

Opinion/Editorial

It was a fun-filled weekend right here in Leslie

What a great weekend I had! I had so much fun and I never drove more than a mile from my own house.

First of all, as soon as the twins got off the school bus Friday afternoon, we jumped in the van and drove to Felpausch to cheer on the Leslie Varsity Football Team as they headed off to Kalamazoo. The kids had a ball waiting for the buses that were escorted by Leslie fire trucks. They spotted many of their school friends and teachers.

Unfortunately, I missed the football game that night though because my husband had to work late. However, I didn't even have to watch "The Fifth Quarter" on WLNS to see who won. My friend Nickie Chmiel called me from her cell phone and gave me the details of the game. I tell you what, that girl is awesome!

I then spent Saturday afternoon with my grandmother, Barbara Biddinger, at the Ladies Tea that



Small Town Girl

By Jen Shuster
Guardian Publisher

was presented by The Leslie Historical Society. It was held in the beautiful Tuttle home on Bellevue Street. We had a wonderful time getting dressed up in our "Sunday best," and taking a step back in time to the 1800's. It was mostly a memorable moment I had with my "Granny." I don't get to spend as much quality time with her as I like anymore. So it was nice to slow down and make a special memory together.

Then it was time to get ready for "Date Night" with my husband and a few of our close friends.

We have been fortunate to have family watch

our children once a month so that Trav and I can spend quality time together.

So we met up with our friends at Crossroads Bar and Grill to enjoy the music of Just Us, a local rock-n-roll band. The place was packed with locals just cutting loose and having a good time at the end of a long work week.

We all joked, laughed and danced the night away. I'm always happy when I can get a few slow dances in with my husband. It brings back memories of when we first met almost ten years ago.

Lastly, my Sunday was filled with duties of laundry, mopping floors and never-ending diaper changing. However, I did take the time to watch the beautiful snow fall with my children and make homemade chicken noodle soup together. It was extra yummy on a cold, cold day.

I can't wait to see what next weekend has in store for this small town girl!

Rep. Byrum offers tips on keeping kids safe on the Internet

The following commentary was written by State Representative Barb Byrum (D-Onondaga). If you have any questions, please call her office at (517) 373-0587.

We recently celebrated Veteran's Day, a time when we honor the brave individuals who put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms and keep us safe. Many of us know a veteran and I hope everyone is appreciative of the sacrifices these brave men and women have made.

Just as our veterans went abroad to protect us, we can all have a hand in protecting ourselves and our children by monitoring the usage of the Internet at home.

The Internet can be an excellent tool for children to explore the world and expand their knowledge.

Unfortunately, in addition to the educational and useful information available on the Internet, there is also a seedy underbelly containing material that can be extremely inappropriate and even dangerous for young Web surfers.

According to a study from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one in seven children receive sexual solicitations while online, and more than one-third of youth users saw sexual material they were not looking for. A number of children Internet users said they have been



Coffee Break

By Barb Byrum
State Representative

asked for a sexually explicit photo of themselves.

In order to protect children from the potential dangers of the Internet, make sure the computer is in the family room or another open room in the house. Create some clear, simple rules for them to follow and post them by the computer.

Another option to protect your child is to consider using software that filters and monitors Web usage. Web surfing programs like Internet Explorer and Firefox have filters already installed that allows your child to access only pre-approved Web sites.

If your children use chat rooms, or social network sites such as Facebook or MySpace, discuss the dangers of meeting people online, and be sure to talk to them about not responding to offensive or dangerous e-mail, chat, or other communications. Know who your children are exchanging e-mail with, and only let them use chat areas when you can supervise.

The Internet is a great tool for helping with school studies, but make sure that your children use child-friendly search engines when completing homework, such as kidsclick.org and yahooigans.com.

It is important that you are familiar with the acronyms and abbreviations children use when chatting or sending instant messages. If you see them type phrases such as POS (parents over shoulder), PAL (parents are listening), PNB (parents nearby), P911 (parents are coming) or PA (parent alert), it should raise a red flag about what is being discussed.

The Internet can be a pretty intimidating place – for both parents and children – but don't let it scare you away. Remember, you are the greatest tool at your child's disposal for staying safer online.

When your children have questions or concerns about something that they find on the Internet, be open to listening and helping to find an answer. That way, they will be that much more likely to communicate with you when a real concern arises.

If you are interested in helping law enforcement catch and stop Internet predators, please visit www.cybertipline.com. Together, we can keep our kids safe.

Letter to the Editor Former LPS employee wants contract settled

Being a former school employee and having a son that works at the Leslie Middle school I feel that I have a some knowledge of what is going on with the negotiation process.

Are the teachers asking for too much??

Is the school board expecting too much??

I surely don't know the answer but neither do most people involved in the issue.

From the letter from the editor last week it appears that the teachers want their existing health care plan and that seems to be the major issue. In and of itself that could be an issue due to cost but again many districts still are offering MESSA

as one of their choices for insurance.

It appears from the editors information posted that the school district is in a position where the teachers are willing to pay the difference for any additional costs. If this be the case then get on with it, settle the contract and lets get back to teaching our Leslie Public Schools community children.

As far as I have knowledge of the teachers are still doing all required and extra curricular activities so at least lets give the teachers credit for that.

Don Hovarter

Letters to the Editor Policy:

Letters to the Editor are welcome to be submitted to The Leslie Weekly Guardian. All letters should be no more than 300 words long. Please include the writer's name, e-mail address and phone number for confirmation before printing. Only the writer's name and city will be published with the letter. Typed letters are preferred for accuracy. All submitted letters are subject to editing and become property of The Leslie Weekly Guardian.

Please send your letters to:

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