



Lautner leaving 'Twilight' behind
Michigan native takes lead in new movie 'Abduction'
C1

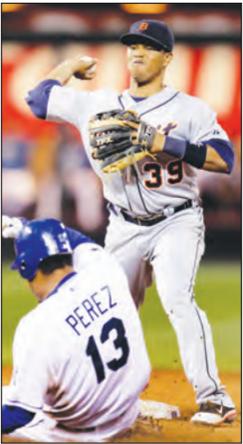
5-MINUTE CONNECTION

Your Local Weather
TODAY

High: 57 Low: 41

FRIDAY

High: 56 Low: 37



Valverde gets 47 as Tigers beat Royals

Ramon Santiago drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, Don Kelly added a two-run homer and the Detroit Tigers beat the Kansas City Royals 6-3 on Wednesday night. Victor Martinez added three RBIs for Detroit. Doug Fister (10-13) yielded two hits over three shutout innings of relief, and Jose Valverde pitched the ninth to remain perfect in 47 save chances.
See Page B1.

Supporters claim injustice as Georgia executes man

Georgia executed Troy Davis on Wednesday night for the murder of an off-duty police officer, a crime he denied committing right to the end as supporters around the world mourned and declared that an innocent man was put to death. Defiant to the end, he told relatives of Mark MacPhail that his 1989 slaying was not his fault.
See Page A2.

Americans freed from Iran prison

After more than two years in Iranian custody, two Americans convicted as spies took their first steps toward home Wednesday as they bounded down from a private jet and into the arms of family for a joyful reunion in the Gulf state of Oman.
See Page A8.

Deaths

Charles James Allamon, 92, of Cadillac
Lynn Erick Irland, 63, of Falmouth
Michael Earl Simpson, 49, of Manton
Katherine F. Thomason, 55, of Cadillac

Help offered to businesses stung by imports

GLTAAC reaching out to help local business be more competitive

BY JEFF BRODDLE
CADILLAC NEWS

CADILLAC — Everyone likes an offer of free money, but the real value of working with the Great Lakes Trade Adjustment Assistance Center is the dividends it pays long into the future.

A project manager from GLTAAC, John Antos, visited Cadillac recently to recruit clients for the program. He spoke at Baker College Cadillac on Wednesday.

The program is a lesser-known cousin of the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance for workers. It has a federal budget of \$16 million, spread among 11 centers throughout the county.

Antos shared the success story of Witco, Inc., a CNC precision machining company in Avoca, Mich.

Witco had lost several large customers and also new sales to reduced cost competitors in India and

Mexico.

With help from GLTAAC, Witco was able to take advantage of new opportunities manufacturing for the aerospace industry after it took the steps necessary to acquire AS9100 aerospace certification. That move helped it transition from third-tier supplier to a first-tier contractor in the aerospace industry. GLTAAC not only helped share the cost of the certification, but also helped the company identify steps it needed to take to prepare for the certification process.

"The AS9100 certification brought in new business opportunities and hundreds of thousands of dollars," said Todd Kinney as quoted in a press release. Kinney is Witco's director of sales and marketing.

Companies that think they might not be eligible are encouraged to give GLTAAC a call and find out.

Robert Best, one of about a dozen people attending Antos' presenta-

The program is a lesser-known cousin of the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance for workers. It has a federal budget of \$16 million, spread among 11 centers throughout the county.

tion, said he could think of 10 to 12 in the area that are likely to qualify.

In a nutshell, businesses must be directly affected by imports, whether they be from as far as China or as close as Canada. Sales or employment must be down by 5 percent or more as a result. Most companies that benefit from the GLTAAC program have sales of between \$5 million and \$25 million.

The federal government requires participating firms to put down a \$2,000 entrance fee to show commitment, but once the ball is rolling, it may receive assistance in the form of up to \$75,000 in one-to-one matching funds. The matching funds can't be used for capital costs such as new

equipment, and they must take the company in a new direction. But the decision of where to commit the funding is the company's choice.

For example, a tool and die shop had not been profitable in three years. In working with GLTAAC, it was recognized that although it relied upon a project manager system, none of the employees had received any relevant training. The shop decided to move ahead with the training, and afterward was able to cut costs by as much as 20 percent.

GLTAAC is actively recruiting firms in this area. For more information, call Ruth Church, (734) 998-6596.

jbroddle@cadillacnews.com | 775-NEWS (6397)

Can it be easy going green?

Key is knowing where, what and when to take recyclables to centers

BY NICOLE HORNBAKER HAMNER
CADILLAC NEWS

For some, Saturdays are synonymous with relaxing weekends.

This time of year, that might mean football or family time. It might include some shopping, housework or home repair.

For people like Doug Rueffer, Saturdays mean substituting relaxation time for recycling time.

Rueffer is part of a dedicated group of volunteers in Evert that spend some Saturdays a month taking other people's items and figuring out how and where to put them to reduce our collective carbon footprint.

It isn't uncommon to find him wading through the bins of paper products, plastic jugs, aluminum by-products, and he hopes, a very small pile that can't be sent to recycling.

It can be chaotic with the drop offs, with the mess, and with the lack of knowledge some well-meaning people have that bring in their housewares for disposal, but that's okay, because he knows



NICOLE HAMNER | CADILLAC NEWS

At the Evert-based recycling center, volunteers are amazed at what is discarded every day, they say.

that with each new visitor is a chance to educate about what can and can't be recycled, and why it matters.

As recycling in the area contin-

ues to become more prevalent, the average consumer can now make a few changes in their daily lives and schedules to allow for a visit to some of the area's recy-

cling centers, reducing their own waste, cost, and that carbon footprint, too.

FOR MORE ON THIS STORY, PLEASE TURN TO PAGE A2

Reed City welcomes familiar face as new teacher

BY NICOLE HORNBAKER HAMNER
CADILLAC NEWS

REED CITY — With all the talk of budget cuts, school reductions, and dwindling enrollment, at a recent meeting of the Reed City Board of Education, it brought smiles to the board and school staff in attendance when Reed City Norman Elementary principal Tonya Harrison introduced a newly hired teacher to the school and community.

And while new to RCAPS, Stacy Gilland, a 1999 Reed City graduate and new second grade teacher, is a familiar face around town, an added bonus for the school, who say they were able to offer the posi-

tion because of a boost in students at the elementary level.

With 50 more students district-wide than RCAPS had budgeted, hiring Gilland was an example of the Board of Education's commitment to keep class sizes small, said Superintendent Steven Westhoff.

"I congratulate the Board of Education for sticking to your guns and placing a high priority on low class sizes," Westhoff said. "It does serve the kids extremely well at the elementary level."

First-grade teacher Kayle Stevenson also has been recalled after being laid-off last spring, another move for the school that despite budget cuts, opted to focus

Stacy Gilland, a 1999 Reed City graduate, and new second grade teacher, is a familiar face around town, an added bonus for the school, who say they were able to offer the position because of a boost in students at the elementary level.

on small class sizes, where Westhoff said the dollars could make the most difference.

Originally, Reed City's Norman Elementary School administrators had planned to shuffle staff around to keep staff levels as is, moving a fifth-grade teacher to the second grade.

But Westhoff said that because the board made small class sizes

especially important in kindergarten through third grades, and because of the student increase, that would have meant that even in the fifth grade, classes at an average of 30 students was too high.

By adding the elementary teacher to second grade, the school was able to adjust and keep all classes to 24 students or fewer, he noted.

nhamner@cadillacnews.com

