

# KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

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**SEASON OPENER**

WMU player has good reason to whip Nebraska

SPORTS/C1



**What to do with triplets on the way**

TODAY/B1



At 12, she's singing on the radio

LOCAL/A2



**INSIDE TODAY OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW >>**

Players to watch, previews for all your local teams + schedules



# TURF PARTY

**SEE IF YOU AGREE**

High school sports editor **Scott DeCamp** makes his first predictions of the season / C5



# United Way undeterred by economy

Agency raised \$10.85M in 2007

BY GABRIELLE RUSSON  
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**2008 campaign**

**WHAT** — Greater Kalamazoo United Way's 2008 fundraising kickoff. **WHEN** — Noon Sept. 10 at Arcadia Creek Festival Place. **WHY IT MATTERS** — United Way supports 61 programs, such as Girls on the Run, activities at local community centers and crisis counseling for assault victims. **MORE INFORMATION, TO CONTRIBUTE** — [www.kalamazoo UnitedWay.org](http://www.kalamazoo UnitedWay.org)

**KALAMAZOO** — The faltering economy presents a tough challenge for the Greater Kalamazoo United Way in raising money for community service this year. United Way leaders, meeting with Kalamazoo Gazette editors on Tuesday, said some local businesses are moving their headquarters elsewhere, jobs are disappearing and some companies are rethinking how much they can give. "We're feeling the impact of all that," said Phil Carra, United Way's interim president, "just the cutbacks and the economic pressure."

See **UNITED WAY**, A5

## Bloomingtondale stoked to try new playing surface

BY DEL NEWELL  
Special to the Gazette

**BLOOMINGDALE**  
A year ago, Bloomingtondale might have wished it didn't have a scoreboard at its old football stadium.

The Cardinals had an 0-9 record and were outscored 289-50 for the year.

But this is a new season, Bloomingtondale has a new stadium, a new synthetic surface, a new track and a host of other improvements.

"We will have a scoreboard Thursday night," promised Brett Geier, superintendent of Bloomingtondale Public Schools, at a Tuesday-night dedication program for districtwide upgrades totaling \$5 million plus.

The scoreboard was one of the few things missing Tuesday from Bloomingtondale's eye-catching new football stadium, which includes the first synthetic turf for a Class C-enrollment school in the Kalamazoo area.

Class B schools Vicksburg, Otsego and Plainwell have artificial surfaces on their football fields.

Bloomingtondale opens its season at 7 p.m. Thursday with a nondivisional Southwestern Athletic Conference home game against Marcellus.

"This field is unbelievable," said senior Lance Fritz, Bloomingtondale's quarterback and line-backer. "This has got us pumped up. We're all excited. We've got a one-of-a-kind stadium."

"This could be the trend," said

See **BLOOMINGDALE**, A5



JERRY CAMPBELL / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Brandy Dalrymple and daughter Ashley, 3, feel the new artificial turf on the football field at Bloomingtondale during a celebration Tuesday. The stadium upgrade is one of several athletic and other school improvements Bloomingtondale voters agreed to fund. The team will play on the new field for the first time Thursday.

# Stryker suit: Feds harassing company

BY ALEX NIXON  
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**KALAMAZOO** — Stryker Corp. is suing two federal agencies, claiming they are using subpoenas to harass the company and harm its business.

The Kalamazoo-based medical-device-maker filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in New Jersey on Aug. 15 seeking

relief from what it says is "abuse of process" by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General.

The federal agencies are investigating allegations that Stryker submitted false or other improper claims for reimbursement under Medicare and Medicaid.

See **STRYKER**, A5

**DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION**

## 'Obama is my candidate'



ALEX BRANDON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Rodham Clinton closed the book on her 2008 presidential bid Tuesday night at the Democratic National Convention in Denver with an plea for the party to unite behind Barack Obama. Tonight's speakers include former President Bill Clinton and Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, Obama's choice as a running mate.

**OBAMA AND BIDEN HEADED TO MICHIGAN**

**DENVER** — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and running mate Joe Biden will campaign in Michigan after wrapping up the Democratic National Convention.

The duo plan to embark on a bus tour that will leave Denver on Friday and head to Pennsylvania. The

tour then will head to Michigan and Ohio, two other key battleground states. The candidates will be accompanied by their wives, Michelle Obama and Jill Biden.

The campaign said today that further details will be announced later

— Associated Press

# NOW YOU KNOW

**FUEL PRICES**  
A sampling of prices from select area gas stations as of 6 a.m.:

- Regular unleaded**
- Murphy USA — \$3.58°  
South Centreville Road, Sturgis
- Clark — \$3.68°  
South Westnedge Avenue, Portage
- Citgo — \$3.69°  
Red Arrow Highway, Mattawan
- Shell — \$3.74°  
West Green Avenue, Marshall
- Diesel**
- Admiral — \$3.90°  
M-89, Plainwell
- BP — \$4.03°  
D Avenue, Cooper Township



**TIGERS ON TV TONIGHT:** The Cleveland Indians are in Detroit to play the Tigers in a game at 7 tonight on Fox Sports Net.

**LIONS ON TV THURSDAY:** The Detroit Lions are in Buffalo on Thursday for their final NFL preseason game. They face the Bills at 6:30 p.m. on Channel 17.

**COMING THURSDAY**  
**Get on the bus!**

Look for KPS bus schedules in tomorrow's paper.



**CENSUS REPORT**

## Incomes fall, poverty rises in Michigan

Michigan was the only state where poverty increased and incomes decreased last year, the U.S. Census Bureau reported Tuesday. — Associated Press

POVERTY RATE	2007	2006
Michigan	14 percent	13.5 percent
Nation	12.5 percent	12.5 percent
❖ The number of people in poverty in Michigan increased by 45,000 in 2006-07.		
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME		
Michigan	\$47,950	\$48,546
Nation	\$50,233	\$49,568
❖ The state's national ranking slid from 24th to 27th.		
UNINSURED RATE		
Michigan	11 percent	10.4 percent
Nation	15.3 percent	15.8 percent
❖ Michigan ranked 11th-best nationally in providing health coverage.		

**FORECAST**  
DETAILS/D6

**TOMORROW**  
Clouds, high 82



**FRIDAY**  
Clouds, high 81



**ALSO INSIDE**  
Bridge D4

Business A6  
Classified D1  
Comics B5  
Crosswords D2,D3  
Entertainment B3  
Horoscope D4

Obituaries A4  
Opinion A10  
Sudoku D5  
Today B1  
TV B4  
Your World A8



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