

APRIL 13, 1994

C-SPAN VIEWER SERVICES
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SINCE SO MANY MILITARY BASES HAVE BEEN CLOSED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, IN MOST CASES HAVING DEVASTATING ECONOMIC RESULTS TO THE COMMUNITY, IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO YOUR VIEWING AUDIENCE TO HAVE A PROGRAM OUTLINING WHAT A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY DID TO REVITALIZE THEIR COMMUNITY AFTER SUCH A BASE CLOSING.

ENCLOSED IS AN ARTICLE FROM THE APRIL 6, 1994 DETROIT FREE PRESS WHICH WILL GIVE YOU THE BASIC FACTS TO WHAT MIGHT BE AN INTERESTING PROGRAM, THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST, CAUSED BY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, NAMELY THE US AIR FORCE AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A PROGRAM THAT COULD BE HANDLED AS PART OF THE TOUR OF THE C-SPAN BUS, BUT WHEN I CALLED IN LATE MARCH SUGGESTING IT, WAS INFORMED THAT THE SCHEDULE WAS ALREADY SET FOR MICHIGAN.

THE CABLE COMPANY SERVICING THIS AREA IS TELE-MEDIA COMPANY OF SAGINAW BAY, P. O. BOX 339, OSCODA, MI 48750, TELEPHONE 517-739-1481. I'M NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF COOPERATION YOU WOULD RECEIVE FROM THIS COMPANY, SINCE IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM CONCERNING PROVIDING OF C-SPAN 2, THEY SEEM LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC AND MORE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING QVC OR THE COMEDY NETWORK TO THEIR VIEWERS. TO THEIR CREDIT, I GUESS, THEY AT LEAST HAVE NOT DROPPED C-SPAN-1 IN THE RECENT REALIGNMENT PROCESS.

I AM AN AVID VIEWER OF C-SPAN AND ESPECIALLY ENJOY THE EARLY MORNING CALL-IN PROGRAMS, THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB SPEECHES AND THE SUNDAY EVENING BOOKNOTES. I MUST ADMIT THAT AFTER WATCHING A BOOKNOTE PROGRAM THAT THE INTEREST GENERATED HAS RESULTED IN THE PURCHASING OF SEVERAL OF THE BOOKS REVIEWED. THESE ARE PROGRAMS THAT I PARTICULARLY ENJOY, BUT IT SEEMS THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING OF INTEREST ON YOUR NETWORK.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

[REDACTED]

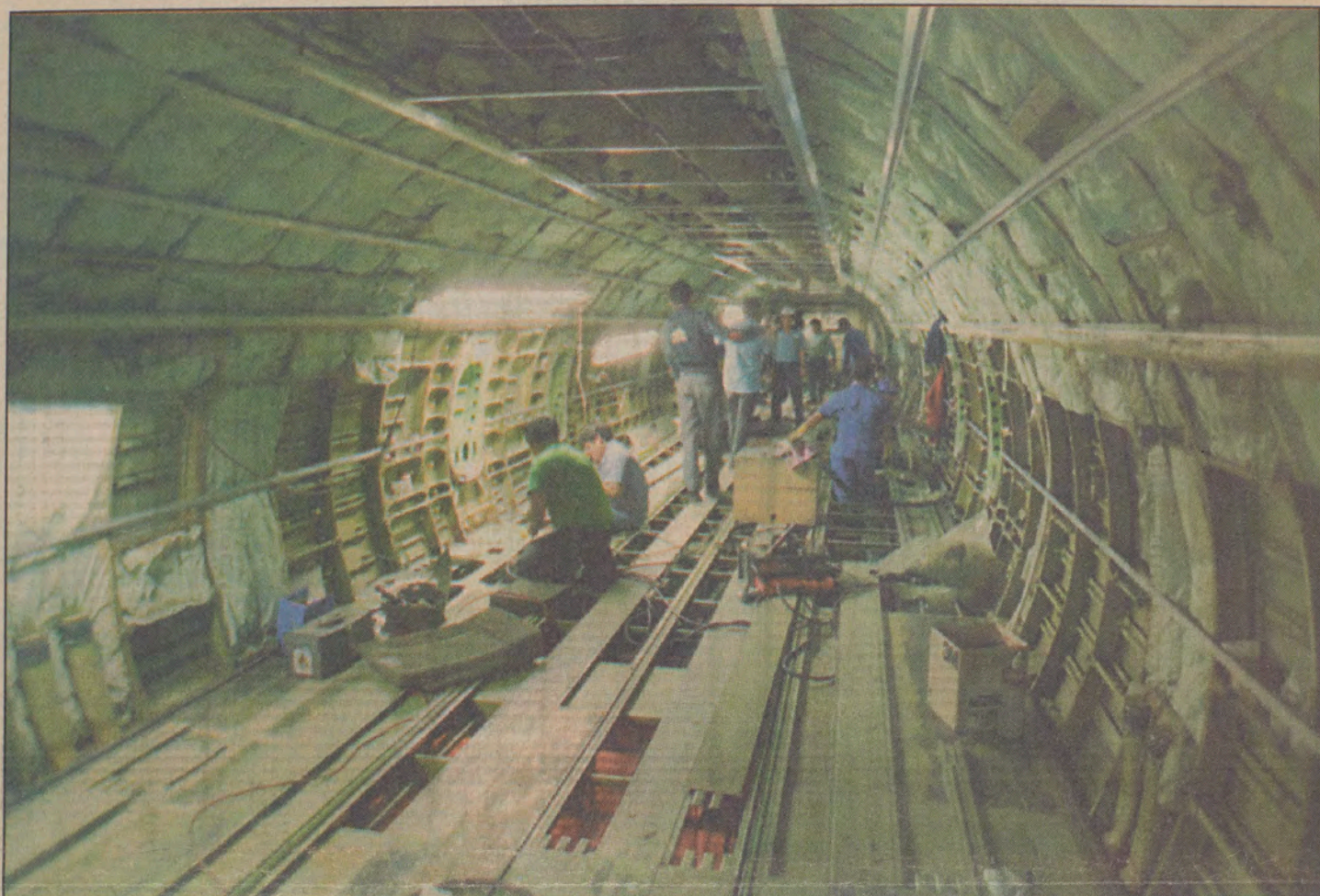
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Wurtsmith closes; area takes off



WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press

Mechanics work inside a DC8 in a hanger on the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, converting it to carry freight.

Town pulls off recovery

BY DAVID HACKER
Free Press Staff Writer

OSCODA — Shortly after the Rev. William Cargo, his wife, Alice Jo, and their two boys moved to town in 1988 to run the United Methodist Church, they began hearing whispers that Wurtsmith Air Force Base was going to close.

They also heard that the rumor circulated about every five years. So they went ahead and bought a home on Lake Huron for their retirement and rented it to Air Force people, while they stayed in the parsonage.

Meanwhile, A.J., as she's known, finished college and began teaching. That winter, rumor became reality

and by spring 1992 Wurtsmith was on a Pentagon list of bases slated to close June 30, 1993.

The bad news was inevitable for A.J. Cargo, 42. She was among 59 of the district's 168 teachers who got a layoff notice. She recalls thinking, "When the base closes, it's going to be terrible."

Now, less than a year after the Air Force pulled out — taking with it 4,000 jobs and an economic pump that poured \$150 million a year into the Oscoda area — the Cargos find themselves teaching and preaching full time. And, once again, their

See OSCODA, Page 9A

▶ THE TURNAROUND IN OSCODA

NEW BUSINESSES ON THE FORMER BASE

■ American International Airways Inc., an air cargo company that converts outdated passenger planes to freight use, has 178 employees and projects 250 this year.

■ Oscoda Plastics, a vinyl floor manufacturer, with 44 employees.

■ Oscoda Manufacturing and Engineering Co., maker of electrical panels, with 10 employees.

■ A day-care center with six employees.

REAL ESTATE

■ Publicity about depressed housing prices drew buyers to the recreation-rich Lake Huron coastline. Of 300 houses that went on the market when the base closed, 295 have sold.

computer and modem, call 1-800-848-8199 and ask for the Detroit Free Press representative to order a free start-up kit.

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTS BY FAX:

Get data based on the 1990 census by using the Free Press Plus ZIP Decoder. Call 426-1103; have a Visa, American Express or MasterCard — and fax number — ready. Enter the five-digit ZIP code for the area you want profiled. Charge: \$4.95 per report.

NEED TAX FORMS? Call 1-800-395-9310 and have a Visa, American Express or MasterCard — and a fax number — ready. Order a directory for \$1.95 to determine what tax forms (at \$4.95 each) you need.

NEED TAX HELP? Call 1-900-884-WDFP. Have a fax number ready. The cost is 85 cents a minute to order tax help from expert Julian Block. Press Option 4, then 2 for other fax offerings. Other services:

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■ 9400 — Michigan's Anti-Stalking Law summary (\$2.95)
■ 9414 — How to Use Michigan (Internet) (\$4.95)

Other information ranging from first aid to advice on whether an illness merits calling the doctor.

Page 3E

ON STAGE

Music for any mood

Whatever your musical taste, there's something to suit you tonight. See The List!

Page 4D

NEWS FOR YOUNG READERS

Winning school gets NCAA title money

Q: What rewards does the college that wins the NCAA men's tournament get?

Tyson Herman, 14, Suttons Bay

A: A college that wins gets money from the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

But team players at the University of Arkansas, which defeated Duke University for the national men's basketball championship Monday, get no money personally from winning the tournament. That would be against the rules.

TELEVISION

Spotlight on a sad chapter

A hard-hitting PBS program tonight examines the United States' response to the Holocaust, including immigration policies that made it difficult for Jews to escape Nazi Germany.

Page 6D

The University of Arkansas will get part of the money a year from now, primarily from the \$143 million CBS paid the NCAA for putting the games on television.

The NCAA — which organizes the tournament and oversees college sports — uses a complicated formula in awarding the money. It must figure several things, such as how many scholarships the school gives, how its team has done in the tournament the past six years and how many sports programs it offers.

That amount isn't known yet. Schools can make sure their league benefits, too. That's the case for Arkansas, which will share the money with the Southeast Conference, a group of schools that play against each other in many sports.

By Cathy Collison

NCAA spokesperson Kathryn Reith and the University of Arkansas sports information helped with this question.

QUESTIONS? A young reader's question about current events is answered here each weekday. If your question appears, you receive a News for Young Readers T-shirt. You may call 223-4497 anytime weekdays, or write: News for Young Readers, Detroit Free Press, PO Box 828, Detroit 48231. Be sure to give your name, age, address and phone number when you call or write.

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Detroit, den 6. April 1994

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Base closing results in boom for Oscoda

'The township is doing everything right'

OSCODA, from Page 1A

lakefront house is rented, and growing with a new addition.

Their good news is typical of Oscoda's post-Wurtsmith recovery. Residents on the recreation- and tourism-rich waterfront no longer hear the supersonic booms of B52s, but they're feeling the beginnings of an economic boom.

This is what a lot of sweat, a little luck and relentless cheerfulness have done since the 5,221-acre base took off its uniform and put on civilian clothes:

■ New businesses have set up shop, including four on the base, employing more than 200 people. More businesses are coming.

The biggest new business almost escaped. Officials from American International Airways Inc. of Ypsilanti, an air cargo company that converts outdated passenger planes to freight use, visited the base after it closed. They said the facilities were perfect — but that there weren't enough skilled workers to meet their needs.

Unwilling to take no for an answer, Oscoda Township Supervisor Dean Wiltse and Carl Sachs, director of Wurtsmith's Office of Economic Adjustment, got about 200 resumes of airplane mechanics. They took them to AIA and persuaded the company to reconsider. By summer, AIA expects to have 250 employees in Oscoda.

■ More people whose livelihoods were connected to the base stayed than had been expected, either taking early retirement or finding new jobs.

Among those are Rick Johnston, his wife, Debi, and daughters Jody, 18; Holly, 16, and Mandy, 14. Rick Johnston, 44, took early retirement as a lieutenant colonel flying B52s.

"The timing was right," he said Tuesday. He has a temporary job as facilities engineer for the base's caretaker maintenance team.

■ Oscoda school enrollment dropped about 30 percent from 3,400 students — far less than the 50 percent projection. Only one school closed instead of the three projected, and fewer than half as many teachers were laid off as Superintendent Craig Douglas thought would be necessary.

■ More newcomers than expected — including downstaters who had

Wurtsmith and Oscoda will be presented at a national meeting on base closings this fall as a model of how to go about closings.

dreamed of owning a second home or living year-round up north — came. They were lured by home prices that dropped about 15 percent as about 300 homes went on the market.

"When we heard about the base closure and property values were very reasonable, we wanted to get out of the city and away from crime," Diane Klosterman, 37, said Tuesday. She and her husband, Kirk, and children Allen, 13, and Carolyn, 4, moved from Walled Lake in November 1992.

Kirk Klosterman commutes home on weekends from his Brighton insurance business.

All but five of the 300 homes have been sold, said Don Aune, of the Century 21 real estate office, and there are almost no rentals remaining.

"We had the good fortune to come back a lot quicker than anyone thought we could, and we didn't go down as far as some thought," Aune said. "The gloom and doom didn't happen."

Patrick O'Brien, local project manager for the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment, said Wurtsmith and Oscoda "will be presented as a successful model of how to go about closure" at a national meeting on base closings this fall.

"The township is doing everything right," O'Brien said. It won't hurt that Oscoda is scheduled to receive another \$8 million to \$10 million in federal and state help, he said.

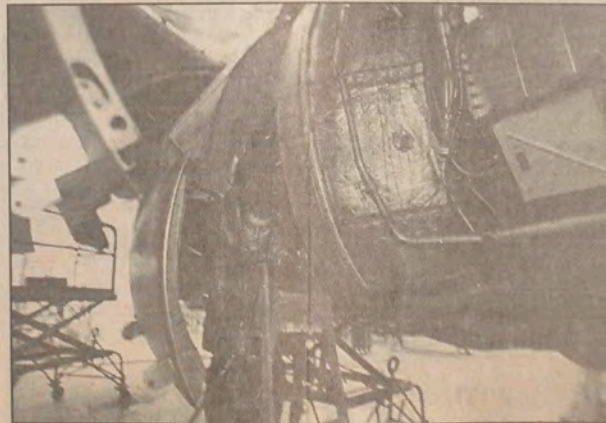
Officials concerned about the future of the Marquette area in the Upper Peninsula after K.I. Sawyer Air Force base closes Sept. 30, 1995, have come to Oscoda to get tips on how to survive.

Besides attracting new businesses



WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press

"The gloom and doom didn't happen," said Don Aune of Century 21 in Oscoda. Many people bought homes after prices dropped about 15 percent.



Mechanic William O'Neal works on the engine of a DC8 on the former base for American International Airways Inc., based in Ypsilanti.

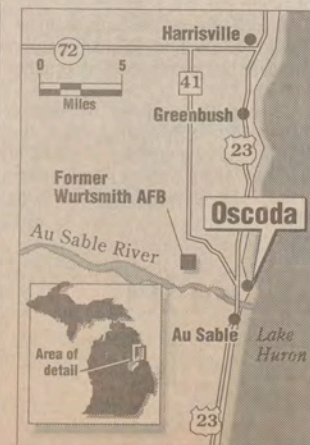
and people and keeping old businesses and residents around, Oscoda has performed some other magic tricks on the road to recovery:

■ Oscoda Community Health Center Inc. has taken over the base hospital,

and soon will offer medical and clinic services.

■ The 25,000-volume base library will replace the smaller community library located downtown.

■ A spring home builder's show in the



ROGER HICKS/Detroit Free Press

the 120 tables at the commissary convention center, with carvers from throughout Michigan, the Midwest and Canada, doubling last year's attendance to as many as 5,000 people.

■ A five-year, \$22-million University of Michigan pollution control study for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is under way at Wurtsmith. Like many old military bases, Wurtsmith has extensive environmental problems from the dumping of fuel and motor pool wastes around the airfield. The project's goal is to show how microbes can devour the petroleum wastes.

"Early on, people said, 'Where the hell is Wurtsmith?'" said Carl Sachs, director of Wurtsmith's Office of Economic Adjustment. "Soon, the world will know where we are and look to us for answers."

Such optimism is typical in this tough little community on Michigan's Sunrise Side.

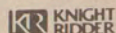
"It's going to be OK," says A.J. Cargo. "Now I hope we don't become a buzzing metropolis."

old base commissary drew 5,000 people. More people came in the first two hours than saw the entire three-day 1993 show.

■ Sponsors of the third Sunrise Side Woodcarvers show expect to sell out

Detroit Free Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
321 W. Lafayette, Detroit, Mich. 48226
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IN OUR OPINION

WELFARE SENSE

Reform should empower, not punish or shame

The focus of welfare reform should not be on punishing its recipients. It should not make welfare a shameful badge of dishonor — the approach some conservatives support.

Reform should not threaten to throw families into the streets after an arbitrary cutoff date. Nor should it be about threatening to withhold the checks of single welfare mothers if their children get into trouble.

Welfare reform should not be packaged as an effort to correct the irresponsibly lazy behavior of poor folks. It must focus instead on the economic empowerment of poor people, many of whom have spent their lives feeling locked out of their own country by virtue of their low economic status. The only way to do this is through basic job training and education.

Overhauling federal welfare programs could cost \$35 billion to \$58 billion over the next decade, according to current estimates. That shouldn't come as a shock: Education, training, day care, health care and other services necessary to make welfare recipients employable and self-sufficient will, in the short run, be more expensive than the dole itself.

More than half of all welfare recipients in the United States never finished high school. More than three-quarters of those are single mothers who dropped out because they became pregnant. The longest-

term welfare recipients have the least education and job experience, and the greatest family problems.

Most live in neighborhoods where jobs are about as accessible as a winning lottery ticket. Even if the jobs were there, many don't have a safe way to get to a workplace that may be two or three bus transfers away — if public transportation is available at all. They don't have good care for the children they would leave behind.

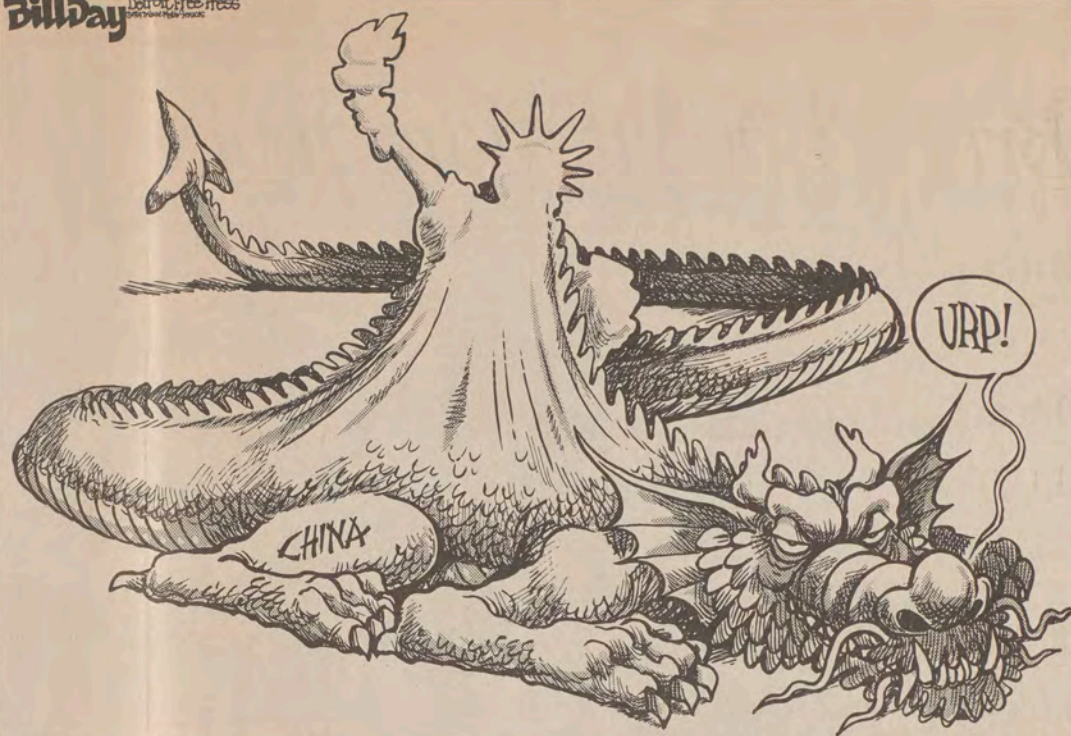
Welfare reform is about building a bridge of access between poor people and self-sufficiency. But good programs to do that aren't being fully funded or promoted.

For example, the federal Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program (JOBS) has demonstrated success in moving recipients from welfare to work. JOBS provides \$1.1 billion a year in federal aid for job training, so long as states provide required matching funds. In most states, though, the matching funds have fallen prey to budget pressures. Only one in 10 heads of families who collect Aid to Dependent Children now participates in JOBS.

Washington must make more of a commitment to ensuring that such programs are funded and conducted successfully in all states. That's how to start to "end welfare as we know it," to quote President Bill Clinton — not through punitive measures that do more harm than good.

Abortion: State would be unwise to defy federal law

BillDay Detroit Free Press



FROM OUR READERS

Teacher unions: Are they the enemy?

Perhaps you felt the headline of your March 26 editorial "GOP vs. MEA: There's more to cost containment than teacher unions" would paint Republicans as villains or opportunistic meddlers. I don't believe that will be the perception of the vast majority of Michigan's weary taxpayers.

I am overjoyed at the prospect of seeing the Michigan Education Association brought back into the arena of discourse instead of coercion, into the world of negotiation as opposed to dictates. For too long, the teacher union has held an inordinate level of control over the education system.

To imply as you do that school boards might "negotiate in bad faith" after some welcome reforms is akin to saying that a robbery victim might do something untoward should the police disarm his or her assailant.

It is more probable that education in Michigan will be set right to the extent that our late-arriving Legislature is willing to institute corrective measures. If you wish to blame the Republicans for taking on the task of subduing the MEA, I will reflect on their deeds with favor in coming elections.

For too long, the teacher union has held an inordinate level of control over the education system.

Party, which represents it in Lansing, will get the message. It is nice to see that the majority of people in this state do not swallow the MEA's line that as far as our children and their education are concerned, the MEA knows best.

Michael A. Spoelman
Muskegon

The politics of self-defense

The 30-year battle to secure a stable

Michigan school system isn't over, despite the big step voters took in approving Proposal A.

Teacher unions are not the enemy. The Michigan Education Association got into politics out of self-defense, after being pushed and pulled by political forces for years. MEA insurance provides health protection that wasn't furnished consistently by school boards.

Nobody blames other unions for making sure their members' benefits are in place and their pay is equitable. Teachers should be judged on the job, doing what they do every day: teaching kids.

Teachers must deal with the unprecedented problems of a troubled society. Schools and teachers need political stability as well as financial security, because kids are the bottom line.

Dave Rogers
Bay City