

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE C4

The next day we left Yellowstone and stopped at a KOA in Salt Lake City, Utah. Our next stop was the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon was really grand to me.

The next day we had to go home. It was a sad time for all of us except for my dog. I really enjoyed the trip and everybody else did too. That was a great and memorable trip.

**Roderick Curry**  
Westland

My Dad (Joel Weingarden) and I like to travel and to fish together. My dad and I have been to various destinations, and have gone fishing in various areas. One of the places we have traveled to was Cancun, Mexico, where we went sailing and when we went to California and went fishing. My Dad and I like to do a lot of things together and hope to continue to do that in the future.

**Jerome Weingarden**  
Westland

My favorite outing with my Dad was the Father/Son campout for the Troop 900. I had a great time. My dad and I did lots of things like tomahawk golf and a scavenger hunt. We had great food like roast elk and venison chili. I got to spend some time with my friends and my dad. I love my Dad.

**Gavin Swartzick, 11**

My father, Jim Simek, is on the speaker's bureau for the Cleveland, Ohio NASA Glenn Research Center. I am a teacher for Willow Run Community Schools in Ypsilanti. When I began teaching my father mentioned how nice it would be to give the NASA presentations while visiting my husband and I at the same time.

This year my school found money in the budget, he found time in his schedule and he came to visit my husband and I for a few days while also giving NASA presentations to my students at my school. It was a wonderful experience for the other teachers and students, but I was also happy to spend some quality time with my father, which is difficult when he lives over 150 miles away.

**Happy Father's Day,**  
**Theresa Lafcar**  
Westland

My father, John Ptasnik, is an extraordinary person. All of our outings are usually great, from family cookouts to shooting pool (at which he constantly beats me). We did take a memorable trip together, it was 14 years ago, after I

had graduated college. Mom was going to visit her sister, so Dad and I planned a trip to Washington, D.C. Neither of us had ever been, so we hopped a train and spent two days exploring museums and monuments, including the wall which I don't think either of us will ever forget. It was a great experience that was even more special because I got to share it with my Dad.

**Happy Father's Day, Dad, I love you.**  
**Pam Bushway**  
Westland

My dad does everything for me and my mom. He never takes time for himself. He works all week and sometimes on the weekends too. But no matter how busy he gets, he always finds time to volunteer for my class trips and we have never missed a Daddy/Daughter dance. He is the best dad a kid could ever ask for.

He took me ice skating this winter because I wanted to learn to skate like the girls on TV. We had so much fun together. I love him so much.

**Katie Smith, age 8**

Our Dad is GREAT! He makes any outing fun. This picture was taken on a family vacation to San Diego. We did lots of fun things there like Legoland, the San Diego Zoo and Sea World. But the most fun of all was being in the hotel swimming pool with our Dad. He does the best beach ball tricks! He finds the fun in the simplest of things.

We want to say Happy Father's Day to our Dad - Dan Reilman. Daddy's great. Danny, G, and Andrew. 3, Reilman Canton

My father, Charles (Bud) Morris, and I went on the first *Free Press* Michigan Bike Ride across the state of Michigan in 1991. I went with him by himself as my sister at the last minute could not go and my Mom didn't want him going it alone.

It turned out to be a wonderful experience. It was a week of bike riding and camping with just my father and I which was hard to do coming from a family of nine children. My father is now 78 years old and is still riding his bike.

In the past 10 years he has been raising money riding his bike in the MS 150, to benefit multiple sclerosis and has been one of the top money raisers. He is currently going across the country, 4,000 miles from Washington State to Washington, D.C., with his godson, Father Eric Zimmer.

This time he is driving the support vehicle and riding a little bit, too, he said as he also brought his bike along. This time he is raising money with Father Eric for Project Rachel, the National Office for Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing. This ride

is from May 26 to July 20.

I am proud to have him as a father as he has shown great integrity and caring, combining his joy of bike riding with his desire to raise money for his charitable causes. You can follow my father's progress across the state by logging onto [www.bikeidc.us](http://www.bikeidc.us).

**Ed Morris**  
Livonia

The best time I have with my daddy is when we get all dressed up and go to the Girl Scout Daddy/Daughter dance. I love dancing fast and slow dances and even the chicken dance. I can't wait to go again.

Happy Father's Day, Daddy - I love you - you are the best daddy in the whole wide world.

**Love, Kayla Dempster**  
Livonia

**The Big One**

Getting up at six in the morning to go ice fishing with my Dad, Rick Armes, was my idea of an adventure. After my Uncle Eric came over with his gear we were ready to go. After getting to Kensington Lake and deciding where we were going to fish, we started to unload. By now it was nine in the morning with a light wind coming from the North and the temperature was about three degrees.

While my uncle and I were inside the ice shanty my Dad was outside drilling the holes in the ice for the tip-ups to go into. I thought to myself, "Wow, not many Dads would be drilling through seven inches of ice to fish. Some Dads wouldn't even be out here right now at all. When my Dad came in from the cold, we baited our hooks and started to fish. After an hour or so of fishing, I was in the lead with the most fish. I looked outside from the shanty and saw that the flag was up on the tip-up.

"Hey Dad!" I said, "I think there's a fish on the line!" So we went to see if there really was a fish. While my Dad was pulling the line he said, "Go get the ice scoop so we can clear the shavings out of the hole."

As I was running back to the shanty I turned around and saw my Dad pulling in the monster pike. After he got the fish out of the hole he dropped it on the ice. The fish hit the ice and started to slide back into the hole. My Dad suddenly grabbed the fish by his gills and hoisted him on to the ice where we could all see him with our own eyes.

The fish was a MONSTER. He was three feet long and weighed 20 pounds. After taking pictures and setting him free we put everything away and headed home. While in the car I talked to

my Dad about the experience. "What a thriller!" my dad said. He said that if it weren't for me noticing that something was on the line, we probably wouldn't have even caught the fish in the first place. So ended a perfect day. This is one of my most favorite memories of being with my Dad.

**Mike Armes, age 12**  
Livonia

My Dad (Ken Buczak) and I are NASCAR fans. This is my Dad and I at the Michigan International Speedway last August. My Dad got tickets for the two of us to go see the NASCAR Winston Cup race that weekend. It was really cool to be able to tour the facility and to watch a good race. Thanks, Dad.

**Joe Buczak**  
Farmington Hills

My Dad is one of the greatest men on earth. He was the man that taught me to ride a bike, roller-skate, play baseball and many more things. He is always there when I need advice, whether it's about a boy or my homework. If I didn't have him for a father, I'd probably be a girl that sits in the corner and waits for someone to come and talk to her, instead of the party girl always meeting new people and striking up an interesting conversation.

My Dad, John Butkovich, is a supporting Dad, too. I was on the Farmington cheerleading squad for three years and last year I was on the Garden City Junior High School Pompon squad. Currently I'm on the Pompon squad again, and I wouldn't be able to continue with it without the emotional and mental support. He is always there when I go to camp, practices and competitions. He's always cracking jokes to make me smile again.

I remember my first real hockey, baseball, football and Super Bowl party because my father took me. I have two other sisters and a 4-year-old brother. It's not exactly easy getting time alone with him. He always is equal and fair to all of us, and to his loving wife. Without her, I don't think that our family would be the same and both of them are probably the strongest married couple I know.

If I didn't have a Dad like mine, I'd be a shy, and quiet girl. He's my role model, best friend, and my father all in one. I don't know what would happen if I lost my Dad. If there was one person that I had to say was the all-American role model it would definitely be my father.

**Malory Butkovich, age 13**  
Garden City

## St. John's celebrates new church facility

St. John Lutheran Church of Farmington Hills celebrated the dedication of its new church facility on June 1.

The "Together in Faith" building campaign began in late 2000 and groundbreaking took place in spring 2002. The new facilities include a worship center seating 350, a two-room nursery for infants and toddlers, a large entry area, a gym for recreational activities and fellowship events, offices and parking for 150 vehicles.

According to pastor Dan Cave, who has been with St. John since 1991, "Our building project has been in the works since 1998. It has been

**"Worship has always been a big part of our church's life."**

**Dan Cave**  
pastor

a labor of love by many, many members of the congregation who share a vision to make St. John a welcoming, growing and serving church offering a variety of ministries to the greater community. Worship has always been a big part of our church's life."

The new facilities will help provide new, more effective ministries to the community, Cave added.

This summer, St. John offers a traditional worship service at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday and a contemporary praise service at 11 a.m. Sunday school for all ages resumes Sept. 7. Vacation Bible School for pre-school and elementary age children is planned for Aug. 11-15 as well as a Fall Open House and Children's Festival on Sept. 6 and 7.

For more information call the church office at (248) 474-0594. The church is located at 23225 Gill Road.

## Starts in LIVONIA

### Livonia Great Race Events Public Invited

**June 18th & 19th**

Starting at 9:00 a.m., and continuing throughout the day Great Race Registration and Technical Inspections at the Holiday Inn, Six Mile Road and I-275

**June 18th**

Rough Collection Open House, 11851 Market St., Livonia 5:30 p.m. - dark.  
Detroit Symphony Orchestra 8:00 p.m. steps of City Hall.

**June 20th**

Great Race Trophy Run, from Livonia Holiday Inn to Michigan International Speedway to Livonia City Hall. Cars will leave the Holiday Inn beginning at 9:00 a.m. and return to City Hall beginning at 3:45 p.m.

**June 21st - RACE DAY!!**

Join us early... Great Race Cars begin arriving at 9:00 a.m. Livonia Community Recreation Center, on the corner of Five Mile and Hubbard Roads. Opening Ceremonies at noon. See the cars from the movie, "The Great Race", starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis & Natalie Wood.

Official race start time 12:30 p.m. Displays of Competitor's Vintage Race Cars and our own Local Cars, featuring classic cars & trucks, street rods, customs, sports cars and more!

The judged local show runs from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

734-368-2100

www.livoniagreatrace.com



For Bob Costas: "This year would have marked Lou Gehrig's 100th birthday. The legendary Iron Horse of baseball gave his heart and soul to America's favorite pastime. But he gave his life and name to the fatal disease, ALS, now best known as Lou Gehrig's disease."

### Join ALS of Michigan and the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park for Lou Gehrig's 100th Birthday Party!

Comerica Park, 1230 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48226  
Tickets: \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45, \$50, \$55, \$60, \$65, \$70, \$75, \$80, \$85, \$90, \$95, \$100  
Box Seats: \$1,200, \$1,500, \$2,000, \$2,500, \$3,000, \$3,500, \$4,000, \$4,500, \$5,000, \$5,500, \$6,000, \$6,500, \$7,000, \$7,500, \$8,000, \$8,500, \$9,000, \$9,500, \$10,000

Two exciting packages are available at \$50 and \$100

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**Call 800-882-5764**