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## Mamma Jazz says come to Livonia for festival

JULY 14, 2008

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Livonia's **Midge (Mamma Jazz) Ellis** is excited once again as her 14th annual MichiganJazz Festival -- she's the octogenarian whiz who keeps the event humming -- preps for its Sunday run at Schoolcraft College, Haggerty between 6 Mile and 7 Mile in Livonia.

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The free event -- no parking fees, no admission -- runs from noon to about 9:15 p.m. with four big bands, 23 ensembles and six solo pianists performing on six stages.

Want details on who's playing where when? Go to [michiganjazzfestival.homestead.com](http://michiganjazzfestival.homestead.com).

### Brangelina and the twins

**Brad Pitt** was emotional but calm; **Angelina Jolie** laughed and chatted.

The world's most famous celebrity couple were joined in emotion during the birth of their twins -- a boy and a girl -- and all "are doing marvelously well," the doctor who delivered the babies in a seaside hospital on the French Riviera said Sunday.

The newborns -- **Knox Leon** and **Vivienne Marcheline**, born 1 minute apart Saturday evening -- are the ultimate million-dollar babies, with experts estimating their first photos will fetch a fortune.

Jolie's obstetrician, Dr. Michel Sussmann, said the 44-year-old Pitt was at Jolie's side during the delivery, a Caesarean section to deliver Knox, weighing in at slightly more than 5 pounds, and Vivienne, who weighed 5 pounds.

Nice Matin newspaper reported Sunday that Pitt and Jolie, 33, have sold the photo rights to a U.S. publication, which it did not name, and the proceeds would go to charity.



Dan Gheesling: On 'Big Brother'



Linda Solomon

Linda Solomon and new photographer Aneka Hooper, 12, of Raleigh, N.C.

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## Six years of kids' photos

Shutterbug to the stars and Bloomfield Hills resident **Linda Solomon** reports she's about to launch her third year working with General Motors, providing cameras to homeless children across the country for a project that captures hope amid great personal trials.

"We are visiting six cities this year," Solomon notes. "Now more than ever, the voices and hearts of these innocent victims need to be expressed."

Want a sample? See the picture on this page with Solomon and **Aneka Hooper**, age 12, of Raleigh, N.C. Aneka lived in a Salvation Army shelter there.

### Bob Talbert on Facebook

**Dane Gussin** is a suburban Detroit financial planner who always had an interest in photography. Back in the day -- the 1990s -- he was a pal of the late legendary Free Press columnist **Bob Talbert**. He amassed a singular photo collection of Talbert's ramblings across the region while compiling material for his columns, which ran in the Free Press for 31 years until his passing in 1999. It's on facebook.com; just search for "Facebook Remembering Bob Talbert" aka "Monday Moanin' Outta your Mind."

### National TV, local angle

CBS's new season of "Big Brother" started Sunday night and the long local nightmare is over. There is a homeland contestant in the big house battle No. 10.

It's **Dan Gheesling** of Dearborn, who is a teacher at an area Catholic high school, says the minimal CBS description. But let's go to the Web: There's a Dan Gheesling who received his bachelor's degree in business in 2005 and his master's degree in kinesiology in 2006, both from Michigan State University, and was listed as a teacher and coach at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep. The pictures match -- we say he's our guy! Then there's word from Oxford voice teacher **Jocelyn A. Sweetapple** about more video glory. One of her students, **Lauren Zakrin**, is in the Top 4 of [MTV's "Legally Blonde,"](#) a reality effort to find an actress to play the **Reese Witherspoon** film role in the Broadway musical! LZ grew up in Oakland and is a graduate of the Rochester schools and currently is a Western Michigan theater major. Check her out at [www.mtv.com/ontv](http://www.mtv.com/ontv) and click on "The Search for Elle Woods."

*Compiled from various news sources by **JOHN SMYNTEK**. He'll return July 22 following a hard-earned vacation.*

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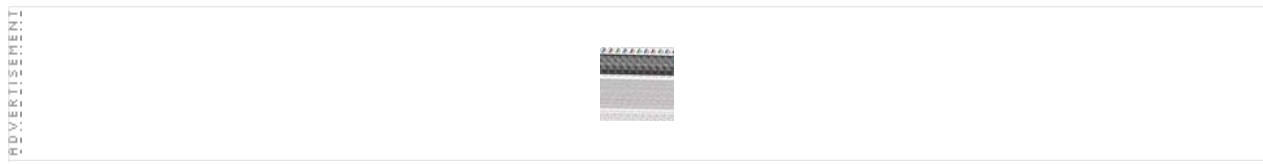
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