

obituaries

JAMES M. READ
Mr. Read, 71, of Traverse City died June 10.
Mr. Read was a teacher and administrator for the public school system. He was a graduate of Wayne State University and Michigan State University. He was a member of First Congregational Church, Masonic Blue Lodge and past

president of Retired Teachers Association of Traverse City.
Survivors include his wife, Marie; a daughter, Carol Diane Urquhart; and three grandchildren.
Services were June 13 in the First Congregational Church with the Rev. Thomas Brubaker officiating. Arrangements were made by Martinson Cove Funeral Home, Traverse City. Memorial

services may be sent to Alzheimer's Disease Association.
GLADYS CATHERINE CLARK
Mrs. Clark, 83, of Farmington died June 18 in Dorvin Nursing Center, Livonia.
Mrs. Clark was a homemaker.
Survivors include her daughters, Corine Kay Mayer and Gloria Rose

Jackson; two grandchildren.
Services were June 21 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Arthur Volin officiating. Burial was in Rural Hill Cemetery, Northville.
JOSEPH TARDITI
Mr. Tarditi, 71, of Farmington died

June 20 in Botsford Hospital.
Born in Argentina, Mr. Tarditi was a retired construction worker.
Survivors include his wife, Luigia; a son, Carlo Tarditi, one brother and one sister; and three grandchildren.
Services were June 22 at the Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Mass was said in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

SOPHIE ANN WYDICK
Mrs. Wydick, 84, of Farmington died

Big balloons celebrate first flight

By Tom Henderson
staff writer
Piloting a hot-air balloon has its fringe benefits. "We get to see some of the greatest parking lots in the world," said Jim Ahern.
Ahern pilots a yellow and white striped, seven-story balloon for Kraft foods. Some of the more famous parking lots where his balloon has been tethered, proclaiming on its side "Par-kay — the flavor says better," include those at the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Mardi Gras.
Last week, Ahern visited a new lot, at Madonna College, where his huge nylon bag of hot air was moored for three days. The balloon took local Kraft employees aboard two at a time while hundreds of gawkers stared in fascination at the colorful balloons, which towered above the buildings and trees around it.
The craft was promoting Kraft, but it was promoting something else as well — the first annual North Ameri-

can Hot-Air Balloon Challenge Cup July 2-5 in Battle Creek. The city was site of the world championships in 1981 and will host them again in '85; in the meantime the first Challenge Cup was arranged, involving 15 balloonists from the U.S. and 15 from Canada competing for team and individual championships.
HOT-AIR ballooning may seem wild and reckless, but to Ahern it is a quiet, conservative sport, where you float silently in a gentle breeze with a backdrop of pastel skies.
Why a gentle breeze? Because the craft are never flown in winds more than 10 miles an hour. "Flying at 50 miles an hour is fun," said Ahern. "Landing at 50 isn't."
Why pastel? Because the balloons go up very early in the morning or just before sunset, when the colors in the sky are faded, the winds nearly still and the thermals nonexistent.
(Thermals are fast-rising currents of heated air. Incredibly heavy jets boated around in them while passengers strap themselves in, grip seats,

pray and spill drinks. Imagine what thermals would do to 1,000 pounds of balloon and pilot!)
"You'll never see a balloon fly in the middle of the day," said Ahern, a former manager with Eastern Airlines who has been piloting balloons for 10 years. Before he worked for Eastern, Ahern had another connection with airplanes, or, rather, with the Airplane. Ahern worked in a band in San Francisco with Marty Ballin in the mid-1960s; when the band took on a heavy-metal sound and the name Jefferson Airplane, Ahern quit.
THE PARKAY balloon will miss the upcoming Battle Creek extravaganza — "We'll be tethered in a parking lot in Milwaukee" — but Ahern hopes to pilot it in the U.S. championships in Indiana, Iowa, in August.
Balloon competitions are called races, though actually, there is little racing done — after all, all the balloons fly at the same speed in the same wind. The competition is not one of speed, but of accuracy, as the pilots try to pass the closest to specific targets.
There are 3,000 balloonists in the

United States, of which 1,000 fly competitively. The top 100, based on a year-long points system, qualify for the U.S. title.
Because of the cost of the balloons (roughly \$12,000), there are more licensed balloon pilots than there are balloons (2,000).
THE CHALLENGE CUP in Battle Creek will involve far more than a bunch of wildly colored, huge (at 77,000 cubic feet, they have about four times the volume of the average three-bedroom house) balloons chasing each other across country.
There will be parachute jumps, fireworks, displays of ultra-light airplanes, carnival rides, a blue-grass festival, antique autos and much more.
For information on the free event — location, times, accommodations, call the Battle Creek
albon County Visitor and Convention Bureau at 616-982-2240. In addition to starting a new race series, the Battle Creek competition will celebrate the 20th anniversary of man's first flight, which happened to be in a hot-air balloon.

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Internship served

Kim Zisholz of Farmington Hills has been selected for a summer internship program sponsored by the Office of Human Development Services (OHDS). Zisholz is one of 20 college students, from among 700 applicants, to be selected for the program by Health and

Human Services' (HHS) Assistant Secretary Dorcas R. Hardy. The program lasts through Saturday, Aug. 13. Zisholz, a premed senior at the University of Michigan, will work as a volunteer on the OHDS Presidential Committee on Mental Retardation.

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