

# KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

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**DINING OUT:** Omoeffe's Place reopens with soul food on the menu TODAY/B2

## A celebration of good wine

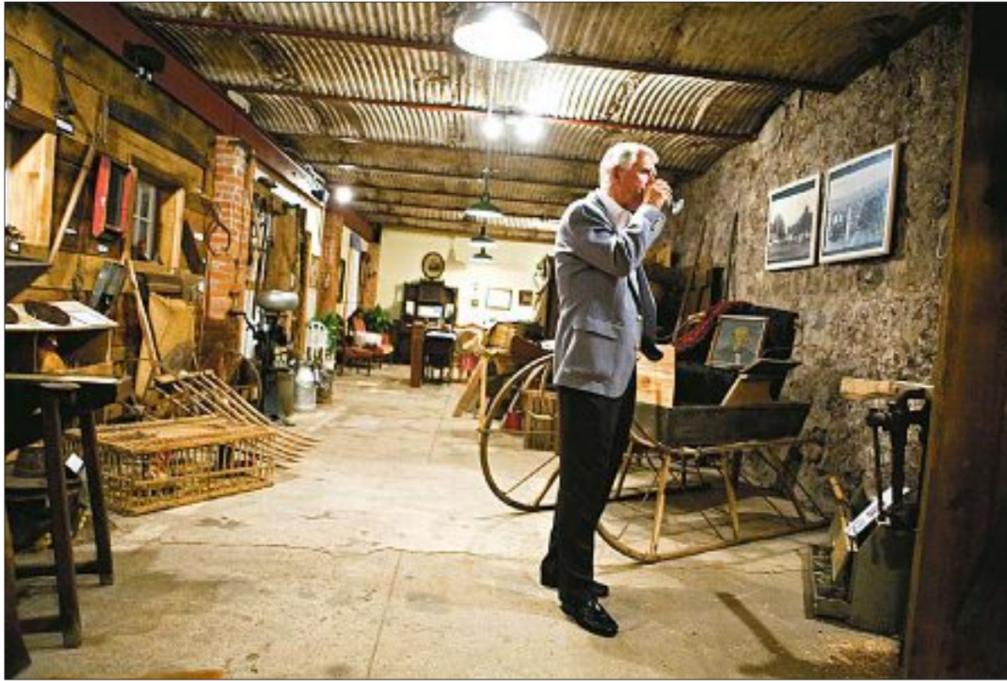
Paw Paw festival begins with style



Charlie Edson, of Bel Lago winery, pours a sample of Pinot Grigio and Chardonnay for Chris Javens, of England, at the tasting event Thursday in Paw Paw.

### WINE & HARVEST FESTIVAL EVENTS TODAY

- 5 TO 11 P.M.:** Carnival midway (parking lot on Michigan Ave.)
- 5 TO 11 P.M.:** Stompyland inflatable activity area.
- 5 P.M. TO MID-NIGHT:** Festival beer and wine tent.
- 5:30 TO 7:30 P.M.:** The Hackneyed Quips Band (beer tent).
- 6 P.M.:** Coca-Cola grape stomp.
- 6:30 TO 7:30 P.M.:** Dance Zone.
- 7 TO 10 P.M.:** Schlitz Creek (amphitheater).
- 8 TO 11:30 P.M.:** Seventh Son (beer tent).
- DUSK:** Fireworks over Maple Lake.
- MORE INFORMATION** and weekend schedule: [www.wineandharvestfestival.com](http://www.wineandharvestfestival.com)



JONATHON GRUENKE / GAZETTE

Dan Nulty, of South Haven, samples wine Thursday from the St. Julian Wine Co. while touring the Lawton Heritage Museum during the 17th annual Best of Michigan Wine Tasting. The event was part of Paw Paw's annual Wine & Harvest Festival and held at the Lawton Heritage Community Center and Museum. The festival continues tonight and this weekend.

**BY WILLIAM R. WOOD**  
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**LAWTON**  
The Best of Michigan Wine Tasting may not have been a black-tie event, but organizer David Braganini dressed in a tux anyway to meet people at the door. He figured the \$35-ticket event Thursday night in Lawton at the Lawton Heritage Community Center and Museum was worthy of an elegant introduction. It was the kickoff for Paw Paw's annual Wine & Harvest Festival, which continues today, goes through Sunday and features a grape-stomping contest, a parade, a classic-car show, a carnival midway and free tastings of about 70 wines from St. Julian

The Best of Michigan Wine Tasting also featured some of the best wines of 12 of Michigan's 56 wineries. Many of the wines were gold-medal winners.

Wine Co. and Warner Vineyards. The Best of Michigan Wine Tasting also featured some of the best wines of 12 of Michigan's 56 wineries. Many of the wines were gold-medal winners. "A lot about wine is image, and I like to put my best foot forward," Braganini said about wearing a tux. "The difference between a \$20 bottle of wine and an \$80 bottle of wine may be \$60, but what is that \$60 worth? It's about perception." About 500 people stepped in from the rain to gain a better perception of wines they were familiar with and also to learn about wines new to them. Many said they liked how new wines were presented annually at the event, born 17 years ago.

See PAW PAW, A5

## ELECTION '08

# Candidates make beeline for Michigan

**BY KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN**  
Associated Press



Sarah Palin and John McCain

**LANSING** — Republican presidential nominee John McCain and running mate Sarah Palin were to head to Sterling Heights today, making their first post-convention trip to a state that could determine if they win the White House.

The battle for Michigan has been fought all summer, but it intensified this week as the presidential candidates wrapped up their national conventions.

The Republican and Democratic national committees are running new, Michigan-specific TV ads criticizing the opposite party's candidates, and the presidential candidates and running mates are rushing to Michigan after making their bows on the national stage. For McCain, today's visit is a chance to appear with Palin in a state where her conservatism on cultural and social issues — and her knack with a rifle — could appeal to blue-collar workers who might otherwise vote Democratic.

The pair planned to hold a 6 p.m. rally at Freedom Hill Am-

**MORE INSIDE**  
❖ McCain and Obama begin eight-week battle over who can best bring about change / A7  
❖ Have conventions outlived their usefulness? **Opinion** / A8

phitheatre in the Detroit suburb. Doors were to open at 3 p.m. Those attending must have picked up tickets from a Republican campaign office.

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama and running mate Joe Biden held their national convention last week, allowing them to make their post-convention swing through Michigan on Sunday. They spoke that evening to about 17,500 people gathered at a minor league baseball stadium in Battle Creek.

## Nation's jobless rate jumps to 6.1 percent

**BY JEANNINE AVERSA**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — The nation's unemployment rate zoomed to a five-year high of 6.1 percent in August as employers slashed 84,000 jobs, dramatic proof of the mounting damage a deeply troubled economy is inflicting on workers and businesses alike.

The Labor Department's report, released today, showed the increasing toll the housing, credit and financial crises are taking on the economy.

The report was sure to rattle Wall Street again. All the major stock indexes tumbled into bear territory Thursday as investors lost hope of a late-year recovery.

See NATION'S, A5

## Ex-KPS chief to lead Promise

**BY JULIE MACK**  
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Janice Brown

**KALAMAZOO** — Almost three years after its unveiling, The Kalamazoo Promise Inc. has named Janice Brown its executive director, it was announced Thursday.

As superintendent of Kalamazoo Public Schools, Brown arranged for anonymous donors to fund the scholarship program, which has drawn national attention as an economic-development vehicle.

The program provides college scholarships for KPS graduates, paying up to full tuition for four years at any Michigan public college or university. The only requirements are that students live within the school district and attend KPS through high school.

See EX-KPS, A5

## NOW YOU KNOW

### FUEL PRICES

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

#### Regular unleaded

- Flying J — \$3.58<sup>9</sup>**  
East Napier Road, Benton Harbor
- Citgo — \$3.69<sup>9</sup>**  
M-51, Paw Paw
- Marathon — \$3.69<sup>9</sup>**  
M-37, Hastings
- Shell — \$3.75<sup>9</sup>**  
South Westnedge Avenue, Portage

#### Diesel

- Admiral — \$3.96<sup>9</sup>**  
M-89, Plainwell
- Double O — \$4.01<sup>9</sup>**  
Sprinkle Road, Kalamazoo

### COMING SUNDAY Pick your favorites

You know what you like. So tell us and we'll tell everyone. **Beginning Sunday**, print and online readers of the Kalamazoo Gazette will be able to vote for their favorite restaurants, foods, entertainment, recreation and shopping spots. The results of the voting will help determine the **2008 Kalamazoo Gazette Readers' Choice awards**.

Sunday and Monday publications will include a ballot that will allow you to vote for your favorites in dozens of categories of local offerings. The ballot also will appear online at [www.mlive.com/kzgazette](http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette).

The results of the balloting will be published Oct. 26 in a special edition of **Ticket entertainment magazine** and will appear online, along with lots of information about the winners you choose. So get ready to vote.



### Tropical Storm Hanna

LOCATION: 25.5° N, 75.0° W  
MOVEMENT: NW 14 mph  
MAX WIND: 65 mph

Hurricane watch Tropical storm warning Tropical storm watch



SOURCES: NOAA; ESRI AP

## HANNA, IKE AND GUSTAV U.S. contending with three big storms

Tropical-storm watches or warnings have been extended from Georgia to areas just south of New York City today as states along the Atlantic brace for Tropical Storm Hanna. Forecasters said Hanna still could become a hurricane before its expected arrival on U.S. shores after roaring past the edge of the Bahamas on Thursday. Meanwhile, disaster planners eyed ferocious-looking Hurricane Ike, which weakened to a Category 3 storm early Friday but still was considered a dangerous hurricane by the National Hurricane Center. Power outages and problems from Hurricane Gustav lingered in Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

**WHAT'S FAIR IS FAIR:** The Allegan County Fair opens today and continues through Sept. 13. Rides, music, food and cute animals, of course, are all part of the down-home fun. [www.allegancountyfair.org](http://www.allegancountyfair.org).

**DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN:** The historic **Barn Theatre** in Augusta presents "The Rocky Horror Show" at 8:30 tonight. There also are two shows of the rocking musical **Saturday** and another on Sunday. [www.barntheatre.com](http://www.barntheatre.com).

**FORECAST** TOMORROW: Cloudy, high 75  
**DETAILS/D6**

**SUNDAY** Cloudy, high 70

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