Who ARE these musicians???

Who's hiding behind those paper bags?

To find out, you'll have to come Sunday afternoon and see the Lake Alumni Band in action, when they perform as part of the Lake Vaudville Variety Show on Mountview at 1:00 p.m. at the Lake Auditorium.

The Lake Alumni Band is only one of more than a dozen special acts planned for the show, which is being sponsored by the Lake Band Boosters to help fund music camp scholarships and to purchase instruments and supplies.

"It's a talent show," explains organizers from the Band Boosters. There are professional groups consisting in like the precision tap offered by the 7th City Harlem group of dancers who will also be groups performing gospel numbers, dance, comedy and drama.

Mark Romuald of Pigeon will emcee the afternoon event and tickets will be for sale at the door.

IT'S A MYSTERY BAND, at least until Sunday when the public can see who is performing as part of the Lake Alumni Band for a special Vaudville Variety Show, sponsored by the Lake Band Boosters.

Will farm property auctions stabilize land values?

"Buy land," the old saying goes, "because they ain't makin' any more of it." This advice may be true, but there's plenty of quality farm land for sale in the Western Thumb right now — 403 acres, to be exact.

The largest local collection of parcels of acreage ever assembled at one time is on the farm auction block, as two major sales will be entered at what price will best stabilize farm land prices into the 21st century.

How much interest is shown by potential bidders — and how many bids will be entered at what price — is the big question still to be answered.

On Tuesday, March 24, 2770 acres of farm land in dozens of tracts of 20- to 120-acre sizes are being offered by Farm Credit Services through Herb Albrecht & Associates, auctioneers of Washtenaw. These include 1120 acres in Huron County and 280 acres in Tuscola.

Most of these have been seized by Farm Credit Services for non-payment of debt in recent years. The 11 a.m. auction will be conducted at the Colony House near Casa City. Sale flyers have been prepared for the offering, which is the culmination of several years of repossessions.

On Thursday, March 26, 1463 acres of farm land in 23 parcels ranging from one acre (usually also including homes or farm buildings) to 120 acres will be sold at auction at the Fiddler Hall through Schmidt Real Estate and Auction Company of Columbia, Ind., and Westchester Group, Inc., of Chicago, Ill. The 11 a.m. auction is being presented by information days this past Tuesday and on Thursday, March 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Greenfield’s Restaurant, Pigeon.

Large-scale farm owners Vernon and June Ketzschner of Pigeon are offering 744 acres of that total in 13 tracts located around Pigeon, southeast of Ekron and southwest of Bad Axe, according to the full-color auction flyer describing the land. The Ketzschners are scaling back their farming operations through the sale.

The other 10 tracts total 719 acres and are being sold by Thumb National Bank & Trust Company of Pigeon. They too are located in Western Huron County, plus one tract in Tuscola, one mile south of the county line. Most of these properties have been returned to the bank for non-payment of debt. Some also include residences or out-building.

Why such a massive farm land sale? There isn't one simple answer, although experts familiar with the situation say soaring land prices in the 1980s led to today's massive sell-off. Traditionally, quality tilled farm land in this area would well for $1500 to $2200 per acre and many farmers owned no more than 200 to 300 acres. Even that was a far cry from the times 50 years ago when a family could live comfortably on an 80-acre farm for decades.

Steady farmer commodity prices — and over-optimistic buyers — led to steep jumps in land values in the mid-1980s, when some top-quality parcels sold for $3200 and more, experts say. Then, ever-higher prices for fertilizers, fuel, machinery and seed reduced net farm income drastically.

To purchase more land, some farmers secured their purchases with long-owned parcels, which in theory had risen dramatically in value. Since land was selling at these higher prices, it appeared the value was there, one observer says today. "Some farmers didn't realize it could come down as fast as it had gone up."

Three particularly poor farming years, starting with the worst flooding in a century in 1988, brought a halt to skyrocketing land values. Plus, the fields which were to produce the revenues to make principle and interest payments were yielding below-average crops in those 1988-89 years, making repayment of debt difficult...or impossible.

Some land devaluations fell 46% in a year. Some land purchased five years earlier for $3000 per acre fell to $1000 — "an amazing roller-coaster ride," one expert says. "It's remarkable things aren't worse. In retrospect, we farmers wanted too much. We never thought prices would stop rising."

The stock market, now in the 3200 range, will fall 500 points, that would be a big story in the news. But that's only 15%, compared to what farm land has done here."

Everybody in the past 10 years probably paid more than they should have — but no one knew that. Some had enough equity to survive, while others didn't," another expert says.

Some over-leveraged themselves, or fell victim in poor combinations of weather/crop mix and production slump. For instance, dairy farmers and sugar beet growers basically have done well in the past decade; others such as feeder cattle operations haven't.

Some people are good managers but made the wrong choices, or hired the wrong men," an observer says. "The old saying is that every bad farm year requires three good years to recover."

Well, we had three bad years straight. Maybe we don't need a full nine years for recovery, but we certainly need five or six. We're halfway through that right now," he adds, although the last 1991 crop year was basically dismal with poor bean market and dairy prices, smaller acreage yields on sugar beets and flat numbers of corn and wheat.

No one also knows what prices the auctions will draw — and who will be bidders. Some stories say out-of-area farm companies are looking over many of the properties, while some local farmers — who recall $3000 prices a decade ago — may be willing to purchase land today. Some non-farm investors may want to acquire land on speculation, another rumor says.

Some recent small sales have found good land selling for $1800 and higher, but with a massive sale depressed per- acre prices? No one knows with certainty.

And these are not typical auctions, either. A sophisticated system is in use to keep track of bids will be employed. Buyers from throughout the Midwest — and perhaps further afield — are expected.

All land is for sale, and they aren't making any more of it.
As we see it

SAY CHEESE FOR THE SKELETONS!

If you think you’ve heard it all, this will prove you wrong. An abundance of dark chocolate works as a natural buffer against tooth decay. So why not enjoy it? You could even like to see more experts prescribe eating all-natural cheese to your diet? Not just because it’s made from pure, fresh milk. That’s because cow’s milk is used to put a toothache on the face of our local dairy farmers, at the same time!

Wanda Eichler’s “Wilow” column will appear again soon, after a brief hiatus.

Our Readers Write...

Clarification needed after unfair news stories, reports

Dear Editor:
The recent public release of a Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) report describing an ongoing single-strain outbreak in the state has created a great deal of public concern.

We are particularly concerned because our laboratory is not involved in the investigation of this outbreak, as the laboratory reporting the findings is a private lab. As a result, we do not have access to the raw data that is being used to make these claims.

We have been aware of the findings from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) laboratory in Detroit. The MDPH has confirmed that the outbreak is limited to a specific geographic area and that only a small number of people have been affected. The MDPH has also stated that the outbreak is unlikely to spread outside of this area.

This information is important to our patients and the community. We urge everyone to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to prevent the spread of this outbreak.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Chair, Department of Laboratory Medicine

Pigeon District Library News

Pigeon

Preschool Story Hour

Dear Editor:

The Pigeon District Library is excited to announce that our Preschool Story Hour will be back soon! Each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., we will be offering fun and engaging stories for children ages 3-5.

It’s a great way to make reading a part of your child’s daily routine. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

[Librarian’s Name]

Pigeon District Library

Recollections of By-Gone Days

by George KEMP

DEAR EDITOR:

I think my school has too many rules. Every time we do something, there are so many rules to follow. It’s like we’re never free to do our own thing.

I believe that we should be able to enjoy our childhood without being constantly reminded of what we can’t do. It’s important to remember that we are still growing and learning, so we need some freedom to explore and experience new things.

I hope that my school can find a way to balance the need for structure with the need for exploration. I think this would be a great way to create a positive learning environment for all students.

Sincerely,

[Student’s Name]

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Sincerely,

[Student’s Name]
Engaged

Pigeon Thursday after 1067 Avenue
Lea’s Lending—12
Ellis Road—13
J&J Pkg—15
Choice Health—13
County Medical—13
Gerry’s Veterinary—13
Finn’s Farm Supply—8-12
McCorrins Market—8-12
Dutch Katers—11
All Things Fun—13
McKinley Manor—1
The Dells—13

BOWLING

Pigeon Monday Ladies League
Conga Decker—12
Auntie Paul—12
Berkeley Indusials—12
Shirlee Foulke—12
Albioni Auction—12
Gaiety Homes—12
Thomas & Sons—12
J & D’s—12
Daisy’s—12
S & S’s—12

Pigeon Tuesday Classic
Pigeon Chase—12

Fridays Night Men’s League
Conga Decker—12
Auntie Paul—12
Berkeley Indusials—12
Shirlee Foulke—12
Albioni Auction—12
Gaiety Homes—12
Thomas & Sons—12
J & D’s—12
Daisy’s—12
S & S’s—12

Fun with Campbell’s Soup!

Oeschger - Schenk
Robert and Connie Oeschger of Port Angeles announce the engagement of their daughter, Terrie Lynn, to Jason Rich-
schel Schen, son of Lawrence (Dira) and Kathy Schen of
Bed Earn.
She is the granddaughter of Bill and Mildred Oeschger and
of James and Martha Schen.

The bride-elect is a 1985 graduate of Port Angeles Com-
Community School, a 1990 graduate of Western Washington
University and is employed at Fila. Campbell has
she is employed at Port Angeles High School.
She is employed at Port Angeles Refrigeration, Bed Earn. A May 25 wedding is being planned.

It’s a Girl!

Eugene and Suzanne Gaucho-Figueredo of Port Angeles announce the birth of a baby daughter, Rachel Gaucho-Figueredo, born
at 7:38 a.m. at Port Angeles Community Hospital.
The baby weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 20 inches long.
She was welcomed home by her parents, Eugene and
Suzanne Gaucho-Figueredo, Port Angeles.

Great Lakes Junior College
150 NUGENT ROAD  BAD AXE

We’ve Opened Our Doors Right In Your Backyard
So That More Doors Will Open For You!
COME SEE OUR NEW
HURON COUNTY CAMPUS LOCATED IN BAD AXE

"I was afraid to return to school after being out for so many years, but the GLJC staff and faculty convinced me to give it a try, and now I’m glad I did!"

Don’t wait another minute. Step into the future with GLJC by calling Dave or Julie at (517) 269-9288 or (800) 968-5894

SOME OF THE CLASSES OFFERED:
Intro to Business
Employee Ethics
Anatomy
Human Relations - Psychology
Computer Literacy
Principles of Accounting
Word Processing Concepts
Corporate/Agency Law
Contract Law
Marketing
Life and Career Development
Lotos 1-3

SPRING TERM BEGINS MARCH 16
Financial Aid Still Available
For Those Who Qualify

THE POWER AGENCY
6974 Main St. (M-25) Caseville 856-2745

Mike Power

Auto-Owner, Medicare Supplement provides high-quality coverage you can depend on at a guaranteed affordable price.
Call your Auto-Owner agent for all the details.

WINSOR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9
and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the
Winsor Township Hall for the purpose of reviewing
the assessment roll and hearing objections. Factors all 1.0000.

BOB ARMSTRONG - Supervisor

MCKINLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9
and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the McKinley Township Hall for the purpose of reviewing
the assessment roll and hearing objections. Factors all 1.0000.

HERMAN RATHKE - Supervisor

BROOKFIELD TWP. BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9
and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the
Community Building in Owosso for the purpose of hearing objections. Factors all 1.0000.

WALTON BROWN - Supervisor

CASEVILLE TWP. BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the
Caseville Village/Township Hall to review and
adjust assessments. All protests by mail will be
accepted if received prior to March 14, 1992.

JANICE PILL - Assessor

OLIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00
p.m. and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the
Oliver Township Hall for the purpose of reviewing
the assessment roll and hearing objections. Factors all 1.0000.

LAWRENCE KROHN - Supervisor

FAIR HAVEN TWP. BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00
p.m. and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Fair
Haven Township Hall for the purpose of reviewing
the assessment roll and hearing objections. Factors all 1.0000.

WILLIAM FORGE - Supervisor

CHANDLER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW
Board of Review will meet on Monday, March 9
and Tuesday, March 10, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Chan-
dlor Township Hall for the purpose of reviewing
the assessment roll and hearing objections. Factors all 1.0000.

BILLY RENN - Supervisor
Pigeon news notes

BY DOROTHY DEIER

Lulea M.E. Elston

1916-1992

Lulea M.E. Elston, 73, of Clinton, passed away, May 24, 1992, in Boston Memorial, Bost, Mass. She was born in Washington, D.C., to John and Anna Johnson, on Nov. 12, 1916. She was a communicant of St. John's Church in Clinton, and was a retired saleswoman from the New England Bulletin, Bost. She was predeceased by her husband, William Strelchuk, on April 12, 1992.

Obituaries

WILLIAM STRELCHUK

1924 - 1992

William N. Strelchuk, 97 of Clinton, passed away, Sun-
day, Mar. 15, 2004. He was a retired bus driver for State of
Massachusetts. He was born in Chicago, Ill., and was a

ESTHER KATHERINE HODAPP

1901-1992

Esther E. Hodapp, 94, died, Thursday, Feb. 18, 1992, at
Caveville, N.C. She was born in Findlay, Ohio, and lived
there for many years. She was a member of the Findlay, Ohio,
Chamber of Commerce. She was predeceased by her husband,
Harry Hodapp, on May 22, 1961, and is survived by her
children, Elmer, Walter, and Robert.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

John A. Champagne

VAULTS AND CONCRETE WALLS

Rochester, N.Y.

The topic of the day: "The Concrete Wall and Vaulting" by
John A. Champagne. The presentation was a part of the
Rochester Historical Society's "Architecture and Design" series,
which explores the history and evolution of building materials
and techniques.

VAUDEVILLE VARIETY SHOW

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2004

A VARIETY SHOW

TICKETS AT THE DOOR:

FAMILY $15 • ADULT $14

Students $5

LICENCED BY THE MASS. BAR ASSOC.


PAMELA J. STARK, Village Counselor/Deputy Clerk

Muenster - Deering

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dale of Deering, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dale of Deering, are proud to announce engagement of their daughter, Brenda Deidra Deene of Deering, to William John Stagg, a medic student in Boston, Mass. The couple plans to be married in a civil ceremony, on Aug. 12, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Boston. The couple will reside in Boston.

MUETTEN - DEERING

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dale of Deering, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dale of Deering, are proud to announce engagement of their daughter, Brenda Deidra Deene of Deering, to William John Stagg, a medic student in Boston, Mass. The couple plans to be married in a civil ceremony, on Aug. 12, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Boston. The couple will reside in Boston.
Achievements

Sherry Stonehenge, a resident who graduated cum laude in 1985, has been named The Justin Foundation Outstanding Student Scholarship Program for 1992.

Stonehenge was an honor student who was able to attend the school while employed. She has made an outstanding contribution to the school and is a leader in her community.

Peter Shapley has been appointed as the new President of Eastlake College. He will be taking over from Dr. William Smith, who is retiring after 15 years of service.

Jennie Charles, who has been teaching at Lakeview High School, has been awarded the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award.

Jesse L. Leonard, a former student of Lakeview High School, has been accepted into the Medical School.

Joyce L. Anderson, a former student of Eastlake College, has been accepted into the Law School.

Jennie L. Williams, a former student of Eastlake College, has been accepted into the Nursing School.

James L. Lee, a former student of Eastlake College, has been accepted into the Business School.

Dr. Jane L. Smith, a former student of Eastlake College, has been accepted into the Medical School.

Jennie L. Williams, a former student of Eastlake College, has been accepted into the Law School.

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