SATURDAY, AUG. 4, 2007 DETROIT FREE PRESS | WWW.FREEP.COM



ON FREEP.COM

Alec's at bat

Baseball can be about the park and crowd or the stats and players. For Alec Kraft, 12, it's also about triumph. Alec has arthritis and led his little league team to victory. Relive the heart of the game with his story, only at **freep.com**.

RUTH TO THE RESCUE

Prepare your pet for a summer vacation

Planning a summer vacation and want to take your pet? Some vacations are now more pet-friendly. Call before you book to see if your destination is petfriendly. Also, get your pet travel-ready by taking it to the airport.

- RUTH SPENCER, LOCAL 4 NEWS



TECH TIP Back up your cell phone contacts

means to do this.

Is it possible to back up a cell phone? Several programs will do the job. Some include cables. There is even a free program available, but you have to buy a cable for it. I have links to programs at www.komando.com/news. Also, ask your carrier. Many provide the

- KIM KOMANDO, GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

SATURDAY JUMP START

OVERHEARD

"I just like meat."

ANTHONY FENECH, 63, of Westland, describing his grilling preferences. STORY, 3A

IN TODAY'S **FREE PRESS**

Fifth bridge victim pulled from Mississippi

NATION & WORLD, 6A

Overseas sales push Toyota to record profits

BUSINESS, 8A

Teens visit area to learn more about Islam

SPIRITUAL LIFE, 5C

Getting it straight

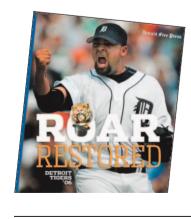
The Free Press corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please call the newsroom at 313-222-6600.

■ A photo caption on Page 17 of Thursday's Play section incorrectly spelled the name of the lead singer of the band the Cold War Kids. He is Nathan Wil-

■ An article in Friday's Sports section about metro Detroiters' favorite Tiger should not have said Pudge Rodriguez has won a National League Most Valuable Player trophy. He has won American League and World Series MVP trophies.

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NEWS2USE

Signing a lease? Here's what you need to know

Don't own your home? You don't have to settle for less. Renters have rights, too. Make sure it's all down on paper.

GET IT IN WRITING

Lease agreements must comply with Michigan law, said George A. Contis, an attorney with Maddin, Hauser, Wartell, Roth & Heller in Southfield. He specializes in real estate law and has been practicing tenant law for almost 22 years.

"It's important for every tenant out there to have or insist on a written lease from their landlord," Contis

"Most large-scale residential apartment managers comply with the law. It's those people who try to circumvent the law who make a bad name for landlords."

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Before you even begin moving in, document the apartment's or home's appearance with a move-in inventory checklist. If your landlord does not give you a checklist, create your own.

This report notes the condition of the property. It should be detailed. Label the columns on your report "good," "fair" and "poor." Describe any damage.

Document the number of nail holes or marks in the walls as well as the condition of floors, ceilings, toilets, fixtures, furniture and applianc-

Have your manager sign it, and you do the same. Take pictures of each room in your living space and of any damage you find.

This report will help if your landlord tries to charge you to repair things that were in poor condition when you moved in.

"Make sure you are thorough and thoughtful, regarding the condition of each item on that checklist," Contis said. "You don't want to let them try to nickel and dime you or reduce your deposit by taking a portion.'

THE DEPOSIT

Most rental agreements require a security deposit.

If the tenant damages the property or leaves owing rent, the landlord can use the security deposit to cover what the tenant owes.

In Michigan, the limit for any kind of deposit — security or otherwise is 150%, or 1.5 times, the monthly rent.

Landlords also are allowed to charge a cleaning fee.

Within four days after tenants move, they are required to provide a forwarding address. "Without a forwarding address, the landlord is not obligated to provide an itemized checklist of charges for repairs, Contis said.

TENANTS' RIGHTS

"As a general rule regarding repairs," Contis said, "you have an expectation and a right for your dwelling to be free of broken windows, glass, free of water intrusion."

Should damages occur that are beyond a tenant's control, he or she must notify the landlord or management company immediately "in writing so that you have a record of when you made the complaint and when they expect to respond to the complaint," Contis said. If damages are

caused by tenants' negligence, generally they have to pay for repairs.

WHAT LANDLORDS CAN'T DO

Without a court order, landlords

■ Change the locks.

■ Remove doors, windows or locks.

■ Shut off utilities

■ Put tenants' belongings on the

■ Evict a tenant in retaliation for

exercising legal rights against a land-

REASONS TO EVICT

A landlord can evict if:

■ Tenants fail to pay rent. ■ Tenants' use causes serious and

continuing injury to the property.

■ Tenants conduct illegal activities on

the property. ■ Tenants don't move after a lease is terminated.

Court approval is necessary for an



Today's News2Use is by Erin L. Hill, Free Press copy editor and staff writer. Got an idea for news

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Detroit Free Press

(USPS 155-500) (ISSN 1055-2758) Published daily by the Detroit Free Press at 600 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT DETROIT, MI, AND ADDITIONAL OFFICES

CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-800-395-3300

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The Free Press is printed partially on recycled newsprint Postmaster, please send address changes to: Mail Subscription Department 615 W. Lafayette Boulevard Detroit, MI 48226

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Lottery results

Michigan
Friday Daily 3 and 4
Midday......102 and 6944 Evening......831 and 5176

Mega Millions......16, 29, 42, 46, 51

Saturday's Classic Lotto 47 jackpot.....\$2 million Ohio Friday Pick 3 and 4

Midday.....444 and 9289

.....\$100,000 The Lot' O Play jackpot\$4.9 million

Find previous Michigan numbers on the Web at

www.michigan.gov/lottery Find previous Ohio numbers on the Web at www.ohiolotttery.com

