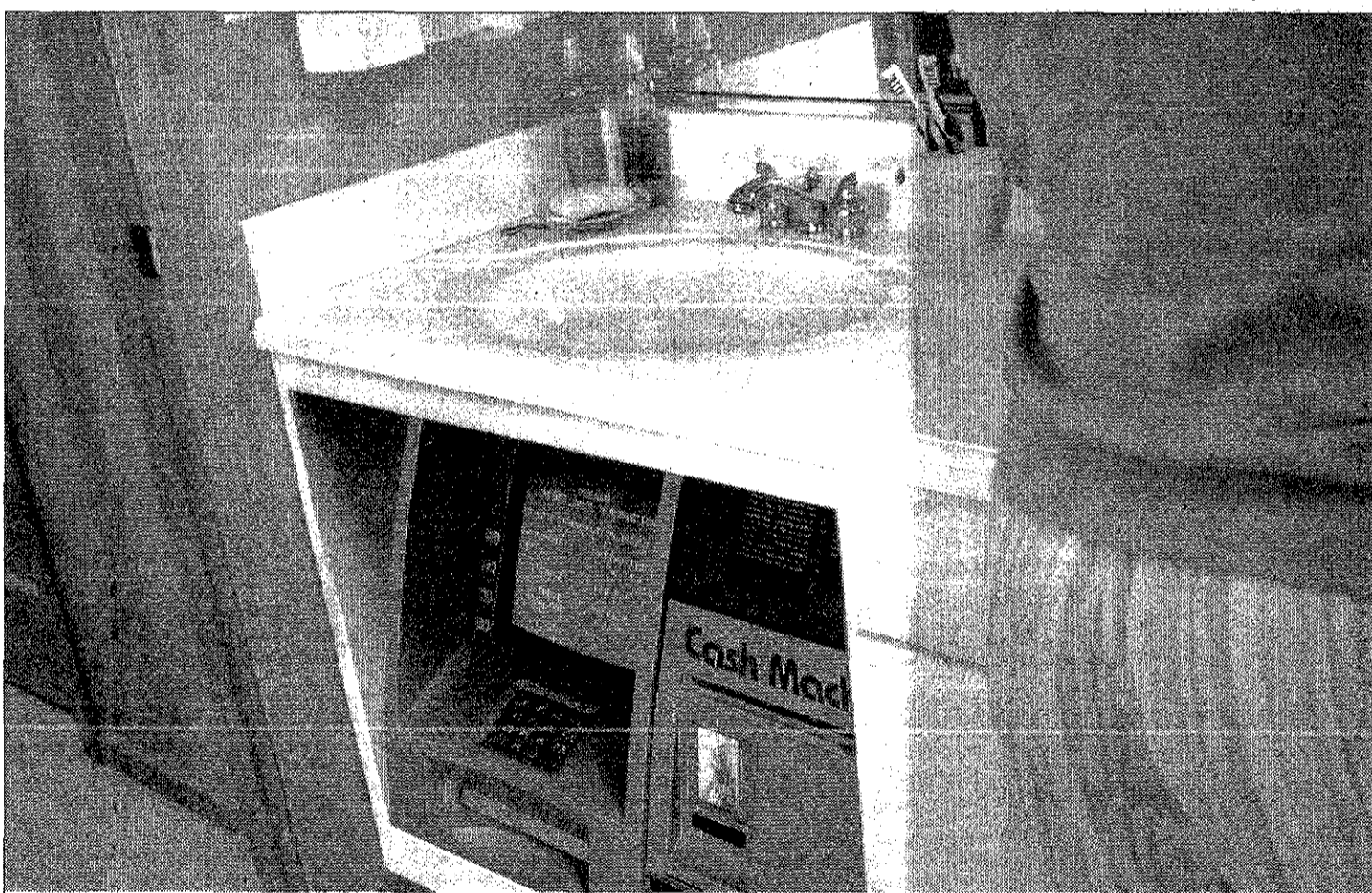
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**CHEER**

FROM PAGE A1

grades if they want to continue attending classes at Metro Cheer, Kelly added.

"My biggest fear is that they are going to drop one of them

and hurt them," Kelly said.

**GETTING STARTED**

Metro Cheer Training Center owner and director, Perrmella Harris, has been in her Westland location for three years and in business for nine years.

"We've had hundreds of students, girls and boys in classes," Harris said. "They're learning all competitive skills. They're learning discipline, team work, dealing with diversity and dealing with adversity, because you can't always win. And you can't always win in

life. They have to deal with the ups and the downs."

"They'll learn all those things at their upcoming competitions."

The All Star team is competing in two national events next month, one in Columbus, Ohio, and another in

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Harris said she tries to teach her students that they don't have to always love each other, but they do have to respect each other.

"They learn that it's something that you learn as life goes on," Harris said. "We are a cheer training center, which makes us unique from other gymnastic clubs or centers. We specifically train cheerleaders, as opposed to gymnasts."

Over the years, Harris said, cheerleading has become essentially popular compared to a couple of decades ago.

"Cheerleading it's an 'it' thing and it's what's happening in 2005," Harris said. "It's much more competitive and it's a sport. It's way more highly respected."

More than 300 girls and boys 4-18 years old take classes at Metro Cheer. The cost is \$40-45 for one hour of instruction, Harris said.

"We have kids from Detroit, Belleville, Canton, Garden City and kids who come from as far as Rochester Hills, Shelby Township, Oak Park, Southfield, Brownstown, Washington Township and kids who come out of Bloomfield Hills," she said. "The teams compete in cheer and dance competitions across the country."

Harris began the program the Oak Park, Southfield, Bloomfield Hills and Dearborn recreation centers. Her following kept growing and she opened her own location in Westland three years ago.

Harris, 36, was a cheerleader at Shrine High School in Royal Oak and graduated in 1987 before going on to Madonna University. She started coaching when she was 16 and hasn't stopped since, "except one year."

The families who have students at Metro Cheer keep coming back.

**'GOOD PROGRAM'**

Janice Thomas drives her two daughters from their Southfield home to attend classes.

"It's something that they enjoy doing," Thomas said, explaining that her daughters have been attending the center

for three years.

"It's a good program," Thomas said. "It's close knit. They have a lot of fun, because they get to try out and they get to bond a lot and make friends."

Lauren Stroud is 12 and lives in Oak Park. She loves traveling to different states for competitions.

"It gives you confidence so you don't be scared," Lauren said, explaining that she believes if you can do a back hand spring, you also have the self-belief that you can get into any college. One day, she said, she wants to study cosmetology.

"I can tumble all day and all week if I wanted to," Lauren said.

Woods said the cheer program changes lives.

"We have girls who have started with us with no gymnastic skills," Woods said. "We've seen personalities pop out. (Harris) transforms lives. She can take a kid who is clueless and turn them into a phenomenal cheerleader. And they're well-rounded. We have 4.0s. Some run track. There are some who play musical instruments. There are some artists. They're very dedicated."

There's a lot of sacrifice, too, not only for the girls, but for their families.

Dinners and errands are postponed on a daily basis. Even vacations are rescheduled if there's conflicts with competitions, Woods added.

"It's a big commitment in time and financially," said Thomas. It would be a lot easier if we could find sponsors for these kids. But, you do what you have to do for your kids, especially when they're good kids and they bring in good grades. You don't mind going the extra mile."

Metro Cheer Training Center, at 38156 Executive Dr., Westland, offers classes in cheer, dance, gymnastics, stunting and cheer techniques for high school, junior high, elementary and recreational teams as well as individual instruction. The center will hold tryouts for its All Star cheerleading team on Sunday, May 15. It's open to boys and girls ages 4-18. For more information, call (734) 722-9664 or by e-mail at michmetrocheer@aol.com.

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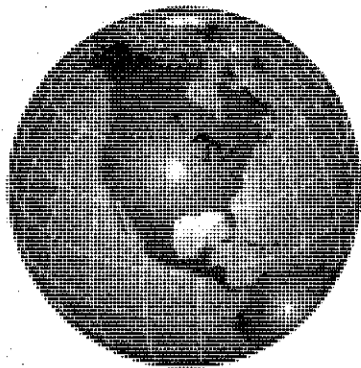
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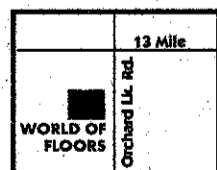


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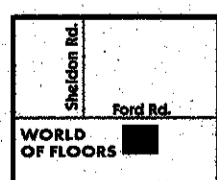
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# Multicultural Fair features music, crafts, food

More than 1,200 people are expected to attend the 4th Annual Schoolcraft College Multicultural Fair on 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College. The event features displays prepared by Schoolcraft students and attracts visitors from the campus and the surrounding community. Performances will run continuously and feature dances, musical instruments, and poetry from an array of cultures.

Demonstrations of origami, henna painting and yoga are also included in the day's events. In addition, a language table will provide samples of writing from more than a dozen languages. Cross-cultural snacks from a variety of ethnic cuisines will be provided free of charge by several area restaurants. Guests will be issued a "passport" at the door that they will be able to get "stamped" at each country table they visit. Drawings for door prizes will be held throughout

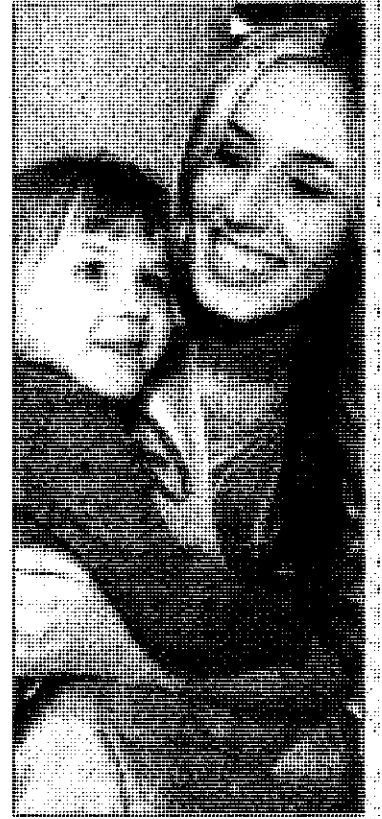
the Fair. At the heart of the fair are the 24 table displays prepared by Schoolcraft students, their family members, and faculty and staff. This is an opportunity for visitors to meet someone from another culture, ask them questions, and learn firsthand about the history, geography, clothing, art and culture that make that country unique. Besides promoting cultural sensitivity and increasing an awareness and appreciation of

other cultures, the Fair extends education beyond classroom walls by exposing students, faculty and staff to a cross-cultural experience. It creates an opportunity for students to teach others. This event, created for students and community by students and community, is free of charge and open to the public. The Fair is funded by a Schoolcraft College Foundation Grant and is sponsored by the college's International Institute and Student Services.

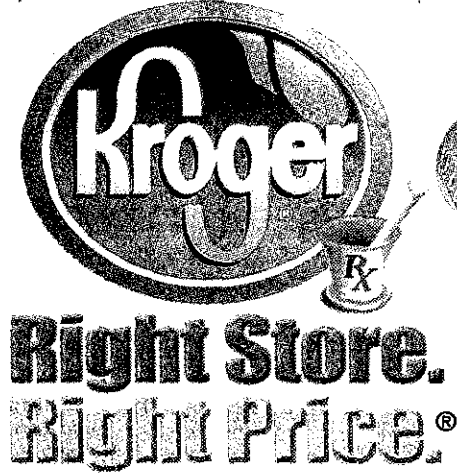
# Laurel Park Parisian hosts Spring Kidfest

Laurel Park's Parisian store played host to a Spring Kidfest March 12 to welcome spring with seasonal fashions. The events included Parisian's semi-annual Charity Cookie Fest, which met its goal of raising \$1,000 for The Autism Society of Wayne County and Everyday

Miracles, an autism support network. About 100 dozen cookies were donated by local bakeries and Parisian associates sold them at \$10 a dozen. About 65 youngsters participated in the fashion shows, according to Randy Dell, store manager. "It was great," he said.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Georgia Mikstas, 3, of Canton gets a hug from Heather Cowan of California. Cowan was playing 'Barbie' during the Spring Kidfest at Parisian.



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# Restructuring Single Business Tax will create jobs, boost economy

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the Democrats in the Michigan House and Senate have a bold plan to jump start Michigan's economy and make our state a magnet for the high-tech jobs of the future. It's called the Michigan Jobs and Investment Act, which will dramatically restructure the Single Business Tax.

Michigan's SBT was created in 1975, to replace eight different taxes. It is now the only general tax on business in Michigan. One major motivating factor for the passage of the SBT was the Legislature's desire to tax all business activity fairly and comprehensively, rather than a jigsaw puzzle of taxes on various industries.

Since its inception, however, the SBT has been the subject of some controversy and concern about certain disincentive and inequities it has created. For too long, Michigan's Single Business Tax has resulted in unequal treatment of business in our state, penalizing manufacturers that are the backbone of our state's economy and giving tax breaks to certain segments of the business community so that they have not paid their fair share of business taxes.

Over the last 30 years, the Legislature made a number of minor changes to the SBT. But there has been no major updating of the tax to recognize the new economic realities facing the state. To revitalize Michigan, we need bold steps that will boost job creation and investment in Michigan. The Michigan Jobs and Investment Act, which I introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives, is that bold step.

My bill is based on common sense. It levels the playing field, so that more segments of Michigan businesses will pay more nearly the level of taxes they would pay in other states. My bill calls for those corporations that

**For too long, Michigan's Single Business Tax has resulted in unequal treatment of business in our state, penalizing manufacturers that are the backbone of our state's economy and giving tax breaks to certain segments of business community so that they have not paid their fare share of taxes.**



Rep. Paul Gondino

are making the most profit to pay relatively more taxes than those who make little or no profit. It cuts taxes for 77 percent of those businesses with a Single Business Tax liability. Finally, the Michigan Jobs and Investment Act would close a number of tax loopholes, simplifying the state's business tax.

The Michigan Jobs and Investment Coalition has formed to support this sweeping change. The coalition includes a wide array of businesses, from the largest manufacturers to the smallest small businesses. It includes organizations such as the Michigan Municipal League, which recognizes the importance of major tax reform to improve the state's business climate to rejuvenate our state. It includes labor groups, who know that a fair tax system will mean more opportunity to create jobs.

The proposal is revenue neutral, building on comments by elected officials who have said our priority should be to reduce spending

to our current level of resources.

The Michigan Jobs and Investment Act will:

- Cut the standard SBT rate from 1.9 percent to 1.2 percent, a 37 percent reduction.

- Cut the small business SBT rate from 2.0 to 1.2 percent, a 40 percent reduction.

- Create a 35 percent personal property tax credit for manufacturing and research and development property.

- Increase the profit component of the SBT for corporations.

- Bring taxes on insurance companies more in line with the national average.

- Eliminate special tax preferences within the SBT that have given certain types of businesses unfair advantages.

I invite the Republicans to join the Democrats, the Michigan Manufacturing Association, the Small Business Association, and many others in turning Michigan into an economic powerhouse, but we have to get moving. Protecting the status quo means we are left behind. The time for action is now.

State Rep. Paul Gondino is a Democrat from Southfield. For more information, call (517) 373-1788.

# Book about golf course is really about American dream

Some men see things that never were, and ask why not, as Bobby Kennedy used to say. Bill Haney is one of those. Take golf, for instance. He had been in love with golf since he first started caddying.

Like most golfers, he dreamed of building his own course, one that would be just the way he wanted it. Unlike nearly all the rest, he decided to do it.

Except this made absolutely no sense.

Haney, who looks faintly like Wally Cox, was then 29 years old. He had a wife and four toddlers, the oldest of whom was 6. He was hardly

wealthy; he had a pretty good job as an editor at the University of Michigan Press, but not much more than that.

Most wives would have gently threatened nuclear war. But his Marcy, who couldn't have cared less about golf, said, "If you don't do it now, you never will." So they sold their house, borrowed more money, bought a "rundown popcorn farm" in rural Jackson County, rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Toddlers and all.

That was in 1966. Haney not only went on to build his golf course, but eventually established a highly successful career in advertising, with offices in both Detroit and Manhattan, and founded a high-quality book publishing company in suburban Detroit (Momentum Books) when everyone said that couldn't be done. And now he has written the story of how his young family built a golf course and lived to tell about it: *Chasing Dreams in the Boondocks: A Golf Course Comes to Life* (Crofton Creek Press;

\$24.95.) If you are a golf nut, you'll love this book. If you don't like golf, you may even love it more.

This columnist personally loathes golf, would rather do laundry, and had to be strongly persuaded to open this book. Once I started, I couldn't put it down. It is really no more about golf than the Oscar-winning movie *Million Dollar Baby* is about boxing. What it really is about is the American dream.

Someone, I wish it had been me, called this book sort of a "A Year in Provence comes to the Rust Belt." It is all that. "We learned as much, or more, about ourselves as a family, and about people, as we did about building a golf course," Bill Haney told me last weekend over a platter of pancakes.

The best thing about this book is that he waited so many years to write it. "You need years of perspective to deal with some of the more painful things," he said. There are personal tragedies; money crises; and balky equipment.

There are also an assortment of rural characters, described in a manner part William Faulkner, part Laura Ingalls Wilder. The Haney's began building "The Boondocks" in the late 1960s, and opened it to the public May 2, 1970, two days before the student shootings at Kent State.

Those were the years of student protest and a nearby Woodstock-like rock concert; of massive social upheaval in Ann Arbor, where Haney went to work every morning. But he came home at night to a world right out of American Gothic, where the rhythms of life were in many ways closer to the 1860s.

There is also a suitably haunting, and totally real, darker aspect to the Haney's sojourn in rural America. There is a mystery the locals won't tell them about at first that involves a mean old man named Nate Fish, perhaps the nation's first blood transfu-

**If you are a golf nut, you'll love this book. If you don't like golf, you may even love it more.**

... and a gruesome death all right in the front room of the house in which they lived and plotted their golf course.

In the end, they indeed built it, and the customers did come. But the thrill left. "I wanted to build a golf course. I really didn't like running one." After two years, they sold it to people who had no idea how much work a golf course really was. Today, the golf course has long since vanished, and developers will undoubtedly soon swallow up the land.

Recently, however, Haney went back and bought the ancient 1841 pole barn that stood on the place. He dismantled it. Someday, he will reassemble it — or use it to build that vacation house he has always been thinking of.

Could a young man do today what he was able — barely — to do in the 1960s? "No way," he says, a bit sadly. The price of fertilizer and seed, not to mention the land, has soared far beyond inflation.

Building the Boondocks was the most intense thing he ever did — and not one he'd want to do again. Except, well, he did build a couple of holes on his place near Ortonville, and recently eyed some land ... until Marcy brought him up short. "Look all you want, but just remember: One golf course per husband."

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at [jlessenberry@homecomm.net](mailto:jlessenberry@homecomm.net).

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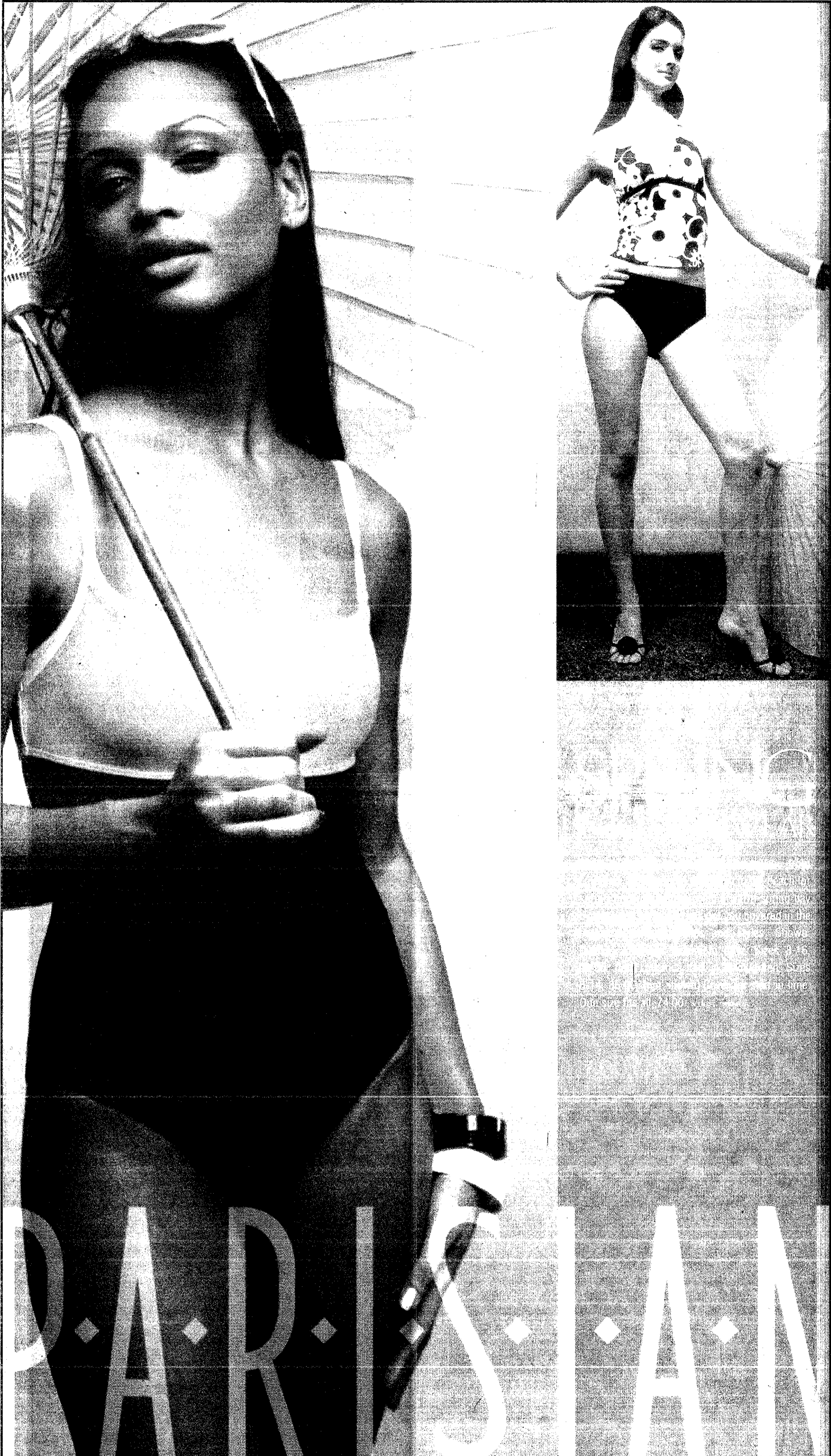
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