



Making their garden grow

IHM spreads the word about organic farming

BY STEPHANIE ARIGANELLO
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While it's a little difficult to picture the St. Mary organic farm in full thrush right now — with the air still chilly — that didn't dampen Sharon McNeil's enthusiasm while showing a large group the garden Thursday.

Ms. McNeil, head of the garden, was one of a variety of presenters at the conference From Farm to Table: Building a Better Food System in Southeast Michigan, at the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Motherhouse.

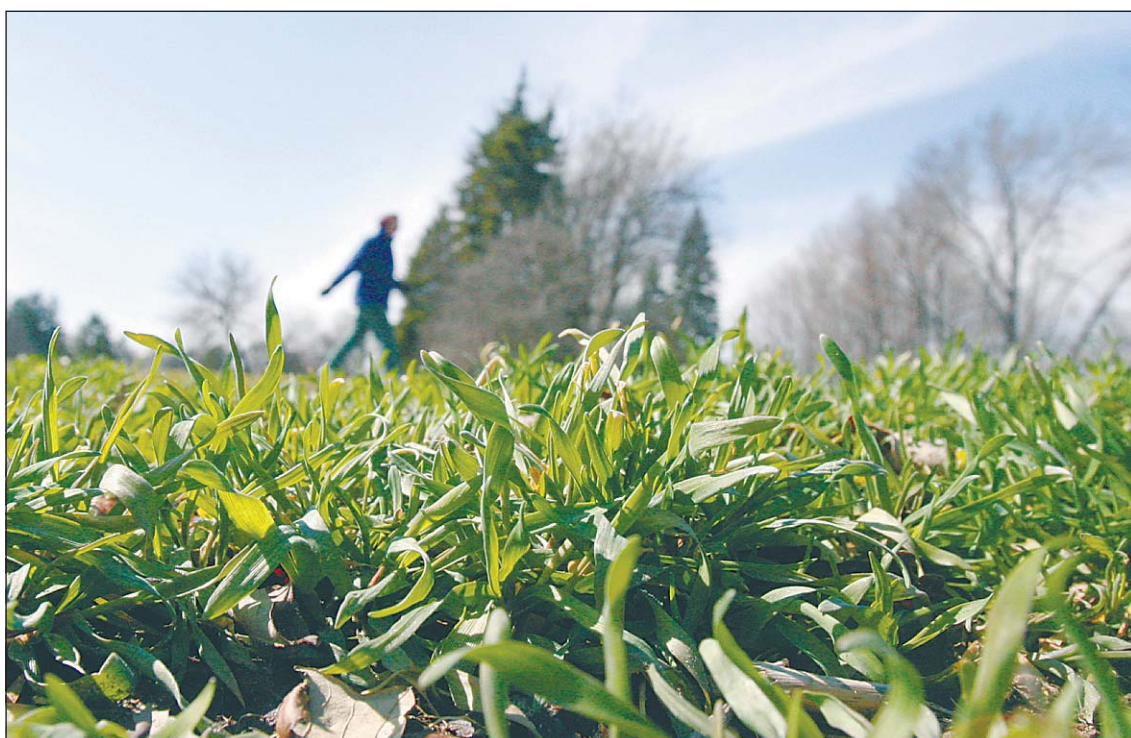
"Over here, we usually do perennials," she said. "We just took down some of the raised beds. The wood, after a few years of exposure, starts to lose its structure. We plan on building in more this year."

Ms. McNeil gestured over the two acres of the garden and explained that they don't use fertilizers or pesticides to make their garden grow. They do use community support and a drip irrigation system, and practice crop rotation and companion planting to make it a profitable endeavor.

Each year, they plant or raise more than 25 varieties of fruits and vegetables.

Ms. McNeil told the group how the garden came to acquire grapevines last year.

"Wal-Mart is in Monroe See IHM, Page 9A



— Evening News photo by MIRANDA HARPLE

Plant seedlings begin to grow in the organic farm on the campus of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

HOW THE COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE PROGRAM WORKS

A CSA, or community-supported agriculture program like the one through the St. Mary organic farm, is where growers and eaters come together.

Growers are supported through the cost of the program while eaters get to reap the bounty of local, in-season veggies and fruits.

Consumers buy into the program at the beginning of the growing season. Some memberships are working shares — meaning the member has to work in the garden for a minimum amount of hours each month — while other memberships are non-working but cost a little more.

Members receive weekly produce. Each share provides enough food for at least two people during the 20-week growing season from June to October. All of the food grown in the garden is organic.

In addition to the food, members and friends of the farm get a monthly newsletter, Tap Root, and are notified of upcoming events.

Shares for the St. Mary CSA are still available for this growing season.

BECOME A MEMBER:

■ Working share: Cost is \$325 plus at least eight hours of work a month in the garden. There is a \$25 discount for returning members. Weekly allotment of food.

■ Non-working share: Cost is \$475 with a \$25 discount for returning members. Weekly allotment of food.

■ Garden ally: Make a donation of your choice to the agricultural effort.

■ Sponsor a share: A contribution will pay for produce to feed a needy family.

To find out more or to purchase a share, contact Sharon McLain, head of the organic farm, at 240-9720 or e-mail smcneil@ihmsisters.org.

What's it feel like to win millions? This Ford worker knows

LANSING (AP) — David Sneath has worked at the Ford Motor Co. parts warehouse in Brownstown Township for 34 years, but it didn't take him any time at all to walk out once he discovered he'd won a \$136 million Mega Millions jackpot.

"I yelled to the boss, 'I'm out of here,'" the Livonia man said Thursday after coming to state Lottery Bureau headquarters in downtown Lansing to pick up his first \$1 million check.

Sneath said the reality has yet to sink in.

"I still haven't touched base with Earth yet," he said. When he saw in a newspaper that he had a winning ticket, "my whole body went numb."

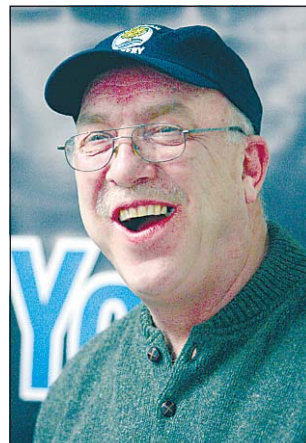
Sneath plans to buy a cottage on Mullett Lake in northern Michigan and maybe a new fishing boat or two to help him land the walleye he loves to catch. He's tired of misplacing his glasses and may get laser surgery to correct his vision. And he'll probably move out of his three-bedroom, two-bath ranch home, although he plans to stay in Michigan.

He's even considering a return to Eastern Michigan University to finish his bachelor's degree. He's eight credits shy of a major in warehousing and a minor in international marketing, and would like to complete his degree.

Sneath turned 60 on Tuesday, the day he won the jackpot. Friends and family at first thought it was an April Fool's joke.

"I called my sister, she didn't believe me. I called my daughter, she thought I was nuts," said Sneath, who said he made his first call to his ex-wife, Deborah.

Deborah, whom he referred to as "my significant ex," attended the Thursday news conference where Sneath was



— AP photo by AL GOLDIS

David Sneath smiles at Michigan Lottery headquarters after winning a \$136 million jackpot Tuesday — his 60th birthday.

presented a large replica of a \$136 million check.

His daughter was there with her daughter, as was his son, who had bought the winning ticket on his father's behalf during trip to a nearby gas station to get cigarettes.

Sneath plans to take a one-time lump payment worth \$84.3 million, or \$59.6 million after taxes. On Thursday, he got the first \$1 million; he'll get the remainder in a second payment. At the warehouse, he made \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year.

A self-described "character," Sneath generally kicked in \$6 a week with four co-workers to buy lottery tickets, spending half the money on tickets for Tuesday's draw and half for Friday's.

This time, his son bought him \$15 worth of tickets, picking numbers Sneath suggested. The winning combination — 4, 17, 26, 46 and 56, plus 25 for the Mega Ball — were numbers Sneath once got as a random pick and continues to play.

But his four co-workers didn't entirely lose out. He plans to give them \$1 million each out of his winnings.

Unemployment rate eases in February

Some jobseekers found work, others stopped looking, and jobs were scarcer than they were a year ago.

BY CHARLES SLAT
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Monroe County had one of the biggest increases in unemployment in Michigan during January. In February, it was among only four areas in the state where the unemployment rate declined.

But part of the decline was due to frustrated work-

Nationwide, jobless rate rises in March. Page 9A

ers giving up their search for jobs and dropping out of the work force.

The unemployment rate slipped to 7.6 percent in February, down from 8 percent in January. Monroe and the Detroit area were two of the four labor markets in the state where unemployment declined. It rose in 13 other areas.

"Labor markets in February displayed typical seasonal employment patterns," said Rick Waclawek,

director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "However, regional jobless rates have edged upward over the prior year."

In Monroe County, 5,800 were idle in a work force of 76,700. The work force shrank by about 100 workers since January and another 200 workers found employment, figures indicate.

State officials said some manufacturing call-backs and a seasonal increase in hiring by schools and

See JOBS, Page 9A

TODAY

The next star? Monroe County Music City Star Search, 7 p.m., Dundee High School, 130 Viking St., Dundee.

At the movies: "The Moses Code," 7 p.m. today and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Center for Life Enhancement, 986 S. Telegraph Rd.

On stage: "Singin' in the Rain," presented by Downriver Youth Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Trenton Village Theater, 2447 W. Jefferson Ave., Trenton.

In concert: Plum Nasty and Kevin R. Daniels, 7:30 p.m., Thirsty's Pub and Grub, 14225 S. Custer Rd., Dundee; John Betz, Cafe Classics, 7:30 p.m., 29 S.

The Scoop

Monroe St.

SATURDAY

On stage: "The Wizard of Oz," presented by River Raisin Ballet Company, 7 p.m. today, 2 p.m. Sunday, River Raisin Centre for the Arts, 114 S. Monroe St.

Looking back: Antiques in April, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Welch Health Education Building, Monroe County Community College, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

In concert: Looking Up, 7:30

p.m., Cafe Classics, 29 S. Monroe St.; Bobby Maynard and Breakdown, 8 p.m., Huron Valley Aerie 3732, Fraternal Order of Eagles, hall, 13636 N. Telegraph Rd., Ash Township.

SUNDAY

Just testing: Are You Smarter Than a Mockingbird Trivia Contest, Monroe County Big Read event, 2 p.m., Cafe Classics, 29 S. Monroe St.

Take a peek: Flat Rock Community Center open house, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Detroit Red Wings Fire on Ice Jeep Wrangler stop, 9-10 a.m., 1 Maguire St., Flat Rock.

In concert: Interstate Band with Sherman Arnold, 5 p.m., Clamdigger, 1540 E. Elm Ave.

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NATION



10 killed

A fire in a house in western Pennsylvania killed three generations of one family. Page 6A

LOCAL

Arraignment in embezzlement case

Renee Seger, the woman accused of stealing money from a foundation set up to honor a local soldier killed in Iraq, will be arraigned May 2 in circuit

court. Page 2A

Monroe Talks posters debate how fair it is that oil companies are posting record profits. Page 3A

MonroeTalks.com

TODAY'S OBITUARIES

Denise A. Joy, 48, of Rock Island, Ill. David Raymond Raddatz, 52, of Petersburg

Deborah Gregory, 63, of Lambertville

Judy Botkin, 65, of Carleton

Sonya Kay Brett, 65 of Sterling Heights, formerly of Monroe

George W. Nadeau, 92, of Monroe

Marcella Liedel, 94 of Monroe

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WEATHER

TONIGHT

Mostly cloudy Low: 32°

SATURDAY

Partly sunny High: 59°

Partly sunny

Weather/Page 8A

