

Perceptions

Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City area LGBT Community



April 2008

Respect Fest on the Road

By Joy D. Clark

Last year Deb Barber (www.debbarbermusic.com) and I had this fabulous idea - **Respect Fest**, a celebration of our similarities and differences. It is a fabulous idea, if I do say so myself, and the excitement about Respect Fest is growing like wildfire. Last year was our inaugural event at SVSU Performing Arts Center and was wildly successful! This year, we wanted the word to get out across Michigan that there is this great festival in Saginaw, MI that is celebrating respect among all people in every Michigan community!

Rev. Rebecca, of our Respect Fest planning committee, came up with the idea of traveling once a month to a different Michigan community with our Respect Fest performers and put on a

show to introduce the ideals of Respect Fest. **RESPECT FEST ON THE ROAD** was born. Our first adventure outside of the Saginaw Valley took us to Grand Rapids on February 22, 2008. I



am originally from Texas and moved to Michigan via California and Las Vegas, NV. I am not familiar with Michigan cities - matter of fact I was unaware that the word "city" existed

outside of Detroit. In my opinion, Saginaw is far from being a city!

Anyway, we headed to Grand Rapids, MI to do a show at the Diversions nightclub at the invitation of Diversions creator/owner, Robb. Deb Barber flew out from Las Vegas into Flint and it was decided that Rev. Rebecca and I would meet Deb and her "ROADIES" in Grand Rapids. I wasn't sure how to get to Grand Rapids, so about 2 hours before I was supposed to embark upon this journey, I asked a co-worker how to get there. She grabbed my

right hand, held it out in front of me palm up, pointed to one of the creases that runs across my palm, and said, "Just follow this road - you can't miss it!" **Respect**

pg 7



Deb Barber's video shoot at White's Bar in Saginaw.

Left: a crowd enjoys Barber's music.

Above: Grand Rapids, MI



Perceptions Saginaw Valley

P.O. Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
989-891-1GAY
www.perceptionsSV.org

EDITOR

Tana Michaels
Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

AD SALES

Joy D Clark
Joy@PerceptionsSV.org

Print Distribution,

Jim Kleinsorge,
Jim@PerceptionsSV.org

Webmaster, Tim

Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@perceptionsSV.org

SUBMISSIONS are always welcome. Write to:
editor@perceptionsSV.org

Subscriptions: Get your copy of the newsletter free upon request with your paid membership to Perceptions. The newsletter always free to view online. For more information visit www.perceptionsSV.org



Mid-Michigan's leading resource for enriching and empowering GLBT individuals and their community

Perceptions is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Your contributions to Perceptions which exceed the minimum amount to qualify for membership are tax deductible.

Mission statement: Our mission is to provide superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender individuals and their community.

Alcohol and Spirituality Pt. II

By Kathy VanBuskirk

Dear Reverend VanBuskirk:

I read your article in the March newsletter and wondered whether you were taking a swipe at Alcoholics Anonymous because of your references to being spiritual and drinking. Your saying that a person can drink and still be spiritual, seemed like a slight to AA because of our strong spiritual belief in a higher power to help us stop drinking. Meanwhile, your article seems to state that it's an absurd thought.
-Anonymous

I would like to start off by saying that I personally believe that AA is a great organization. It is a great source of strength and direction for people eliminating alcohol from their lives. Alcohol can be a very destructive force in someone's life and I was in no way trying to imply that it never is.

When someone is fighting any battle in their life whether it is alcohol, drugs, or anything else, spirituality is the most effective tool in my opinion. I was in no way implying we should not reach out to that higher power to help us in our times of difficulty.

The point I am trying to make is that drinking alcohol is not a sin nor does it make you a bad person as some people may believe due to experiences they had when they were growing up. My goal is to tear away the misconception that just because you drink, it makes you a bad person and you are going to hell because of it.

My goal is to tear away the misconception that just because you drink, it makes you a bad person...

I do not believe God, as some people perceive him, is making a negative judgment about someone because they happen to put alcohol in their body. I do believe that people can MAKE their own hell right here on this earth by destructive choices they make in their lives. I want everyone, to feel and know they are a beautiful person and can be a spiritual person even though they consume alcohol.

However, if you drink to the point where it is causing destruction in your life or holding you back in your life and not letting you progress as a person you probably have a problem which needs to be dealt with. If this is the case, I want those people to know that they can still come to my meetings and participate in a spiritual setting and feel just as loved and accepted as anyone else present. I believe we are all equal in this world and no one has the right to look down on someone else or judge them. Each person needs to decide for themselves if they need to make changes.

I happen to think that loving and accepting people offers them more incentive to help themselves. I do want to repeat that I do not think drinking alcohol is a sin or something *everyone* needs to stop. If it is done excessively, that person may want to evaluate the harm it is doing to their body and check to see if it is causing destruction in their life. See *Alcohol* page 3



Life After Death: **This Doug's Life**

By Douglas Solosky

Depression

Depression: the state of feeling sad, a significant increase or decrease in sleeping, inactivity, feelings of dejection.

I am experiencing all of these and more. When I'm not with people, I'm sad sometimes to the point of crying. My need for sleep has drastically shortened. I have had feelings of a lowness of spirit (dejection). I find I have to "push" myself to get up in the morning.

I have even had some feeling of anxiety.

Sometimes life seems to have lost purpose.

In public and with friends, I show a happy, wise cracking, totally in control person. In private I'm not.

My partner has been gone a little over 3 and a half years. I miss having him around.

I thought I had never been depressed. And, for the 36 years he and I were together, I wasn't. Now, I'm not all that sure.

Some 40 years ago a friend of mine, a gay man, said there are those who can live by themselves and be perfectly happy, then there are those who have to be with someone. That's me.

I lucked out. I met Don shortly after that pronouncement and never realized how prophetic it was until he was gone.

Perceptions has been a kind of "God send" for me. I have met and made friends with a number of people. The Meet and Greets, meals, being on the board and being on committees, going to the Mixx, in short, having a life after Don has been good.

I spend most of my days on the computer, playing the piano, seeing to the needs of my home, organizing my activities.

But, as fulfilling as that has been, it is not enough. I am a homebody at heart. Being with friends, filling my days with activity and taking the occasional trip are all well and good, but that can never take the place of another person in my life.

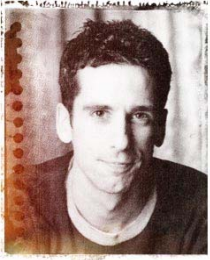
It is looking more and more like I'm destined to be alone.

In the last 3 years, I have met and become very fond of 4 men, none of whom will ever become my partner. Such has been my plight.

I still try to have an optimistic attitude about life and still maintain I'll live another 30 years, woe though that be alone. So be it.

Alcohol *Continued from page 2*

I do agree there are people who should not drink but that is a decision they need to make by reflecting on the consequences it has had in their life. It should not be done because someone else believes they are a vile person or a sinner. I hope this clarifies my intention of the last article. Thank you for your feed back. If you have any questions, please contact me at 989-752-9227 or rev_kathyv@yahoo.com.



As Dan Savage wrote in a Dec. 18 blog post, "Homosexuality, pedophilia, sadomasochism, and necrophilia... hmm.

One of these things doesn't belong on a list of 'publicly endorsed' aberrations. Can you guess which?

That would be homosexuality-because, as everyone knows, pedophiles, sadomasochists, and necrophiliacs can legally marry in every state, so long as they're straight."



Murdered Boy Remembered

by Tana Michaels

A murdered California boy was remembered during a March 20th vigil at the Friendship Shell in Bay City, Michigan. Perceptions, along with [Bay City Central High School's Gay-Straight Alliance](#) (GSA) cosponsored the event in remembrance of [Lawrence King](#), a 15 year old Oxnard, California middle school student, who was shot in the head in February. Brain dead, he died the next day when he was removed from life support.

"Regardless of whether or not we knew him, we have to do something in the wake of his death to end bullying and discrimination within schools." said Kaitlyn Skrzypczak of Central's GSA.

King, an eighth grader, began to accessorize his school uniform with jewelry, make up and high-heeled boots. He identified himself as gay and was often teased by other students. It's been alleged that Brandon McInerney, the 14 year old boy who was charged in the shooting, did so because King told him the previous day that he had a crush on him.

Skrzypczak and fellow GSA member, Glenn Madigan are also students on the Michigan Campaign Advocacy Team through the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network ([GLSEN](#)). They learned of King's murder while on a trip to Washington D.C. for a Safe Schools Advocacy Summit. While there, they discussed the shooting and went to a vigil, attended by about 150, in Dupont Circle sponsored by GLSEN.

"Both of us were really inspired by the vigil and wanted to bring it back home, so we decided to hold a vigil in Bay City through our Gay-Straight Alliance." said Skrzypczak. "We wanted people to realize what had happened because most of the students had no idea this had ever occurred." she continued.

"We were both deeply affected by Lawrence's murder because though we've never met him we realize this tragedy is something that cannot be shrugged off." added Madigan

Both Madigan and Skrzypczak say they don't necessarily feel unsafe at Central, but they can't vouch for the other 1600 students there. "Every day we hear slanderous terms that make us feel uncomfortable in class." Skrzypczak said.

About 25 attendees held candles and sang from a sheet of lyrics that were passed around, "We are a gentle angry people. We are gay and straight together. We are singing for our lives."

Thanks to Rick who volunteered to coordinate the **Adopt-a-Highway program**. We need someone to **host the picnic** after the April clean-up. Contact pboard@PerceptionsSV.org and let us know you'll help!

Pictured: Glenn Madigan and Kaitlyn Skrzypczak vigil organizers from Bay City Central High School's GSA.

Photo: Tana Michaels





Current Events

April 2, Wed - Saginaw Meet & Greet

7:00 - 9:00 pm. An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones while eating fantastic baked goods. Enjoy hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment. [Bambi's](#) by Java Dave's, [4632 State Street](#), in the Green Acres Plaza.

April 3 & 17, Thurs - Womyn's Circle

5:30 - 7:00 pm. This program provides support to Tri-County lesbian women and facilitates community awareness projects in partnership with Perceptions and PFLAG. It has provided safety and help to many women and their families experiencing hostility, abuse and isolation. The free, confidential support group sessions are facilitated by Mary Jo Hall, MSW, LMSW. Meets at the YWCA located at [3405 Midland Rd.](#) in Bay City.

April 4, Friday Night Dinner 7pm

G's Pizzeria & Deli, [1005 Saginaw St.](#), Bay City. Join Perceptions members and friends this week. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

April 9, Wednesday - Freeland Meet & Greet

7:00 to 9:00 pm. Riverside Restaurant, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. This event will repeat on the 2nd Wed. of each month.

April 9, Wednesday - Perceptions Transgender Group

6:00 - 8:00 pm. Meeting at The Mixx/Metro Grille, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw. The group offers an informal gathering, taking a more 'light-hearted' approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. If you have any questions, contact Rebecca at Rebecca@perceptionsSV.org. This event will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month.

April 11, Friday Night Dinner 7pm

Lonestar Steakhouse, [2255 Tittabawassee Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

April 15, Tues - Men's Discussion Group

7:00 - 8:30 pm. Zauel Memorial Library, [3100 Center Rd.](#), Saginaw. Discussion and informal support for gay and bisexual men. The group will be facilitated by Thomas Brubaker. You may contact him at Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org

April 17, Thurs - Womyn's Circle

5:30 - 7:00 pm. The free, confidential support group sessions are facilitated by Mary Jo Hall, MSW, LMSW. Meets at the YWCA located at [3405 Midland Rd.](#) in Bay City.

April 17, Thurs - Perceptions Membership Meeting

7:00 pm. St John's Episcopal Church, [123 N. Michigan](#), Saginaw. Across from Pasong's. Guest speakers from Bay City Central High School's Gay Straight Alliance. **All are welcome!**

April 18, Friday Night Dinner 7pm

The Savoy Grill, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday. Sign up for our email list on [Yahoo Groups](#) to be notified of future venues.

April 24, Thursday - Bay City Meet & Greet

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. An informal gathering of the Tri-Cities LGBT community. All are welcome in this smoke-free environment. **Espresso Express** located at [916 N. Water St.](#), Bay City, offers a variety of delicious drinks, baked goods and desserts.

April 25, Friday Night Dinner 7pm

Captain Hook Food & Spirit, [125 E. Jefferson St.](#), Frankenmuth. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

April 27, Sunday, PFLAG Meeting

2:00 - 4:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland. 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

APRIL 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
		1 April Fool's Day	2  Saginaw Meet & Greet Bambi's by Java Dave 4632 State Street 7:00 - 9:00 PM	3  Womyn's Circle 5:30 - 7:00 PM -----  Perceptions Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 PM	4  Friday Night Dinner G's 1005 Saginaw St. Bay City 7:00 PM	5																																																																																																		
6	7	8	9  Freeland Meet & Greet Riverside Restaurant 8295 Midland Rd. 7:00 - 9:00 PM Transgender Support Group The Mixx 7:00 - 9:00 PM	10	11  Friday Night Dinner Lonestar Steakhouse 2255 Tittabawassee Rd. Saginaw 7:00 PM	12																																																																																																		
13	14	15  Men's Discussion Group 7:00 - 8:30 PM	16	17  Womyn's Circle 5:30 - 7:00 PM  General Membership Meeting St. John's Episcopal Church 7:00 - 9:00 PM	18  Friday Night Dinner Savoy 127 Franklin St. Saginaw 7:00 PM	19																																																																																																		
20	21	22	23	24  Bay City Meet & Greet Espresso Express 916 N. Water St. 7:00 - 9:00 PM	25  Friday Night Dinner Captain Hook 125 E. Jefferson St. Frankenmuth 7:00 PM	26																																																																																																		
27  PFlag Meeting UU Fellowship Midland 2:00 - 4:30PM	28	29	30																																																																																																					
		March 2008 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						May 2008 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								Notes:
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																																		
						1																																																																																																		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																		
30	31																																																																																																							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																																		
				1	2	3																																																																																																		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																		

Meet the Board

by Brian Carstensen



As one of the newest members of your board I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to you. I was born and raised a couple miles outside Chesaning, Michigan, moving to Saginaw in early 1991. Since then I have lived and worked in several places, but I kept finding myself returning to this city. I guess I just feel the most comfortable here. After all, that *is* what "home" is suppose to feel like.

I met my partner in August of 2004 and we bought our home in the Historic Cathedral District of Saginaw in late July 2005. We have been keeping ourselves busy with one renovation project or another ever since.

I first became involved with Perceptions when board member Joy Clark invited me to start attending the Meet & Greet with her and her family. Soon after, Joy asked me to become involved with planning Respect Fest 2007. Never before had I been a part of a more dedicated group of people.

With the success of Respect Fest 2007 behind us and planning for 2008 underway, Joy and fellow board member, Rebecca Dunn began encouraging me to seek a position on the board, and by encourage, I mean several phone calls and emails a week. And that brings us to where I am today. I look forward to working with all of you over the next 3 years, with great optimism for a strong and prosperous future.

Formerly the **FRIENDS NORTH BIKE TOUR:**

Camp Out Michigan Bike Tour 2008

Friday July 25th to Sunday July 27th

This weekend of camping, biking, and outdoor fun for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals and their friends has been a summer tradition in Northern Michigan for 16 years.

The 17th Annual Event will have a new venue in Oscoda County. Also new for 2008, there will be special routes for scooters and mopeds. Motorcyclist welcome too.

Camp Out Michigan, PO Box 154, Bay City, MI 48707-0154.

www.CampOutMichigan.org

Register by June 1, 2008, for EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNT

Respect

I picked up Rev. Rebecca, plugged the address of Diversions into my Garmin GPS and away we went.

As we got closer to Grand Rapids and crested a hill overlooking the city, I sat amazed! My jaw dropped to my lap as I was gazing upon what I thought was an Oasis: a city - a REAL city like Las Vegas with lights and high-rise buildings, arenas and restaurants, minus the endless casinos. Wow! It was beautiful - I would have never imagined that such a well developed city was out in western Michigan. "Toto, we're not in Saginaw anymore!" was all I could think of as we rolled into downtown Grand Rapids. It was GREAT!

We pulled into Diversions and we were overwhelmed at the kindness and generosity that people showed us. Deb was FABULOUS as usual and we made lots of great connections with people on the west side of the state. Respect Fest is our opportunity to get ALL people to come together for a common goal - to celebrate each other, no matter what. Everywhere we go people are excited about Respect Fest and what it will bring to our communities. Deb played a GREAT show - Rev. Rebecca and I got the word out about Respect Fest and I am elated because we met some WONDERFUL people who are excited about making the trip to Saginaw for Respect Fest on September 27, 2008. Check us out at www.respectfest.com. Can't wait to see all of our new West Michigan friends again soon!!! Thanks Grand Rapids for welcoming us to your home!

Perceptions Creates New Group for Transgenders

Perceptions Saginaw Valley has formed a new group for transgenders. The group's initial meeting was held on Wednesday, March 19.

Future meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month (6:00 - 8:00 pm) at The Mixx/ Metro Grille, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#) in Saginaw.

The group will be an informal gathering, taking a more 'light-hearted' approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. You are not required to be a member of Perceptions to participate in this group, though we would love to have you join us in carrying out our mission.

If you are unable to help financially support our work at this time, we ask at the very least that you please [register as a Friend of Perceptions](#). If you have any questions, contact Rebecca at Rebecca@PerceptionsSV.org.



Perceptions wishes to thank the following donors to our 2007 Holiday Party:

Individuals

Alan Shinaver	Deb Barber	Jay Crane	Mitch Reno
Barry Kulick	Don Kephart	Joseph Nuncio	Nancy Cummings
Becky Goche	Douglas Barron	Joy Clark	Randy Hasso
Bill Giorgis	Douglas Solosky	Kelly Courtney	Rob Cummings
Brian Goff	Floyd Andrick	Leisa Crane	Susan Ford
Craig McDonald	Gary Knight	Leo LeVasseur	Steve Webb
Dan LeVay	Ginny Abbott	Leo Romo	Tina Saycosie
Dann Federico	Jeff Illig	Lisa Holmes	
Darrell Sheets	John Rolando	Matt Mitchell	

Companies & Organizations

Abele's Greenhouse	Camp Out Michigan	Red Eye Café	My Secret Garden	Idzior Furniture	The Northwood Gallery
Baltic Treasures	Child & Family Services	Pasong's	LifeNet of Michigan	Subway State St.	The Dow Event Center
Bambi's Coffee Shop	Country Road Kennels	Macy's	Persona Hair Care	Temple Theatre	Triangle Foundation
Black Forest Brew Haus	Maria's Mexican Family Restaurant	Fuzzy's	Pit & Balcony	The Mixx Night Club	

Perceptions Guided Night Hike

By Jim Kleinsorge

Perceptions Members and Friends were treated to a hike through the Green Point Nature Center on the outskirts of Saginaw, led by ranger Becky Goche. The weather was excellent for the walk, which lasted about 45 minutes.



In the moonlight, we listened and watched for screech owls and barred owls, both native to the area. Although we didn't see any owls, our guide Steve was able to call in a barred owl. (That's fancy nature center lingo for,

We saw squirrel, rabbit, and deer tracks, poison ivy and grape vines, and even fungus (pictured). Although the trail was mostly snow covered, there were a few spots that had melted leaving several large puddles for us to hop over, a sure sign that spring is on its way.

The center is open to the public M-F year-round and guided tours are offered several times a year throughout the different seasons. Dates and times can be found on their [website](#). The walk was very enjoyable, and all agreed it was an interesting experience. As our chairman Alan Shinaver said, "It was a real hoot!"



'Steve called to an owl and it called back.')

Becky pointed out many interesting points along the way and answered all our questions.



Photos: Jim Kleinsorge

True Colors Tour Coming to Clarkston in June

"We're hitting the road this summer with **Cyndi Lauper** for the second annual True Colors Tour in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality."

The tour will feature five hours of non-stop music and entertainment by headliners **Cyndi Lauper, The B-52s**, and exciting special guests in select cities including **Rosie O'Donnell, Wanda Sykes, Indigo Girls, Tegan and Sara, Regina Spektor, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Joan Armatrading, Nona Hendryx, Deborah Cox, The Cliks**, and many more. Hosted by Queer Eye "Fab Five" member **Carson Kressley**.

The True Colors Tour was conceived by Cyndi Lauper stemming from her desire to give back to the LGBT community for the love and support they have given her throughout her career. The True Colors Tour is a celebration of the basic values and freedoms that should be shared by all Americans regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

The tour visits the DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston, Michigan on June 11. For more official tour & ticket information please visit: www.truecolorstour.com.



Doggie Day Spa Opens

There is now a place for your pets to spend the day. Kerri LaBlanc, formerly of The Groom Room has opened a new store with a new name and a brand new look.

Hairy Paws Day Center is where pets can come for social interaction as well as grooming. You can bring your dog for the day where Spot will be treated with tender loving care.

Pictured to the right is the play room in which dogs can socialize. There's plenty of running room with toys and tunnels to run through.

The Center also has a quiet room where dogs can lay back and watch animal planet, other doggie videos, or just take a nap.

There are separate bathing and grooming areas as well.



Left: Owner/Groomer Kerri LaBlanc is out and proud. She and Deb Cramton have been together for 12 years.

LaBlanc has been in the grooming business for close to 20 years, owning her own grooming business for over 17 years. She and employee Jill Smith represent close to 40 years of grooming expertise.



Left: Jill Smith has 22 years experience in grooming. She specializes in Standard Poodles. A Bichon Frisee awaiting his turn, peaks out from a crate in the background.

When LaBlanc was asked about opening a store in these harsh economic times she replied, "We all know how the LGBT community feels about their pets. There's always money when you need to take care of your family."

Hairy Paws Day Center is located at 3545 Bay Rd, Suite 5, in Saginaw. Call 792-2900 for an appointment.