

Senator Carl Levin
State of Michigan
Tuesday, January 20, 2004



Detroit Free Press
Otto Feinstein: Professor championed peace, justice
Job gains for minorities, women are barely visible
Michigan voters want affirmative action ban
Equality Poll: Skin color has big role in view on policies
The world is watching as Mich. Dems cast e-votes
Dems to draft 1st Arabic ballot
EDIT Boy, 6, brings gun to school
OPED Mars vision: Considering risks, project requires right education and money

Detroit News
State Democrats favor Dean
New Dearborn Heights mayor stuck with more budget cuts
Michigan feels caucus pressure
Storm blankets Upper Peninsula
New snow: 10inches in Michigan; 11 inches in Wisconsin
OPED Some Democrats target Mich., job loss issue (Levin mentioned)

Ann Arbor News
Mayor: Put tax on outsiders
Many retirees see medical benefits cut
Contest only between Republicans

The Grand Rapids Press
Shutdown is no shock to threat-weary worker
Electrolux leaving: Greenville plant will close in 2005, taking 2,700 jobs

Escanaba Daily Press
Balancing a budget can be work of art
Accused sex offender takes stand

Daily Mining Gazette
Lodge eyes $2.5M update
'Listening tour': Labor, growth chief starts trip in Copper Country
Baraga decides to take fed money for sixth-grade computers
State seeks counsel of U.P.'s sole nanotech firm

Local, state veterans thank C-L-K students for poster project
EDIT Presidential caucus info available
A taxing bevy of bad alternatives

Marquette Journal

Marq-Tran may ask for millage hike
Monument planned to honor Civil War vets
Major sewer repair project set in Ishpeming
Forecast: $13.5 million in red, CCI posts loss
Ore deposit shrinks at local mine: Empire in trouble
Lawsuit against CCI heard by court

Sault Ste. Marie Evening News

Corps awards security contracts

Daily Globe

'Shouting match' fails to reinstate Bessemer housing director
White Pine, steelworkers settle

Otto Feinstein: Professor championed peace, justice

By JEANNE MAY
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Otto Feinstein, who escaped the Nazis to become a professor at Wayne State University and a tireless worker for peace, civil rights and labor justice, died of esophageal cancer Dec. 30 at his apartment on the Wayne State campus in Detroit.


Otto Feinstein

He was 78 and a founder of the university's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

"When I was in grad school, I used to work very closely with him," Anthony Perry, a former Wayne State professor, said Monday. "Once, we had been in there 21 days in a row. He said, 'Take a long weekend next weekend, and that will help us recover.'

"We'd all need about 10 lifetimes to do what he did."

Indeed. He was a founder of the Center for Chicano Boricua Studies, the College of Lifelong Learning and the Distance Learning Television Program, all at Wayne State.

When droves of autoworkers lost their jobs in the early 1980s, he created and ran the Communication/Information System for the Unemployed. Under his program, thousands of workers went back to school to learn new skills.

He founded a Wayne State employment project for people released from prisons and won an award for it from the chief justice of the United States in 1986. And he developed the Michigan Ethnic Heritage Studies Center in Detroit.

His reach far exceeded his Detroit campus.

He founded the International Institute for Policy, Practice and Education of Adults, with branches in Detroit and Belgium. He worked for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Inter-University Centre at Dubrovnik, Croatia, and the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

He also founded and published the Journal of Ethno Development.

Mr. Feinstein was born in Austria, escaped the Nazis with his family and landed in New York in 1940. He graduated at the top of his high school class and earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago. Continuing his studies at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, he received a master's degree in 1953 and started on his doctoral studies.

He returned to the United States to serve in the Army during the Korean War.

In 1960, he got a job teaching at Monteith College, an experimental school at Wayne State. The college gathered students who worked together for four years in a community setting. When Monteith closed in 1974, Mr. Feinstein moved to Wayne State's Political Science Department, where he taught until his death.

In 1965, he received a doctorate from the University of Chicago.

Active in Michigan politics, he was a Democratic precinct delegate and Michigan chair for Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign in 1968.

He developed a program to get youth involved in political life, called the Youth Urban Agenda /Civic Literacy Project. Last year, he was cited for the project by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Survivors include two daughters, Sarah and Tamara.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Monday at Wayne State's General Lecture Hall, 5405 Anthony Wayne Drive. More information is on the Web at www.urbanagenda.wayne.edu. Arrangements are by the Ira Kaufman Chapel, Southfield.

The family suggests memorial donations to the Holocaust Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024.

Contact JEANNE MAY *at 586-469-4682 or may@freepress.com.*

JAN. 20. 2004 9:02AM NO. 6043 P. 1
William Beaumont

JAN. 20. 2004 9:02AM NO. 6043 P. 2



LEFT: The Spud One rounds a curve in an earlier race. **ABOVE:** Gary Kitchen also had a potato farm.

air 2003 Rookie of
e also defending
owmobile racing.
one to blame and
ne. It was just an
d Jean Williams,
Larry Williams is
f the Midwest In-

IDENT, Page 4B

Job gains for minorities, women are barely visible

White-collar diversity is slow in metro Detroit

By ALEXA CAPELOTO
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

As petitioning against affirmative action in Michigan ratchets up the diversity debate, new census figures suggest minorities and women are barely advancing in metro Detroit's professional ranks.

During a decade of extraordinary upheaval over diversity, punctuated by raucous rallies, corporate recruiting drives and legal challenges that moved through the highest courts, the region's professional, managerial and other white-collar jobs largely remain white male preserves, an examination of the census data shows.

The percentage of metro Detroit's top-level jobs held by women actually declined between 1990 and 2000, and the portions for Hispanics and African Americans crept up a mere 0.6 percent, according to a Free Press analysis of the data.

Perhaps, some experts said, the force that has moved through college campuses, neighborhoods and lower-end jobs is still in the process of propelling more diverse candidates toward prestigious corner offices, legislative halls and other power nests.

"We still have a long haul," said Trecia Johnson, a loan specialist at Groggins Realty & Investments in Southfield.

"There needs to be more done to open doors to all kinds of people," said Johnson, who is African American.

Employers and federal agencies use the newly released census data, known as Equal Employment Opportunity tabulations, to determine whether companies are recruiting, hiring and promoting a diverse enough pool of qualified people.

The numbers also offer a

Please see JOBS, Page 4B

for minorities or women in Detroit

From Page 1B

glimpse at the faces filling the top offices of metro Detroit. Social scientists look at the management and professional jobs in particular to test the true progress of traditionally underrepresented groups.

Only Asians showed a significant increase from the 1990 figures to 2000. They climbed from 2½ percent in 1990 to 5 percent in 2000 of all professionals and managers, a wide-ranging designation encompassing chief executive officers, lawyers, nurses, teachers and about 160 other jobs.

"We're certainly seeing the effects of the growing Asian community," said Kurt Metzger, research director at the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University, after examining the Free Press analysis.

The success, he said, is partly tied to education. Asians are more often better educated and trained for Michigan's professional jobs, while Hispanics and other groups fill the more blue-collar jobs such as construction and landscaping.

Some local trends diverged from national and statewide numbers:

- Women advanced nationally and in Michigan but not in metro Detroit.
- Hispanics had better gains nationally than in Michigan and metro Detroit.
- Metro Detroit has double the percentage of black professionals (14 percent) as the United States (7.6 percent), but the growth rate (0.6 percent) for both was the same.

Power shifts were more pronounced in specific professions. The proportion of female dentists, for example, nearly doubled from 11 to 19 percent. Male librarians grew from 12½ to 17 percent. African-American postmasters and mail superintendents jumped from 25½ to 48 percent.

Erin Teague, a student in her final year at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, isn't surprised by the surge of women in her chosen field. She said her class of about 100 is at least half female.

She and her female classmates "haven't had that sort of restricted feeling, that repressed feeling" said Teague, 26. "Males and females just mix pretty equally."

Metzger said the slight decline in local women professionals — from 48 to 47.9 percent — may suggest an increase of men in some traditionally female occupations like nursing or teaching. It's more likely, he said, that women like Teague who have flooded universities and training programs in the last decade are still moving toward the top ranks.

"Maybe 2000 is still early in the game," Metzger said. "The changes that are occurring may not be reflected yet."

The same logic might apply to Hispanics. Their presence in high-ranking jobs is only just beginning to be felt and seen nationwide and in Michigan, said some in the Hispanic business community.

"Hispanics have only been in corporate America for one generation, roughly 20 years," said Armando Ojeda, executive director of the Southfield-based Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "So really what you have is a lot of people in the pipeline. You're going to see more in 2000-2010."

Top corporation recruiters are waiting to meet some of those in the pipeline. According to one high-ranking General Motors executive, diversity has become a savvy business move, a benefit to the staff and a social responsibility.

The automaker expressed those priorities in one of 75 amicus briefs filed last year with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the University of Michigan's use of affirmative action.

"We want to have a workforce that reflects and can speak for our customer base," said John Quattrone, GM's North American vice president of human resources. "For the company, it's good because you always want to have a diversity of thought and perspectives."

And, he said, "It's the right thing to do. It's our social responsibility."

Contact **ALEXA CAPELOTO** *at 586-469-4935 or capeloto@freepress.com.*
Free Press data analyst Victoria Turk contributed to this report.

equality

Poll: Skin color has big role in view on policies

By SUZETTE HACKNEY
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Not income, not education, not gender, not neighborhood predicts how Michiganders think about affirmative action and race-related issues.

But one demographic trait does: skin color.

There are profound differences in how white and black Michiganders perceive the wisdom and effectiveness of affirmative-action policies, the benefits of a diverse society and the reality of employment and educational opportunities, a Free Press poll shows.

Today, the nation celebrates the holiday that honors civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man who did more to help bring the races together than anyone in the last century. And today across Michigan, a campaign is underway that may sharpen the state's racial divide.

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative wants to amend the state constitution to prohibit universities and state and local governments "from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting."

The campaign's proponents have said that they want the same thing King did: a color-blind society. But opponents have said King was clear that society needs to take aggressive steps to correct centuries of giving minorities second-class status.

The Free Press poll results mirror what researchers elsewhere have found: that although affirmative-action policies can benefit all minorities and women, people overwhelmingly view them in terms of black and white.

Most white Michiganders said

Please see POLL, Page 10A

SHADES OF DIFFERENCE

A Free Press poll conducted last fall found a gulf of difference between white and black people on issues of affirmative action and race. A look at some of the results:

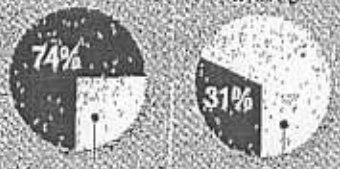
Should affirmation action programs for minorities be ended now, phased out or continued?

Indicated "Continued"



How often are white people promoted over black people because they are white?

Indicated "Frequently" or "Often"



How often are black people promoted over white people because they are black?

Indicated "Frequently" or "Often"



JOHN W. FLEMING/Detroit Free Press

lacks and whites differ on race policies



"Affirmative action is not overpopulating the colleges or . . . the workforce with minorities," said Kim Turner of Flint.



Photos by RICHARD LEE/Detroit Free Press

Affirmative action has "almost led to reverse discrimination," said Cassandra Stuart of Oakland Township.

powering the workforce with minorities. Nor is it taking jobs or education or opportunities away from other people."

Conducted in late October and early November, the poll interviewed 1,093 Michigan adults. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points for white respondents' results, and 5.5 percentage points for those of black respondents. The margin is smaller for the sample of white people because, constituting a higher percentage of Michigan's population, more were interviewed.

David O. Sears, a professor of psychology and political science at the University of California at Los Angeles, said the poll's findings are typical of the national mindset about affirmative action. The phrases "affirmative action," "special preferences" and "preferential treatment" usually get a positive response from black people and a mixed or negative response from white people, he said.

The Free Press poll illustrated the difference in how white people see "programs" to correct past discrimination as compared to "special preferences." Sixty-one percent of white people said they support programs to help black people who have been discriminated against, but the number dropped to 29 percent when the words "special preferences" were used. The main reason for that, he said, is that some whites make a moral — and partly racist — judgment that blacks are trying to get something for nothing. Those feelings are based on a historical context, he said.

Affirmative-action policies born out of the civil rights movement to assist blacks, can, in their common-day form, help women, people with disabilities, Latinos, Asians, American Indians and gays and lesbians.

Assistance for black people is "just the first thing that comes to mind because blacks have historically in America been the prototypical minority group," Sears said.

Sears said it's no accident that opponents of affirmative action focus mostly on what they say is preferential treatment for blacks.

"They know that whites are more likely to be opposed to affirmative action for blacks than for other groups," he said.

Diversity in education

The U.S. Supreme Court's split decision last summer to allow the limited use of racial preferences in admissions at the University of Michigan prompted the current ballot drive to end the use of race and gender in decisions about college admissions and government hiring and contracting.

Though Michiganders said it is important for students to interact with people from diverse backgrounds on college campuses — 95 percent of blacks and 82 percent of whites agree — most respondents, black and white, said diversity can be achieved without race being a factor during the admissions process.

The poll showed that 65 percent of white Michiganders said colleges can achieve diversity without considering race, compared with 54 percent of blacks. Only 21 percent of the white respondents said they support special openings for blacks in colleges to overcome past discrimination. Forty-three percent of African Americans support such an effort.

"Four hundred years of injustice is a long time, and there are still a lot of black people who are deserving but don't get the chance to go to school," said Claude Gray, a black Detroiter, referring to slavery.

"I thought we would be moving ahead in jobs and education. It seems as though everyone wants us to go backward."

Gray, 60, a retired public safety administrator for the Detroit Board of Education, grew up in North Carolina. There, he encountered drinking fountains he couldn't sip from and movie theaters where he had to sit in black sections. Racism today is often more subtle, like the effort to ban affirmative action, he said.

"I'm not angry, because being angry is not going to do anything but raise the blood pressure," he said. "I'm just dealing in reality."

Help for women, too

Black people aren't just looking out for themselves, the poll showed. They are much more likely than white people to support affirmative action programs for women.

Nine in 10 black respondents support programs to help women get better jobs and education, and seven in 10 support special preferences for women — numbers almost identical to their support for themselves.

Rodney Stinson, 21, an African American who lives on Detroit's west side, said women deserve a chance to get into elite schools and higher-profile jobs.

"Some people don't take women as seriously as they should," said Stinson, a Detroit Medical Center employee and nursing student. "There are just as many qualified women as men, but they may not get the chance to succeed."

But Owosso homemaker Joyce Hughey, 45, said she doesn't think anyone but people with disabilities should benefit. She raised five children as a single mother and got no bonuses for being a woman, she said.

"I worked very hard to raise my children," said Hughey, who used to clean houses. "I didn't get any breaks being a woman, and I wouldn't want them. If you really want something, then you should just do it."

➤ *In Tuesday's Free Press, read about how minorities and women are barely advancing in metro Detroit's professional ranks.*

Contact SUZETTE HACKNEY *at 313-223-4536 or hackney@freepress.com.*

US PARK
ON MIDDLEBELT
Detroit Metro Airport
9601 Middlebelt
FREE
One Day Parking
Add'l Days: $7
(inc. all taxes)
• FREE 24 Hr. Door-to-Door Service
• Easy In/out, off I-94 & I-275
• Corp. Accts.: (734) 946-8000

1000's OF TOYS, DOLLS & ACTIVITIES
TOY SALE
SAVE 15%

ACTION

lisn't enough, King said

POLL | Blacks and whites

From Page 1A

that black people already have fair access to jobs and schooling, and that affirmative action is unfair and unnecessary. But, in general, most African Americans said that racial discrimination persists in the workplace, and that affirmative action will still be needed for years if America is to achieve King's dream of a color-blind society.

Some other key findings of the Free Press poll:

- About one-fifth of white Michiganders said affirmative action should end now, while about half advocate phasing it out, the poll showed. Only 15 percent of black people favor doing either, the poll showed.
- Nearly three of four black people said white people get jobs or promotions frequently or often because they are white. Fewer than one-third of white people said the same of black people.
- White Michiganders are evenly split, at 39 percent, on whether the bigger issue is black people losing out because of racism or whites losing out because of affirmative action.
- More than three in four black people said affirmative action brings people closer, compared with about half of white people.

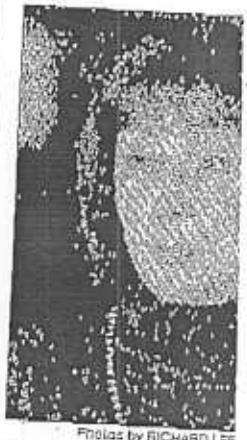
"I think that affirmative action has gone past the point of what it was originally intended to do," said Cassandra Stuart, 39, a white Oakland Township resident and poll respondent who is a student at Baker College. "It's almost led to reverse discrimination. I can't believe in anything that supports hiring somebody based on their age, gender or racial ethnicity. I think that it should be based on merit p[illegible]

But [illegible] Turner, 34, a Flint resident [illegible] poll respondent, said that the world is not perfect, people have biases and the best jobs and educational opportunities still go disproportionately to white people.

"I feel that other minority groups have not reached equal levels yet," said Turner, an African-American radiation therapist. "Affirmative action is not overpopulating the colleges or overpowering the workforce with minorities. Nor is it taking jobs or education or opportunities away from other people."



"Affirmative action is not overpopulating the colleges or ... the workforce with minorities," said Kim Turner of Flint.



Photos by RICHARD LEE

Affirmative action ha led to reverse discrim said Cassandra Stuar Oakland Township.

Conducted in late October and early November, the poll interviewed 1,093 Michigan adults. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points for white respondents' results, and 5.5 percentage points for those of black respondents. The margin is smaller for the sample of white people because, constituting a higher percentage of Michigan's population, more were interviewed.

David O. Sears, a professor of psychology and political science at the University of California at Los Angeles, said the poll's findings are typical of the national mindset about affirmative action. The phrases "affirmative action," "special preferences" and "preferential treatment" usually get a positive response from black people and a mixed or negative response from white people, he said.

The Free Press poll illustrated the difference in how white people see "programs" to correct past discrimination as compared to "special preferences." Sixty-one percent of white people said they support programs to help black people who have been discriminated against, but the number dropped to 29 percent when the words "special preferences" were used. The main reason for that, he said, is that some whites make a moral — and partly racist — judg-

ment that blacks are t something for nothing ings are based on a his text, he said.

Affirmative-actior born out of the civil ri ment to assist blacks, c common-day form, he people with disabilitie Asians, American In gays and lesbians.

Assistance for blacl just the first thing tha mind because blacks ha cally in America been typical minority grou said.

Sears said it's no acc opponents of affirmati focus mostly on what t preferential treatment f

"They know that w more likely to be oppose mative action for black other groups," he said.

Diversity in education

The U.S. Supreme Co decision last summer to limited use of racial prefe admissions at the Univ Michigan prompted the ballot drive to end the u and gender in decisions a lege admissions and gov hiring and contracting.

Though Michiganders important for students t with people from diver grounds on college cam 96 percent of blacks and cent of whites agree —

MORE POLL QUESTIONS

In the last 10 years, have you personally felt discrimination because of your race or ethnic background?

Indicated "yes"

BLACKS WHITES

12%

In order to overcome past discrimination, do you favor programs to help black people get better jobs or education?

Indicated "Favor"

BLACKS WHITES

In order to overcome past discrimination, do you favor programs to give special preferences to black people in hiring and education?

Indicated "Favor"

BLACKS WHITES

What's a bigger issue, racism or affirmative action?

Indicated "Racism"

BLACKS WHITES

Affirmative action 43% Not sure 12%

Affirmative action 39% Not sure 22%

Do you believe affirmative action brings people closer together?

Indicated "Agree"

BLACKS WHITES

Do you support special openings for black people in colleges to overcome past discrimination?

VIEWS ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

A Mars vision needs focus

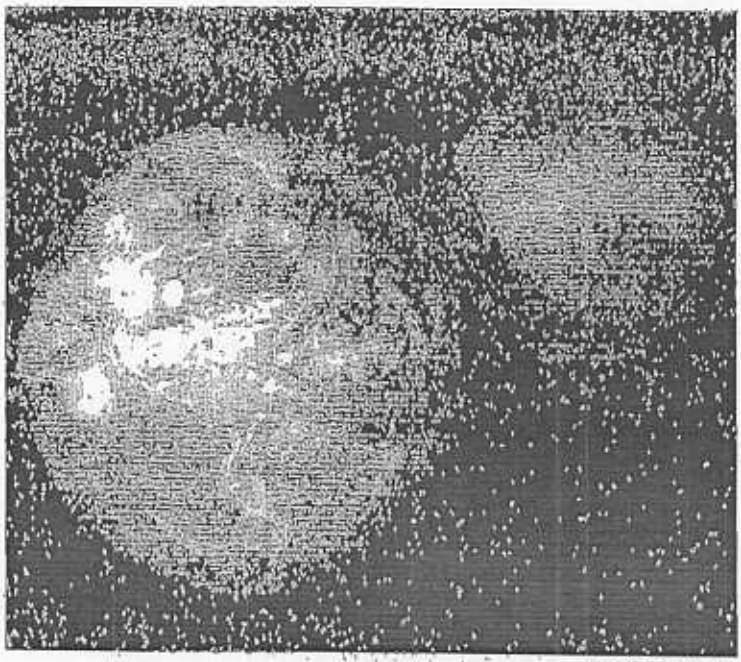
Considering risks, project requires right education and money

By VERNON J. EHLERS



Vision — true vision — is bold and breathtaking. It breaks the future free from the ordinary and the past.

Last week, President George W. Bush announced such a vision for NASA. He committed the nation to a long-term human and robotic exploration of the solar system. The program would begin with completion of the International Space Station, then a return to the moon to establish a base to serve as a launching pad for journeys to Mars and beyond. This is a broad, far-reaching and inspirational vision that gives NASA a clear and compelling mission, which the space agency has lacked for far too long.



KURT STRAZDINS/KRT

As with all daring initiatives, the president's vision for NASA poses significant challenges. Enthusiasm for the president's proposal must be tempered by the realities that face us. Completing the space station and returning to the moon are familiar tasks that can be completed with existing knowledge and technology. However, sending humans to Mars and beyond — and ensuring their return — will require developing new interplanetary space vehicles and advanced life-support systems that can withstand the ravages of outer space.

They will have to traverse a distance 200 times as far as the Earth-to-moon journey. They must survive radiation and carry enough life-support materials — food, oxygen, etc. — to endure the privations of empty space. These technical obstacles are welcome challenges to our scientists and engineers. Given enough money and manpower they can, and likely will, be overcome.

To do this, however, NASA needs an educated, dynamic and vital workforce to meet the significant technical challenges of this mission. We need to be serious about expanding our K-12 math and science education programs so that we have trained and talented scientists and engineers to do this work.

At a House Science Committee hearing last year, we learned that within the next decade, NASA will have lost virtually everyone who was ever involved in the Apollo program. This loss of institutional knowledge further increases NASA's demand for highly trained scientists and engineers. I have championed the effort to improve math and science education for many years, and Congress has been expanding it. However, the president's proposal dramatizes the need to radically accelerate our efforts.

In addition to developing the workforce NASA requires to carry out this mission, the costs of this journey into space in terms of money and human risk are significant hurdles that must be examined carefully before we agree to pursue them. Going to the moon will have considerable costs and the jump to Mars will greatly increase that expense. The current NASA mission to Mars involving the robotic Spirit and Opportunity rovers will cost NASA approximately $800 million. A manned mission to Mars likely will require nearly 1,000 times that amount, since not only do we have to get the astronauts there, but we have to get them home.

This mission is a long-term investment — if we are "in for a penny," then we must be "in for a pound."

In order to commit, we need a realistic estimate of the overall price tag of the mission before we begin, to be certain that we can — and are willing to — assume the costs or find international partners to absorb a portion of the expense. Furthermore, we cannot forgo other important scientific priorities, which may have more scientific value.

In addition to the monetary risk, sending humans into space is always perilous. Simply landing a probe on Mars has proven difficult — to date, two-thirds of all unmanned probes sent to Mars have been failures. A human landing would be further complicated by its size, life-support and other health issues, and the need to actually safely return the vehicle and its crew back to Earth. We will need to decide if the scientific and exploration value of a human mission outweighs the risks to human health and consider whether robotic missions might be just as valuable at a fraction of the cost.

As a scientist, I understand the desire to explore, to discover and to learn the unknown. I applaud Bush for his ability and willingness to provide NASA with a compelling and unifying mission that will satisfy our human desire to explore while inspiring our children to reach towards the heavens. However, we must temper our desire with a full understanding of the costs and risks, and we must acknowledge that fulfilling our vision is impossible without education, considerable expense and hard work.

U.S. REP. VERNON J. EHLERS, *R-Grand Rapids, who holds a PhD in nuclear physics, is chairman of the Environment, Technology and Standards Subcommittee of the U.S. House's Committee on Science. Write to him at 1714 Longworth House Office Building, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.*

Dems to draft 1st Arabic ballot

They want translation done for Feb. 7 caucus

By NIRAJ WARIKOO
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Democratic Party is working to draft the nation's first-ever Arabic-language ballot.

Reaching out to the state's large Arab community, the party is working with an Arab-American group to translate ballots into Arabic for the Feb. 7 Democratic caucus.

Michigan is one of a growing number of states, counties and cities across the country that are using foreign-language ballots to help immigrant voters.

"We want to make sure community members feel comfortable participating, even if their first language is not English," said Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer.

The state party once printed Polish ballots and more recently has had Spanish ballots, but it has never had an Arabic ballot. In recent years, Michigan's Arab-American population, one of the nation's largest, has become more active in politics.

The Arab-American Institute, based in Washington, D.C., hosted a Democratic forum for presidential candidates in Detroit last October. And this month, the group is working with the Michigan Democratic Party to translate the ballots. Already, the state party's Web site has voting instructions in Arabic.

On Thursday, the Arab American Political Action Committee held a town hall meeting in Dearborn, where Abed Hammoud, a Wayne County assistant prosecu-

Please see BALLOT, Page 6B

➤ Reviews are mixed for online voting in caucus. 1A

NO. 6047 P. 7
JAN. 20. 2004 9:48AM

1st in U.S.

From Page 1B

tor, talked about the positions of the Democratic candidates on issues ranging from civil rights to the Iraq war. Candidates Wesley Clark and Sen. John Kerry called in by phone and told the audience that they are committed to helping Arab Americans.

"It's important for the Arab-American community to get out and vote, especially after 9/11," said Fay Baydoun, who heads the Michigan chapter of the institute.

Under federal law, counties or other municipalities must provide foreign-language ballots if 5 percent of the voting-age population or 10,000 residents have limited English proficiency and speak another language. The law, though, only applies to languages that the U.S. government considers to be minority languages. Arabic and French, for example, are not considered to be minority languages by the government, while Chinese and Spanish are.

Dearborn, which has the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States, is not federally mandated to have Arabic ballots.

In Michigan, there are four townships — Buena Vista, Colfax, Zilwaukee and Clyde — that are required to have ballots in Spanish because of high percentages of Spanish-speaking residents, said Bradley Wittman of the Michigan's Bureau of Elections.

The decision to make ballots in Arabic has upset some.

"It's a very dangerous move," said Rob Toonkel of U.S. English, a Washington-based group pushing for laws that would make English the nation's official language. "It keeps people separate."

He said non-English-speaking voters sometimes make decisions based on misinformation because they're limited in terms of what campaign materials they can read.

Others support the new ballots.

"I'm glad to hear the Arabic community is moving on this issue," said Larry Arreguin of the Hispanic caucus of Michigan's Democratic Party. "If there is a way to encourage more people to participate in the process, then by all means, go for it."

For recent columns by Matt Helms, real-time traffic conditions, construction updates and more, visit www.freep.com/driving.

Boy, 6, brings gun to school

Officials call incident show-and-tell mistake; charges may be coming

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIDGEPORT TOWNSHIP — A 6-year-old boy brought an unloaded .38-caliber handgun into his kindergarten classroom in what school officials told parents was "a show-and-tell mistake."

The boy opened his coat pocket and showed the gun to classmates Friday morning at Thomas White Elementary School in Saginaw County's Bridgeport Township. One of the other students immediately ran to tell the teacher, township Police Chief Dennis Green said.

"The school's handled it real well," Green said. "They immediately took possession of the gun and isolated the child and contacted us. The next step is the prosecutor's office."

The boy, who has been suspended from school, apparently took the gun from an unlocked drawer in his mother's boyfriend's home, Green said. The child and his mother live in Spaulding Township. The gun was registered to the boyfriend, who lives in Saginaw.

The child or either adult could face charges, Green said. Authorities are withholding their names.

Bridgeport-Spaulding Community School District officials sent a letter home with students that called the incident "a show-and-tell mistake." Superintendent Ricardo Medina said the incident left the student who brought the gun "very quiet and very sad."

"Part of what we're dealing with is the age of the student," Medina said. "They're not exactly sure of the implications and ramification of their actions. There's this curiosity, and sometimes it gets the best of them.

"We're treating this as a learning opportunity."

The Free Press Bookstore 800-245-5082 or www.freep.com/bookstore

affirmative action programs and partial-birth abortions.

Source: Mitchell Research poll of a sample of 400 Michigan residents with a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent. The Detroit News

Please see GRANHOLM, Page 6A

State Democrats favor Dean

Former Vt. governor leads closest rival, Gephardt, 2-1.

Detroit News Lansing Bureau

LANSING— With the Michigan Democratic presidential caucus less than three weeks away, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean has a 2-to-1 lead on his closest competitor here, Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, a Detroit News poll shows.

None of the other six Democratic candidates broke into double digits.

Dean, the national front-runner, leads in Michigan with 32 percent of likely caucus voters to 16 percent for Gephardt, who has strong union backing and is the only candidate to date to run TV ads in the state.

"I'm for Dean, maybe because I like the front-runner," said Rita Sheedy, a retired homemaker from Westland who took part in the poll.

Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry — whose campaign in Michigan is co-chaired by former Gov. James Blanchard and Daniel Mulhern, husband of Gov. Jennifer Granholm — is running third at 7 percent.



Dean



Gephardt

Rounding out the field are: Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman at 6 percent, civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton and retired Gen. Wesley Clark at 5 percent. Others in the race are North Carolina Sen. John Edwards and Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich.

The statewide poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points overall, but the sample of likely Democratic voters in the Feb. 7 primary has a margin of error of plus or minus 8 percentage points.

Dean would face an uphill battle in November — he would trail President Bush, 51-35.

"It's going to tighten up and be a very close race in Michigan," predicted News pollster Steve Mitchell.

American ritual

March to the White House begins anew in Iowa. Page 4A

ream
save at least 1.02 on
2.97 ea.
FARMER JACK

JAN. 20. 2004 9:49AM NO. 6047 P. 10

The Detroit News detnews.com WAYNE
cars.com Rus
SEARCH detnews.com GO
detnews SITE INDEX
Homepage
Search
CyberSurveys
Horoscope
Lottery
Michigan's Best
Weather
Staff
FORUMS
News Talk
Autos Talk
Big 10 Talk
High Schools
Lions Talk
Pistons Talk
Wings Talk
Tech Talk
Tiger Talk
Weight-loss
NEWS
Autos
►Insider
►Auto Show
►Drive
►Joyrides
Business
►Careers
►Money & Life
Census
Columnists
Commuting
Detroit History
Editorials
Metro / State
►Livingston
►Macomb
►Oakland
►Wayne
Nation / World
Obituaries
►Death Notices
Politics / Govt.
Real Estate
Religion
Schools
Special Reports
Technology
SPORTS
Sports Insider
►Lions/NFL
►Red Wings/NHL

▶ Previous Story ▶ Next Story ▶ Latest Wayne

Friday, January 16, 2004



Robin Buckson / The Detroit News

Following a unanimous appointment by the Dearborn Heights City Council, Mayor Dan Paletko addresses Tuesday night's council meeting. The former state lawmaker says he's up to handling the city's fiscal challenges.

New Dearborn Heights mayor stuck with more budget cuts

City must save another $300,000

By Natalie Y. Moore / The Detroit News

DEARBORN HEIGHTS — Dan Paletko was named mayor just this week, but before he can get settled into the new job, he has an immediate matter needing his attention: adjusting the city budget by $300,000.

The state whacked additional revenue-sharing funds from Dearborn Heights' $34 million budget, prompting city officials to face more numbers crunching on top of previous cuts. When that problem is solved, Paletko must present the 2004-05 budget to the City Council by April — and the

Dan Paletko

▶ Elected to Michigan House of Representatives in 2002
▶ Dearborn Heights City Councilman, 1974-2002
▶ Certified public accountant, 1975-present
▶ Finance manager, Ford Motor Co., 1976-2001
▶ Master of science in taxation from Wayne State University, 1996
▶ MBA from University of Detroit, 1985
▶ Bachelor's in business administration, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 1973
▶ Member, Michigan Democratic Party, 1968-present

Marketpla
Browse
New & U
Employr
Homes
Shop Or
Home Del
Start ho
Renew s
Customi
Wayne C
• Wayne
Friday, Jan
• Neighbo
lines after
dispute
• Metro st
cities of the
• Wayne E
• Wayne F
news
• Prolong
riles Dearb
owners
• Across
• New De
mayor stuc
budget cut
• Dems w
vacant Hou
• Diversity
Muslim day
• Cash-st
drops annu
• Canton,
plan shifts
• Mentor
adults help
• Police t
sites
• Hamtran
brace for c

Copy
The
Use of this
agreemer
Service (up

►Pistons/NBA
►Shock/WNBA
►Tigers/Baseball
►MSU
►U-M
More Colleges
Golf Guide
High Schools
Motor Sports
Outdoors
More Sports
Scoreboards

ENTERTAINMENT
Entertainment
►Casino Guide
►Movie Finder
►Restaurants
►TV Listings
Crossword

GREAT LAKES ESCAPES
Home
►Destinations
►Hunt & Fish
►On the Water
►Recreation

HOMESTYLE
Homestyle home
►Decorating
►Eats & Drinks
►Recipe Box
►Gardening
►Health
►Home Improvement
►Home Life
►Home Tech
►Wine Report
Holiday Central
►Holiday Events
►Holiday Gifts
►Holiday Kitchen
►Helping Hands

PHOTOS
Sports
Red Wings
Lions
Autos
Joyrides
News
History

picture doesn't look any better. Officials have warned there might be a $1 billion shortfall in the state budget next year.

The 53-year-old former Michigan lawmaker, unanimously appointed mayor by the City Council, said he is up to the task.

"What ultimately was the deciding factor for me were ... officials and residents who felt that I would be able to step in with the least amount of training and be sensitive to the community's culture," he said.

Paletko, a Democrat, resigned from the Michigan House of Representatives, where he was serving his first term. He takes his oath as mayor next week.

Ruth Canfield, who had been mayor for 10 years, and Joyce Robbins, who has been city clerk for a decade, left office Jan. 1. Canfield, 63, and Robbins, 62, took advantage of an early retirement offer the city made to municipal employees.

Paletko, an accountant and longtime Dearborn Heights resident, served on the City Council for 29 years before he left for Lansing. Paletko's appointment is good until November. He said he will seek election to finish out Canfield's term, which expires in December 2005.

"He's got a lot of years. He's taking a political and personal sacrifice for the city. I'm looking forward to working with him," said Councilwoman Catherine Heise.

Meanwhile, the budget continues to be a challenge.

Public works jobs have been slashed through attrition from 32 workers three years ago to 19. The city's two senior citizen centers have had their operating hours cut back to three days a week. State leaders in December cut an additional 5 percent in the revenue sharing money it sends to cities. In Dearborn Heights, that means $337,000 from the city's budget $34 million annual budget. In the year ending in 2001, Michigan gave the city $7.3 million. This fiscal year, it gave $6.1 million.

Paletko said he has not decided where to make cuts.

"I want to sit down with elected officials and get viewpoints. I want to talk to residents and get their concerns," he said.

Lifelong resident John Check, 43, said he knows the budget cuts won't be pleasant.

"I wish him the best of luck. He's got a tough road ahead of him with the city finances. Hopefully, we get back on the right track," Check said.

While serving as a state representative, Paletko, whose district included Dearborn Heights, Redford Township and Livonia, held a town hall meeting to discuss the $900 million state budget deficit.

When Canfield announced her retirement, several people mentioned Paletko as a possible successor. His appointment has been met with approval.

"I'm really pleased. Dan Paletko has been in Dearborn Heights so many years as a resident and political figure," said Debra Lowman, vice president of the city's chamber of commerce.

Once the budget situation is squared away, Paletko said he wants to

► Past chairman, 17th District Congressional Democratic Party
► Member, Dearborn Heights Goodfellows
► Member, Polish American Congress
► Married in 1978 to Nancy, with two daughters, Marie and Ann
► Comment on this story
► Send this story to a friend
► Get Home Delivery

increase the suburb's tax base.

"We don't have a lot of vacant land, and the possibilities of economic growth are much more difficult. We're going to have to be extremely aggressive. We're not going to get Ford, DaimlerChrysler or General Motors to open a business. What we're looking at is small- to medium-sized businesses."

Another issue is where to send the city's trash.

Dearborn Heights is home to an incinerator that burned trash for the city and four other communities. The owners recently filed for bankruptcy. Local trash is going to landfills until a final decision is made on what to do about the incinerator.

"Trash is an expensive item on the budget and we need to do what's best economically," Paletko said.

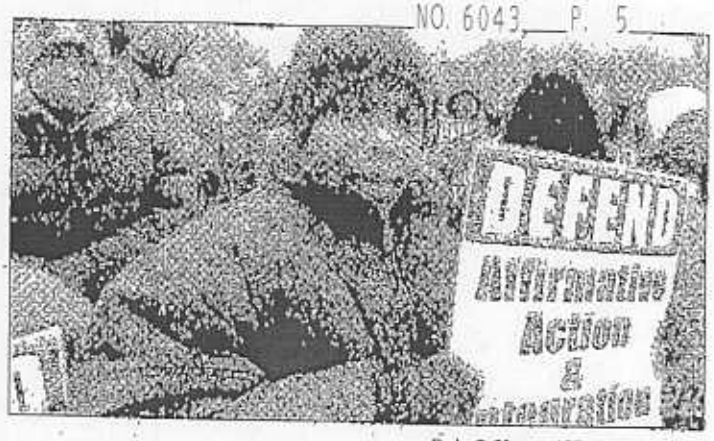
The council this week also appointed Judy Dudzinski as city clerk. Dudzinski, a clerk-typist, replaces Robbins.

You can reach Natalie Y. Moore at (313) 561-8146 or nmoore@detnews.com.

▶ Previous Story ▶ Next Story

Michigan voters want affirmative action ban

Residents also favor end to late-term abortion



Dale G. Young / The Detroit News

About 100 demonstrators marched Monday at U-M in support of affirmative action, including Shawn Moton, 11, of Detroit.

By Charlie Cain
and Mark Hornbeck
Detroit News Lansing Bureau

At the start of what promises to be an emotional clash over racial preferences in Michigan, voters clearly side with advocates of a ballot proposal that would ban affirmative action in government hiring and college admissions, a Detroit News poll shows.

More than 60 percent of voters also favor a measure to prohibit so-called partial birth abortions — although chances are that proposal never will get to the ballot.

When read language from a petition on the affirmative action issue, 64 percent of poll respondents said they favored the ban; 23 percent were opposed.

The News' survey of 400 registered voters was conducted Jan. 7-12 by Mitchell Research & Communications of East Lansing.

"Affirmative action should be banned because we're all Americans; we shouldn't be classified by race," said poll participant Marvin Taylor, a retired Ford worker from Southgate.

Thomas Diggs, a Detroiter in the information technology field, will vote against the proposal if it gets on the ballot. Earlier this month, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative started circulating petitions to place the issue before voters on Nov. 2.

"Affirmative action is an integral part of today's society and will continue to be until the issues we wrestle with along racial lines are resolved," Diggs said.

A poll breakdown shows support for the ballot initiative cuts across age groups, gender, religion and union and nonunion households. The proposal is supported by about two-thirds of voters in the suburbs and outstate, but is opposed 47 percent to 42 percent in Detroit.

Please see POLL, Page 6A



John T. Greilick / The Detroit News

Jennifer Gratz, plaintiff in the case against U-M's affirmative action policies, answers some of the 200 to 300 e-mails about the case she receives daily.

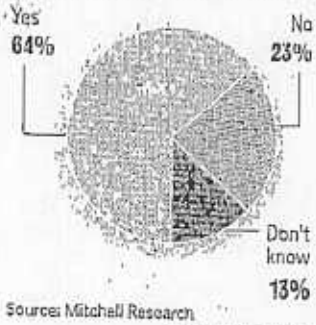
Nation's concerns

Terrorism, health costs, economy top Americans' worries. Page 4A

Voter views

An affirmative action ban could become law this year based on strong support among Michiganians.

How would you vote on a ballot proposal to ban affirmative action?



Source: Mitchell Research
The Detroit News

About this series

A Detroit News poll asked 400 registered Michigan voters what issues matter most to them, what government priorities should be and how they would grade state and national leaders.

SUNDAY: A faltering Michigan economy weighs most heavily on the minds of Michiganians as the presidential election year begins.

MONDAY: Gov. Jennifer Granholm and President Bush win strong approval ratings from Michiganians.

TODAY: A majority of registered voters in Michigan would ban affirmative action programs and partial-birth abortions.

POLL

Continued from Page 1A

Survey respondents were split along racial lines, with 67 percent of whites in favor and 19 percent opposed, while a small sample of black voters showed 47 percent opposed and 45 percent in favor.

Respondents of all party affiliations backed the affirmative action ban, but the proposal won far more support among Republicans (77 percent in favor) than Democrats (51 percent in favor). Among independent voters, 59 percent supported the initiative.

News pollster Steve Mitchell said the numbers indicate that if the affirmative action prohibition gets on the ballot, it probably will win.

"Opinions on this issue are very deeply held, and I think it will be very difficult to defeat this if it gets on the ballot," Mitchell said. He said he expects the support is even stronger than the poll indicates.

"Generally, there's about a 7 percent fudge factor on racial issues because people don't like to tell pollsters an answer that might be perceived as racist," he said. "I think support could actually be as high as 70 percent."

Diverse opinions

Jennifer Gratz, executive director of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, was encouraged by the poll results.

"Poll after poll tell us that people don't want racial preferences, they want to be treated fairly and they want to be treated equally," said Gratz, a 26-year-old University of Michigan graduate who was a plaintiff in the case against the school's affirmative action policies decided last summer by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The high court ruled that using race as a factor in the law school application process was a constitutional means of achieving diversity. But in a split decision, the court struck down the school's undergraduate admission process that gave extra points to students of color.

Retired Brigadier Gen. Mike Rice, former deputy director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, said he supported poll numbers to coalition is making an all-out effort to keep the issue off the ballot.

"It points out that we have a lot of work to do in educating folks," Rice said. "We need to tell voters just don't sign something because somebody puts a clipboard under your nose in a shopping mall."

Opponents say the affirmative action ban will lead to consequences most voters haven't considered. For example, it would be difficult for a municipality to diversify its police force to reflect the makeup of the community, Rice said.

Demonstrators march

On Monday, about a hundred demonstrators marched in frigid weather at U-M in support of affirmative action. Cyril Cordor, a local organizer for the group By Any Means Necessary, charged that promoters of the ballot proposal are using deception to gain signatures. The way the petitions are worded, Cordor said, Michiganians might not realize they're being asked to turn back the clock on racial progress.

"It doesn't even use the words affirmative action," said Cordor, a 22-year-old senior from Detroit. "That's why there's a legal battle to get the petition (language) changed. Our emphasis is to keep it from getting on the ballot."

The Michigan effort was launched by University of California Regent Ward Connerly, who won passage of a similar plan in his state and in Washing-

late-term abortions intend to gather 254,000 petition signatures by late May. Under Michigan law, a petition drive with that level of support doesn't have to wait for the fall ballot. It can go before the state Legislature, and, if approved by a simple majority, will become law — without the governor's signa-

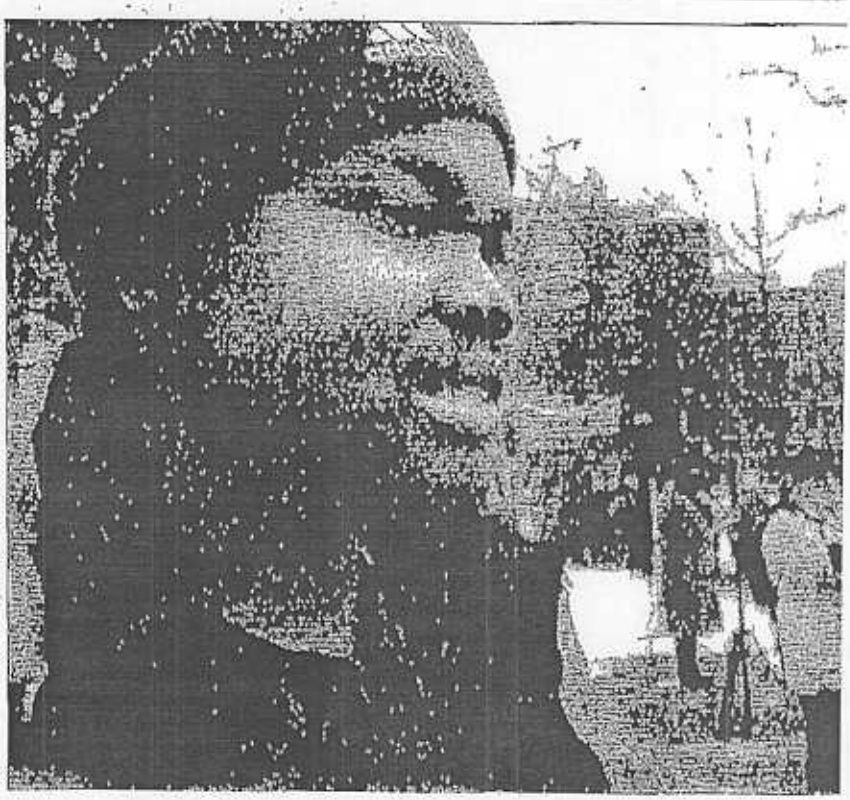
About the poll

Each election year, The Detroit News commissions a comprehensive poll of Michigan voters to gain an insight into the issues that matter most to them.

The newspaper uses the poll results to help tailor its news coverage throughout the campaign season.

This year's telephone poll of 400 registered voters was conducted by Steve Mitchell, of Mitchell Research & Communications Inc. of East Lansing.

The poll, conducted Jan. 7-12, has an error rate of plus or minus 5 percentage points.



Dale G. Young / T

Cyril Cordor, an organizer for the group By Any Means Necessary who demor U-M Monday, says ballot proposal promoters are using deception to gain sign

Voter guide

Explanations on every aspect of Campaign 2004 are ready for you at The Detroit News' Web site. Here's some of what you'll find:

- Who can vote in the Michigan Democratic caucus.
- How to sign up online.
- How caucuses and primaries differ.
- Profiles of the candidates.
- How the candidates line up on issues.
- Michigan's role as a early campaign battleground.

Get ready to participate. Visit **detnews.com/politics**

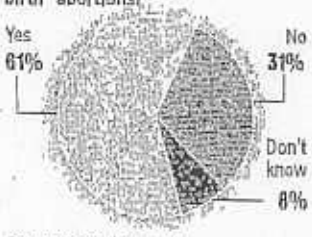
Series online

Read previous reports in the Mood of Michigan series and share your opinions on the issues at detnews.com/specialreports/.

Late-term abortions

A ballot proposal to ban late-term abortions has significant support among state voters.

How would you vote on a ballot proposal to ban late-term or "partial birth" abortions?



Source: Mitchell Research

The Detroit News

guards to protect a woman's health.

The votes clearly are there in the House and Senate to approve the ban. Ed Rivet, legislative director of Michigan Right to Life, said 63 of the 110 House members and 22 of the 38 Senators already have signed the petition.

"So, it's pretty much a foregone conclusion we'll have the votes. We don't expect to be on the ballot," Rivet said.

Right to Life used a similar strategy to get around a governor's veto in 1987 when a petition drive resulted in a ban on Medicaid abortions for poor women in Michigan. Again in

Legislature fails to bill.

The legislation moment of birth part of a fetus is e the body. That oc partial birth abort quently used proc

Broad support

The poll shows registered voters partial birth abor tion and 31 percent legislation draws of all age groups, women, union a households as we cans, independent rats.

Predictably, fo life voters back th pro-choice suppo ly evenly divided cent opposed and favor.

"I think it sho on moral and relig said Rosemary T year-old school Whiteford Town Ohio border.

But Anthony year-old musicia said all decisions "should be betwe the child's fath Everybody else s

JAN. 20. 2004 9:03AM NO. 6043 P. 6

ed from Pa

ey respondents were
ng racial lines, with 67
of whites in favor and 19
opposed, while a small
of black voters showed
nt opposed and 45 per-
favor.
ondents of all party affil-
backed the affirmative
ban, but the proposal
r more support among
icans (77 percent in
han Democrats (51 per-
favor). Among inde-
t voters, 59 percent sup-
the initiative.
s pollster Steve Mitchell
numbers indicate that if
rmative action prohibi-
s on the ballot, it proba-
win.
nions on this issue are
eply held, and I think it
very difficult to defeat
it gets on the ballot,"
l said. He said he expects
port is even stronger than
indicates.
nerally, there's about a 7
fudge factor on racial
because people don't like
pollsters an answer that
e perceived as racist," he
think support could actu-
as high as 70 percent."

se opinions

iifer Gratz, executive
r of the Michigan Civil
Initiative, was encour-
the poll results.
l after poll tell us that
don't want racial prefer-
they want to be treated
nd they want to be treat-
lly," said Gratz, a 26-year-
iversity of Michigan grad-
ho was a plaintiff in the
gainst the school's affir-
action policies decided
mer by the U.S. Supreme

high court ruled that
race as a factor in the
hool application process
constitutional means of
ing diversity. But in a
ecision, the court struck
the school's undergrad-
dmission process that
xtra points to students
or.
ired Brigadier Gen. Mike
ormer deputy director of
lichigan Department of
ry and Veterans Affairs,
expected poll numbers to
e support for the consti-
l amendment before the
ion campaign begins. Rice
a coalition of business,
ment, academic, civil
labor and other groups
ed to the amendment. The

The poll

Each election year, The Detroit News commissions a comprehensive poll of Michigan voters to gain an insight into the issues that matter most to them.

The newspaper uses the poll results to help tailor its news coverage throughout the campaign season.

This year's telephone poll of 600 registered voters was carried out by Steve Mitchell of Mitchell Research & Communications Inc. of East Lansing.

The poll, conducted Jan. 7-12, has an error rate of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

coalition is making an all-out effort to keep the issue off the ballot.

"It points out that we have a lot of work to do in educating folks," Rice said. "We need to tell voters just don't sign something because somebody puts a clipboard under your nose in a shopping mall."

Opponents say the affirmative action ban will lead to consequences most voters haven't considered. For example, it would be difficult for a municipality to diversify its police force to reflect the makeup of the community, Rice said.

Demonstrators march

On Monday, about a hundred demonstrators marched in frigid weather at U-M in support of affirmative action. Cyril Cordor, a local organizer for the group By Any Means Necessary, charged that promoters of the ballot proposal are using deception to gain signatures. The way the petitions are worded, Cordor said, Michiganians might not realize they're being asked to turn back the clock on racial progress.

"It doesn't even use the words affirmative action," said Cordor, a 22-year-old senior from Detroit. "That's why there's a legal battle to get the petition (language) changed. Our emphasis is to keep it from getting on the ballot."

The Michigan effort was launched by University of California Regent Ward Connerly, who won passage of a similar plan in his state and in Washington state. Both sides plan to spend millions on a TV ad campaign.

Petition drive

Backers of a proposal to halt late-term abortions intend to gather 254,000 petition signatures by late May. Under Michigan law, a petition drive with that level of support doesn't have to wait for the fall ballot. It can go before the state Legislature, and, if approved by a simple majority, will become law — without the governor's signature.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm vetoed a similar proposal drafted and overwhelmingly passed by the Legislature last year. She said there were not sufficient safeguards to protect a woman's health.

The votes clearly are there in the House and Senate to approve the ban. Ed Rivet, legislative director of Michigan Right to Life, said 63 of the 110 House members and 22 of the 38 Senators already have signed the petition.

"So, it's pretty much a foregone conclusion we'll have the votes. We don't expect to be on the ballot," Rivet said.

Right to Life used a similar strategy to get around a governor's veto in 1987 when a petition drive resulted in a ban on Medicaid abortions for poor women in Michigan. Again in 1990, a petition effort led to required parental consent for minors seeking an abortion.

The issue would go to voters only if the required petition signatures are gathered and the Legislature fails to approve the bill.

The legislation defines the moment of birth as when any part of a fetus is expelled from the body. That occurs during a partial birth abortion, an infrequently used procedure.

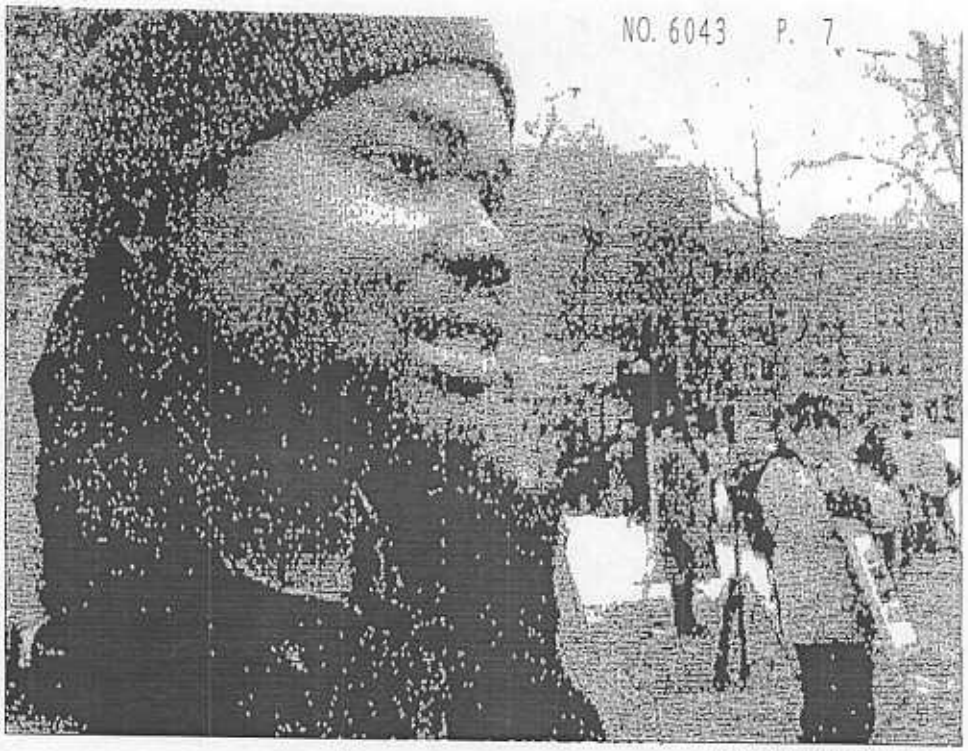
Broad support

The poll shows 61 percent of registered voters in favor of the partial birth abortion prohibition and 31 percent opposed. The legislation draws clear support of all age groups, both men and women, union and nonunion households as well as Republicans, independents and Democrats.

Predictably, four in five pro-life voters back the measure, but pro-choice supporters are nearly evenly divided, with 45 percent opposed and 43 percent in favor.

"I think it should be banned on moral and religious grounds," said Rosemary Timmins, a 58-year-old school nurse from Whiteford Township near the Ohio border.

But Anthony Shakir, a 37-year-old musician from Detroit, said all decisions about abortion "should be between the woman, the child's father and God. Everybody else should stay out of it."



Dale G. Young / The Detroit News

Cyril Cordor, an organizer for the group By Any Means Necessary who demonstrated at U-M Monday, says ballot proposal promoters are using deception to gain signatures.

Voter guide

detnews.com

Explanations on every aspect of Campaign 2004 are ready for you at The Detroit News' Web site. Here's some of what you'll find:

- Who can vote in the Michigan Democratic caucus.
- How to sign up online.
- How caucuses and primaries differ.
- Profiles of the candidates.
- How the candidates line up on issues.
- Michigan's role as a early campaign battleground.

Get ready to participate. Visit detnews.com/politics

Series online

Read previous reports in the Mood of Michigan series and share your opinions on the issues at detnews.com/specialreports/.

Late-term abortions

A ballot proposal to ban late-term abortions has significant support amoung state voters.

How would you vote on a ballot proposal to ban late-term or "partial birth" abortions?



Source: Mitchell Research

The Detroit News

Detroit News Staff Writer Gary Heinlein contributed to this report. You can reach Charlie Cain at (517) 371-3660 or ccain@detnews.com.

JAN. 20. 2004 9:04AM NO. 6043 P. 9

The Detroit News
Metro

OAKLAND COUNTY
School bonds
Several districts turn to taxpayers for help.
Page 4C

MACOMB COUNTY
City cutbacks
Warren residents don't want to lose services.
Page 5C

detnews.com
The Detroit News Online
All day, every day.
http://detnews.com

Section C
Obituary 2C
Wayne 3C
Oakland 4C
Macomb 5C

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004

Mich. feels caucus pressure

In 10 of last 13 presidential races, candidate who won the state also won the White House.

By Jennifer Brooks
and Natalie Y. Moore
The Detroit News

SOUTHFIELD — Metro Detroit voters are beginning to warm to the idea that their votes in the February caucus probably will whittle the field of Democratic presidential hopefuls from eight to just a handful.

This early in the game, a good showing in Michigan can make or break any one of the campaigns.

"It's hand-to-hand combat in these caucuses. The presidential race is not going to be over until it gets to Michigan," said Chris Trebilkock, one of thousands of volunteers who have thrown themselves into last-minute campaigns for their candidate of choice.

For Trebilkock, an attorney from Royal Oak, the candidate is Sen. John Kerry, the one Democrat he believes has the clout to defeat President Bush in November.

On a recent Saturday, in the Southfield headquarters of Michigan for Kerry, the phone banks were humming as like-minded campaign volunteers made their pitch to still-undecided voters.

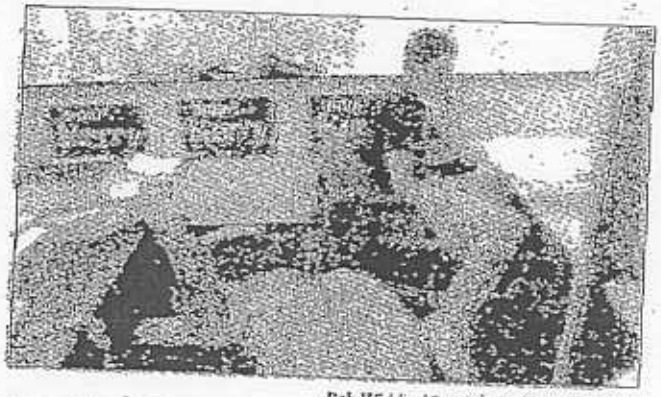
This year will be the first time Michigan's caucus has been early enough to really matter. Usually, by the time it's Michigan's turn to vote, only the front-runner is left standing. It's also the first time Democrats will have a choice of voting at a caucus site, by mail or over the Internet. State party officials say 23,000 voters have applied for ballots so far. Those who decide to vote in person will do so Feb. 7.

DECISION 2004

With so many candidates still in the race, the caucus is raising interest across the political spectrum.

Jim Holley, pastor of Historic Little Rock Baptist Church in Detroit, supports the Rev. Al Sharpton, drawn to the candidate's stands on health care and economic equality for people of color.

Please see DEMS, Page 2C



Rob Widdis / Special to The Detroit News

Jason Bernstein, a sophomore at Ann Arbor Community High School, is one of thousands of volunteers who have thrown themselves into last-minute campaigns.

DEMS

Continued from Page 1C

"I think it's very difficult as an African-American not to support an African-American candidate who makes a lot of sense and places things on the agenda that wouldn't be there if it weren't for him," he said. "I have sense enough to know because of the color of his skin that he won't be nominated president. If he can pull enough delegates, I think he can bargain and make sure there are some things that aren't ignored."

The caucuses are putting intense pressure on local Democratic officials as well.

"Is there a heavy pressure to deliver Oakland County? Definitely," said Oakland Democratic Party Chairman Dave Woodward, who is leading a newly revitalized party base into the 2004 election season.

"It's long been said that the candidate who wins Oakland County will go on to be president of the United States," said Woodward, basking in the reflected glow of the 2004 Democratic caucus and the surge of energy it has brought to the county's underdog party.

Metro Detroit will be the swing vote in a battleground state. A presidential candidate cannot win Michigan and its 17 electoral votes without the Metro region. And in 10 of the last 13 presidential races, the candidate who won Michigan also won the White House.

And so the supporters of former Gov. Howard Dean, retired Gen. Wesley Clark, Sen. John Kerry, Sen. Joe Lieberman, U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, Sen. John Edwards, Sharpton and U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich are making the most of their final few weeks to win the hearts and minds of those crucial swing voters.

Everywhere, volunteers are working the phones, posting yard signs, slapping on bumper stickers and braving the cold to distribute campaign literature.

In Madison Heights, Dr. Jim Kruer opened his home for a candidate fundraiser and organized "Dean Winter Walks," where he and fellow Dean supporters canvass their neighborhoods, passing out campaign fliers as they go.

The candidates

- Wesley Clark, former four-star Army general; NATO supreme allied commander
- Howard Dean, former Vermont governor
- Sen. John Edwards, N. Carolina
- Rep. Dick Gephardt, Missouri
- Sen. John Kerry, Massachusetts
- Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Ohio
- Sen. Joe Lieberman, Connecticut
- The Rev. Al Sharpton, New York

How to vote

The Feb. 7 Democratic caucus will be the first time Michigan Democrats have a choice of voting in person, by mail or over the Internet.

To vote by mail or over the Internet, registered voters must submit an application to the Democratic Party by calling (248) 354-0510 or online at www.mi-democrats.com or www.applytovote.com.

Many of this year's volunteers are first-timers who never were terribly involved in the political process until something about the current political climate or a particular candidate triggered their interest.

For Kruer, it was Dean's no-holds-barred critique of the current administration and his promises of health-care reform that intrigued him.

"He tells things like they are, he doesn't make empty promises, and he's motivating people to get involved in the process who haven't been before," said Kruer, who has been volunteering for the Dean campaign since August. Recently, he has noticed more people paying attention to the caucus and the candidates.

"I'm finding that people are just starting to get interested (in the caucus). I think that many of them don't know who all the candidates are. I would just urge people to do some research on their own, not rely on what they hear or what they just read in the media."

Jim Suhay of Birmingham, a lifelong Republican, switched to the Democratic Party three months ago, unhappy with the Bush administration's policies in Iraq and its handling of domestic issues. Now, he's working to elect Clark — someone he has known since they were classmates at West Point.

Suhay works veterans outreach for the campaign, traveling the Metro area and speaking to veterans groups about Clark, the former supreme allied commander of NATO.

"It's really fun working this campaign. You meet a lot of people who are already receptive to the idea of voting for General Clark. You hear a lot of, 'Oh yeah. I was thinking about supporting him,' " Suhay said. "We think General Clark can beat President Bush. He's the only one of the candidates who can."

Bonnie Tout, a Pontiac grandmother, has turned volunteer efforts for the Kucinich campaign into a full-time crusade. A practical visionary, she is drawn to the candidate — considered an underdog — whose vision for the country includes everything from a federal Department of Peace to a guaranteed college education for all Americans.

"I think a vote for Kucinich is not a vote for a man, it's a vote for a set of principles. He truly does have a vision. And he definitely has integrity," she said. "If you're going to vote for who the president is based on looks, that's one thing. But this should not be a popularity contest. This should be something more meaningful."

Woodward, who has not endorsed any of the contenders, is walking a fine line — trying to stir up competitive excitement for the caucus, knowing he'll have to knit eight competing camps into a unified county party after the primary season.

"There is a hunger like I haven't seen in a presidential election campaign," he said. "We're bringing new people into the process. People who have not been plugged into politics before. Each candidate has managed to energize a different sector. Now, all we need to do is take all that energy and concern and channel it."

You can reach Jennifer Brooks at (248) 647-8825 or jbrooks@detnews.com.

OTICES

MAROWSKE

OBERT E. Age 75, January 17, 2004. Beloved wife of ardas (Malenschein). Dear father of Gary (Kathy ouba) and Kyle (Jodi) Clor. Loving grandfather to ari and Troy Marowske and Trevor and Tyler Clor. rother of Betty (Arnold) Dahlke and the late Roy arowske. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. emorial visitation Saturday, January 24, 11 a.m. until ne of service at 12 noon at Historic Trinity Lutheran urch, 1345 Gratiot Avenue, Detroit, 48207. Memorial ntributions may be made to Historic Trinity, Inc., 1345 atiot Avenue, Detroit, 48207 or to a charity of your oice. For further information, pl ation ciety of Michi the guestbook at

POWERS

ROBERT M. Age 61, January 18, 2004. Beloved husband of Mary. Loving father of Kimberly (Dale) Lafferty and Michael (Jessica). Dear grandfather of Ryan and Ashley. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation at the R.G.&G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Road, Livonia, Tuesday and Wednesday 3-9 p.m. and at St. Michael Catholic Church, 11141 Hubbard, Livonia, Thursday from 10 a.m. until funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. Rosary service Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Memorials may be directed to Angelo Hospice. Please sign the on line guest book at rggharris.com

SWANTEK

LEONARD V. January 17, 2004 age 76, Beloved husband of the late Beraice. Loving father of Beverly (Edwin) Kaszielowski and Denise (the late Gary) Hunt. Loving and proud grandfather Jeffrey, Jennifer, Michelle. Dearest sister of Virginia Sasaki. Visitation Tuesday 3-9 p.m. at Wojek-Calcaterra and Sons, Inc. 36900 Schoenherr Road at Metro Parkway (1 Mile). Rosary Tuesday 7 p.m. in state Wed 10 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. time of Mass at St. John Vianney Church, 51045 Schoenherr Road (bet 24-25 Mile Rd.) Share memories with the family "On Line Guest Book" @ WojekCalcaterra.com

JAN. 20. 2004 9:05AM NO. 6043 P. 10

Storm blankets Upper Peninsula

DN 11/14/04 1A

By LISA M. REED
Staff Writer

IRON MOUNTAIN – The accumulation of snow overnight caused a number of schools to be canceled today.

The snow is expected to end tonight.

North Dickinson, Forest Park, West Iron, Goodman-Armstrong Creek, Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine, Niagara and Florence Schools closed due to the snowy weather and roads.

North Central Schools had a two hour delay. There was no morning pre-kindergarten at Miss Julie's.

Schools that had exams scheduled today will take them later this week.

All exams that were scheduled today at Niagara High School will be rescheduled for Thursday, and all exams that were scheduled for Thursday will be rescheduled for Friday. If any questions, contact the school offices.

Iron Mountain and Breitung Township schools maintained a regular schedule.

Escanaba and Gladstone also maintained a regular schedule today.

A total of four-and-a-half inches of snow overnight as reported by the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Wastewater Treatment Plant, kept the snowplows busy plowing roads, parking lots and driveways.

The snow continued this morning.

One to five more inches of snow accumulation was expected today for the Iron Mountain-Kingsford area.

According to the National Weather Service in Marquette, snowfall was expected to wind down this afternoon.

There will be flurries this evening and snowfall should end after midnight, said a forecaster.

Tonight, low temperatures of minus-5 to minus-10 are expected.

On Thursday, there will be sunshine in the morning before it clouds up again.

On late Thursday afternoon, there will be cooler temperatures – not even 10 degrees – and light snow later in the day in Iron Mountain, said a forecaster.

The National Weather Service reported six-and-a-half inches of snow in Iron Mountain-Kingsford overnight.

Michigan State Police troopers from the Crystal Falls Township reported a few vehicles in the ditch in Crystal Falls Township due to the icy road conditions this morning.

The incidents occurred along the "S" curves on U.S. 2 near Oss Road.

Kingsford Public Safety also reported a few fender benders. There were no injuries reported in any of the incident

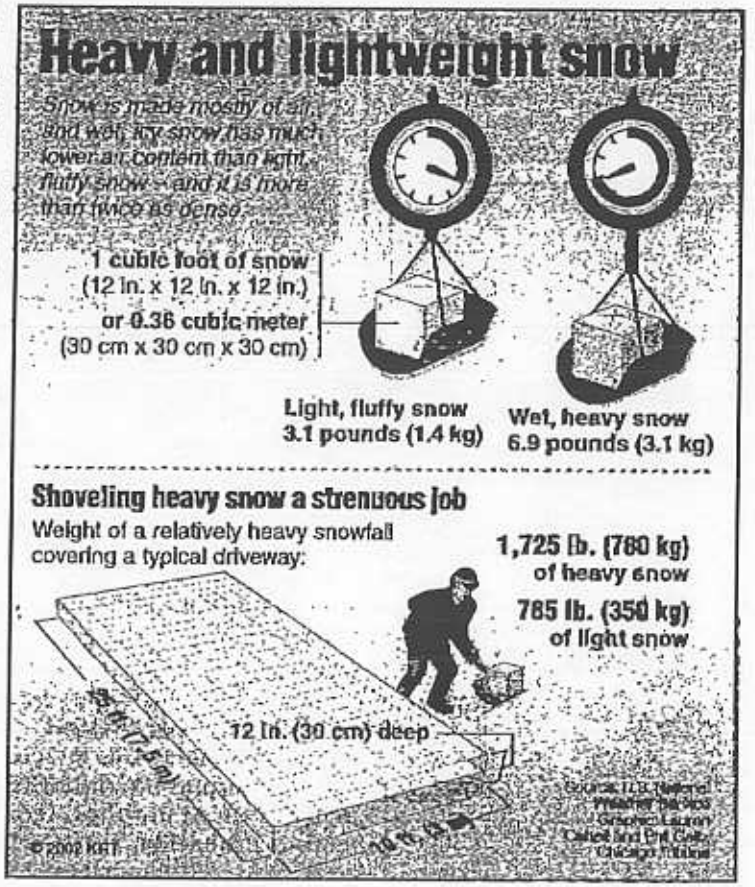
Iron Mountain Police Department officials are reminding residents of the overnight parking ban on city streets.

Police are ticketing individuals for overnight parking on the street.

Tickets are $25 a piece.

The parking policy is being enforced nightly, officers said.

Lisa Reed's e-mail address is lreed@ironmountaindailynews.com.



JAN. 16. 2004 4:24PM LEVIN ESCANABA NO. 952 P. 19

New snow

10 inches in Michigan; 11 inches in Wisconsin

DN 1115/04 1/7

By The Daily News Staff & The Associated Press

Parts of northern Wisconsin received up to 11 inches of new snow as a low-pressure system swept through the area, evoking a broad smile from Lisa Giraud of Sturgeon Bay.

"Of course I am happy. I am snowmobiler," she said Wednesday.

School in Sturgeon Bay remained open but after-school activities were canceled due to slippery driving conditions, said Giraud, a local police assistant.

Stiff winds and falling temperatures that made it feel like 20 below zero in parts of the Upper Peninsula on Wednesday. The storm buried parts of Michigan under up to 10 inches of snow.

The heaviest snow in Wednesday's storm fell in Detroit's far northern suburbs – 10 inches in Genesee, Lapeer and northern Oakland counties.

The coldest spot in Michigan was Sault Ste. Marie, where it was 2 below with northeasterly winds at 11 p.m. Wednesday – making it feel like 21 below zero. Forecasters said today's high there would be about minus-4 and the low would be about 22 below zero.

In Wisconsin, an area stretching from Rhinelander southeast toward Door County received 6 to 9 inches of snow, with the most, 8 to 9 inches, falling from Sturgeon Bay to Sister Bay, said Jeff Last, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Green Bay.

"This was an Alberta-clipper type storm. Typically it produces a powdery snow, easy for the wind to blow around," he said.

Last said Manitowish Waters in Vilas County received 7 inches of snow, while Rhinelander and Oconto had 6 inches.

School was called off in Crandon, Laona and Wabeno.

Locally, Iron Mountain-Kingsford received six inches of snow, according to the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kingsford.

The snowfall canceled classes for many rural school districts. Iron Mountain, Norway and Breitung Township school districts remained open.

Dickinson County Sheriff's Department deputies reported a number of vehicles in ditches during the day Wednesday. Additionally, Iron Mountain Police Department investigated several minor snow-related traffic crashes Wednesday, officers said today.

No new snow is forecast for today. The high today is expected to be in the single digits and tonight's low should be minus 3 degrees, forecasters said.

The highs Friday and the weekend will be in the teens to lower 20s, with the lows near zero.

The 11-inch total reported to the National Weather Service came from the tiny Iron County community of Gurney in northwestern Wisconsin, with 8 inches at Bayfield and Wentworth and 7 inches in Springstead and Mason elsewhere in that area.

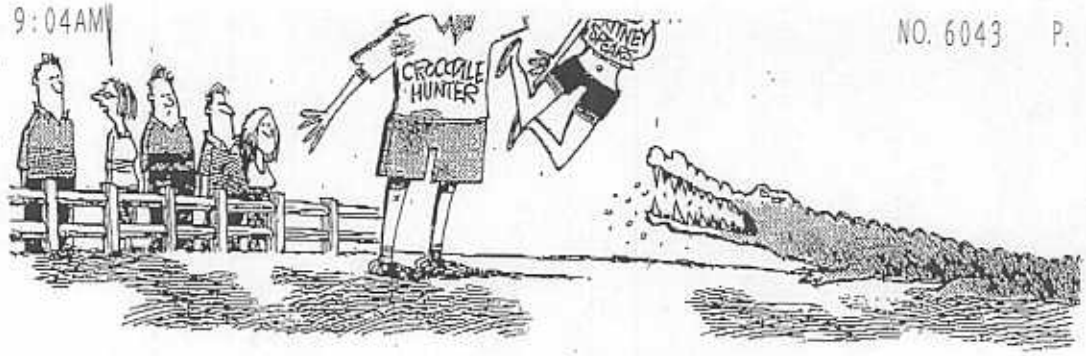
East Coast blast

By The Associated Press

A winter storm packing fierce winds, frigid temperatures and snow pounded the East on Thursday, causing fender-benders and travel woes, as well as dangerous cold.

Temperatures weren't expected to rise out of the single digits Thursday across much of the Northeast, where Watertown, N.Y., dropped to 31 below zero and the morning wind chill was minus-46 degrees.

Maine Gov. John Baldacci declared a civil emergency after wind chills of 30 to 50 degrees below zero a day earlier.



Some Democrats target Mich., job loss issue



GEORGE WEEKS

Now that the quirky caucus in Iowa (56 delegates) has made its inflated impact in the process of determining President George W. Bush's challenger, will Democratic contenders now concentrate on a more diverse and pivotal state like Michigan (154 delegates)?

No. Next up, on Jan. 27, is tiny but highly hyped New Hampshire (27 delegates), whose stranglehold on the early process Sen. Carl Levin, D-Detroit, unsuccessfully tried to challenge for 2000 and 2004. He did manage to have Michigan's caucus set for a relatively early shot on Feb. 7.

By then, nine states will have voted — only one of which will send half as many delegates as Michigan will to the Democratic National Convention. Missouri, one of seven states to vote Feb. 3, has 88 delegates.

Detroit hosted one of the Democratic debates in October, and several contenders campaigned frequently in Michigan last year. Their focus of late has had to be on Iowa and New Hampshire, which will winnow the field.

But wise is the candidate with a steady beat in Michigan, where as of Monday nearly 30,000 Democrats have applied for ballots to vote by mail or Internet. Nearly 2,000 already have voted. One candidate who interrupted Iowa campaigning to come here last week was Congressman Dick Gephardt of Missouri.

Some candidates have sent kinfolk. Wesley Clark Jr., the screenwriter son of the retired general, begins a seven-city tour with an appearance tonight at Wayne State University. (Candidate Clark recently became a grandfather with the birth of Wesley Clark III.)

Cheap labor lures

On Saturday, Gov. Jennifer Granholm joined Democratic National Chairman Terry McAuliffe at a Kalamazoo labor hall. According to a party release, McAuliffe "highlighted Gov. Granholm's success in insulating Michigan workers from the worst of the nation's economic woes" and praised her for luring two plants "back to Michigan from Mexico."

There was no mention in the release that on Friday, Electrolux AB announced it will close its 127-year-old Greenville refrigerator plant, which employs 2,700, and shift most of its work to Mexico, where labor is cheaper.

How much cheaper? The Grand Rapids Press, reporting from the border city of Juarez, said Electrolux expects to pay Mexican workers about $1.57 an hour and another $1.53 in benefits. In Greenville, union workers get about $15 an hour and another $7 in benefits.

Granholm said "enormously generous" incentives were offered to keep the plant in Greenville. But face it: It's hard to compete with places that offer low wages and lax regulation. Ironically, Juarez, said the Grand Rapids Press, has lost 80,000 jobs because scores of plants moved to even-cheaper China.

Candidate Gephardt was quick to seize on Greenville's grim news. Noting that he voted against both the North American Free Trade Agreement and the U.S.-China trade deal, he said: "My pledge to families in Greenville facing the loss of their economic security is that I will fight for trade agreements that value their hard work and stop sending good paying jobs overseas."

Such pledges, of course, provide no immediate relief for those families.

Granholm, who is neutral in the Democratic nomination race and has been relatively subdued in criticism of President Bush, is warming to the fight. During her Kalamazoo gig with McAuliffe, she said it's important for Democrats to vote Feb. 7 to pick a nominee to beat Bush "and get our economy back on track."

Bush continues to get high marks from Michigan voters, as indicated by the latest Detroit News poll. It gave him a 63 percent job approval rating. Granholm's was 77 percent. But as evidenced by Gov. John Engler's failure to deliver Michigan for fellow Republicans, a popular governor means little in presidential politics.

George Weeks is The News' politics columnist. Reach him at (517) 371-3660 or gweeks07@aol.com.

mlive.com
Everything Michigan

Mayor: Put tax on outsiders

Hieftje says commuters should pay income tax

Monday, January 19, 2004

BY TOM GANTERT
News Staff Reporter

If Ann Arbor officials decide to put an income tax proposal before voters, Mayor John Hieftje said he would want to make sure the plan resulted in commuters, not residents, paying higher taxes.

"City income taxes are a way of gaining revenue from the people who come into the city every day to work, use city services and go home again," Hieftje said. "My goal would be to adjust our tax structure so that Ann Arbor residents would not be paying more than they do now."

The City Council decided Jan. 11 to commission a study on the effectiveness and impact of an income tax. City officials are looking for new ways to raise money as health-care and insurance costs rise while the state cuts the money it gives to cities.

City officials said an income tax would not raise money quickly enough to help the city reduce a looming $4.79 million deficit for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Hieftje said he isn't sure he supports a city income tax and wants to see the results of the study, expected in 60 days.

Commuter Jeffrey West, a business analyst for the University of Michigan, was more certain of his position on the issue.

"I don't think it is such a good idea," said West, who commutes to work from Dexter. "When I first moved here, I worked in Detroit and had to pay a Detroit city income tax. ... That would be paying for stuff I wasn't getting."

But Brighton resident Pam Gippert said she's willing to pay a tax.

"I don't mind it if it supports the city and their services," she said Gippert, who

works at an Ann Arbor law office. "I take advantage of that."

Ann Arbor resident Mary Freiman, a staff assistant at the U-M Medical Center, said she needs more specifics before deciding how she'd vote.

"I am open to it," she said. "We definitely need more information before we make a decision."

Sabrina Keeley, president of the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce, said she wants to see the study results before making a decision.

"The Chamber has a history of opposing a city income tax," Keeley said. "We would have to take a careful look at whatever they come up with."

A 1997 study done by the University of Michigan concluded that, in order to comply with the city charter, officials would have to eliminate the city's general operating levy in order to enact an income tax. In 2003, the city's operating millage was 6.03 mills. The study estimated a 1-percent income tax on residents and businesses and a 1/2-percent income tax on non-residents would have increased revenues by $13.8 million in 1998.

The income tax would have to be voter approved and, depending on when council takes action on it, could go on the August or November ballot.

A city income tax has been proposed numerous times in the past. In 1969, voters rejected a city income tax by 61 percent. It was defeated again in 1972 by 59 percent.

Tom Gantert can be reached at tgantert@annarbornews.com or (734) 994-6701.

© 2004 Ann Arbor News. Used with permission

Copyright 2004 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

mlive.com
Everything Michigan

Many retirees see medical benefits cut

Employers reduce coverage to cope with soaring expenses

Monday, January 19, 2004

BY JO COLLINS MATHIS
News Staff Reporters

The rising cost of health insurance has prompted local employers large and small to look at making retirees pay more for the benefits or, in some cases, to consider ending them entirely.

A national survey released last week shows that companies have continued to cut health benefits to retirees over the past year, and many plan to make cuts in the future.

The University of Michigan, by far Washtenaw County's largest employer with 31,000 workers and 6,000 retirees, began requiring retirees and employees to pay more in health insurance premiums this year, but will not cut the benefits it offers.

"Our commitment to retirees remains very strong," Provost Paul Courant said.

But the cost may prompt Washtenaw County government, which employs 1,400 workers, to consider changes when union contracts expire in 2007, said Bob Guenzel, county administrator.

Currently, the county provides full health insurance benefits for retirees.

In part, pension benefits, including the health insurance, are paid by a 5 percent deduction from employees' paychecks. But retirees currently pay nothing for the health insurance, he said.

The majority of small business owners in Michigan offer employees health insurance, but few offer health benefits to retirees, according to Scott Lyon, vice president of Insurance Services for the Small Business Association of Michigan.

Ann Arbor Machine Co. in Chelsea, for example, doesn't give retirees health coverage. "We never have. It's nothing we've cut or changed," said Jim Breining,

human resources manager at the company that employs 200.

Other, larger employers also don't provide the benefit. Neither the Ann Arbor District Library nor the St. Joseph Mercy Health System, for example, provide health insurance coverage for most retirees.

At the Superior Township-based medical center, there is no post-employment health insurance plan for the hospital's 4,000 employees, said Mary Letters, hospital spokeswoman. However, prior to 1990, some employees were grandfathered in with retirement benefits that would include health coverage, she said.

"We evaluate our benefits every year and at this time, we have no plans to revise them," Letters said. She said she believes the hospital's policy is similar to other hospitals.

Only employees who were with the library before 1995, when it was part of the Ann Arbor School District, get health benefits when they retire, said Josie Parker, library director.

Retirees who find themselves without employer-paid health insurance say they rely on Medicare and Medigap insurance.

Medicare, a federal health insurance program paid for through payroll taxes, kicks in at the age of 65. Of Medicare's 51 million beneficiaries, 15.6 million are covered by company health benefits.

"I retired after 65, so Medicare came in. And we used a Medigap personal insurance policy," said Gilbert Whitney of Ann Arbor, who is in his early 70s. Whitney had health insurance from his employer, but the company didn't provide insurance for retirees, he said.

Not having employer-provided health insurance when he retired after teaching for years in higher education surprised Al Connor, 77, of Ann Arbor. Connor had taught at the University of Michigan, but retired from Siena Heights University. Connor said he didn't expect to have insurance from U-M, but "I would have thought I would have at least got some partial coverage from Siena Heights."

So Connor and his wife buy M-Care Secure and have Medicare, paying $145 a month for the U-M plan to supplement Medicare.

The city of Ann Arbor is just realizing that retiree health care costs will carry a significant price tag in the future. It plans to continue the benefits, but hasn't come up with a way to fund them in future years.

It had planned to put money into an endowment which it hoped would grow large enough to pay the health-care costs.

The city has set aside $33 million in the trust since 2000, but actuaries estimate

the health care costs will be nearly $43.6 million over the next five years.

The 3,000 employees of Ann Arbor Public Schools are eligible for retiree health benefits through the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System. The basic full retirement benefit package kicks in after 30 years of service and age 55.

There has been a change in insurance carriers to a PPO program in recent years, according to Bob Galardi, deputy superintendent for administrative services, who said there is no current risk that benefits will be eliminated.

"Health benefits for current employees and retiring employees are a huge issue," said Galardi. "They're very important to these people because that's one of the things that has become an expectation for the service they do: good quality health benefits both while they're working and once they've retired."

Small business association spokesman Scott Lyon said the main reasons behind the surge in health insurance costs are the rising cost of in-patient hospital services due to the high cost of technology and labor costs driven by a nurse shortage. Other reasons are the rising cost of prescription drugs and the increasing costs of physician services, and the cost of complying with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, he said.

Health insurance costs have risen at U-M more than 14 percent per year since 1999. The annual insurance premium per active employee has increased from $3,130 to $5,075 - or 62 percent - during that time period, and the premium per retiree has increased from $1,686 to $4,453, or 164 percent. U-M has absorbed almost all of the cost increases.

As an interim step this year, most U-M employees and retirees are paying 5 percent of their insurance premiums. Their cost in 2005 will be set when the university knows its health care costs. Last year, about 70 percent of retirees and employees paid no premium at all.

Tom Gantert and Geoff Larcom contributed to this report. Jo Collins Mathis can be reached at jmathis@annarbornews.com or (734) 994-6849. Lisa Klionsky may be reached at lklionsky@annarbornews.com or (734) 994-6852.

© 2004 Ann Arbor News. Used with permission

Copyright 2004 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

mlive.com
Everything Michigan

Contest only between Republicans

Democratic Party leaders fail to support their candidates

Sunday, January 18, 2004

Democrats in the 7th Congressional District excited at the prospect of winning the seat being vacated by six-term Rep. Nick Smith, R-Addison, had best temper their enthusiasm and expectations. Al Widner, the former superintendent of the Lincoln Consolidated School District and last week the only declared Democrat in the race, bowed out of the contest Thursday.

According to the most recent campaign finance reports, Widner had raised little more than $20,000 by September. On the other hand, State Rep. Gene DeRossett of Manchester and Ann Arbor attorney Brad Smith, both Republicans, had raised more than $200,000 each. Other Republicans running are Rep. Clark Bisbee of Jackson and former Reps. Paul DeWeese of Eaton Rapids and Tim Walberg of Tipton.

Both major parties in Michigan are notorious for not contesting various local elections, often failing to even place a candidate on the ballot.

And yet, though the 7th Congressional District is traditionally Republican, it's remarkable that Democratic Party leaders haven't done more to at least try and make that contest a race. In the 2002 election, political novice and Democrat Mike Simpson attracted almost 40 percent of the vote against the well known and popular Smith - and did so with a fraction of the funds of the incumbent. Democratic leaders said they were encouraged.

But apparently not enough to credibly support him or another candidate. Simpson withdrew his second candidacy in the summer. And now, Widner.

Perhaps any one of the Republicans running would represent the residents of the 7th Congressional district well. But Democrats, independents and others in the district presumably were at least hoping they'd get to at least consider a Democratic candidate.

It seems they presumed too much.

Shutdown is no shock to threat-weary worker

"We're getting jerked around," the 37-year employee says of the string of company threats and employee concessions.

BELDING

By Julia Bauer
The Grand Rapids Press

The tune is too familiar for Electrolux worker Sandi Gasper.

She has worked at the plant for 37 years, and her career has spanned lots of labor contract negotiations.

"It got so that with every contract, we'd hear them say, 'We're going to move, or else ...'

"It reached the point where you felt, 'If you're going to go, go, but don't threaten us. Just go.'"

Greenville workers start at $15 an hour. Their counterparts in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, are paid $1.57, not including benefits. Electrolux officials say that compelled the company to move its plant to save $81 million a year, mostly in lower labor costs.

That $13.40-an-hour gap between Greenville and Juarez wages was insurmountable and shows the wide difference between what Electrolux wanted and what workers could afford to give up.

Members of the United Auto Workers at Electrolux had been worried they would be asked to forego $1-an-hour raises in their current contract, along with higher cost for health insurance and lower contributions to pensions, if the plant were to stay.

"A lot of us feel we're getting jerked around. We've given up a lot of things — we had a four-year wage freeze, then we lost our cost-of-living a long time ago," Gasper said.

"Compared to GM, our pensions stink."

So, when Electrolux started comparing wages in Greenville with Mexico labor at one-tenth the cost, local union members figuratively clutched their wallets.



PRESS PHOTO/LANCE WYNN

Sandi Gasper: *"It reached the point where you felt, 'If you're going to go, go, but don't threaten us. Just go.'"*

Refrigerators made in Greenville and other North American products built by

see WORKER, A4

WORKER

'We are making them money'

CONTINUED FROM A1

Electrolux have been profitable, the company reported in its last quarter. It's the high production cost in the U.S. that limits the bottom line, they said.

"Most of the people don't have any compassion for the company wanting to make more money," Gasper said. "They've cut people, and cut people, and cut people.

"We are making them money. We're making more and more with less and less people."

She's home for roughly a month, recovering from surgery for a work-related knee injury. Gasper was just a 20-year-old farm wife when her family needed a second income.

"A girlfriend worked at Gibsons, so I applied and they hired me on the spot," Gasper said. "I was only going to work for six months. But they never laid me off, so I never quit."

A petite grandmother with salt-and-pepper hair, Gasper is also a seasoned factory worker. Her latest assignment was running an electrostatic sprayer in the paint booths, coating refrigerator and freezer doors, panels, and mullions.

After watching the company struggle to retool for its "New Generation" Frigidaire models, Gasper doubts the timeline for moving the factory to Mexico.

"I don't really think they can get that up and running in two years," she said. "It's a lot of work and a lot of dollars."

Whatever the duration, Greenville factory workers are already pinching their pennies. Gasper just bought her home near Smyrna, in western Ionia County, five years ago. After building her own front and back decks, she was ready to tackle a kitchen remodeling when the warning of a closing hit Oct. 21.

"Everything stopped," she said. "I don't dare spend the money."

GR Press
1-16

1/16/2004 15:03 FAX → PRESS OFFICE 001

GR Press 1-16

Electrolux leaving

Greenville plant will close in 2005, taking 2,700 jobs

By Julia Bauer and John Hogan
The Grand Rapids Press

In the end, the price tag was too high: $27,000 per worker a year.

That is how much Electrolux workers in West Michigan would have had to give up to save their 2,700 jobs, records obtained by The Press show.

The company this morning announced it will close the 127-year-old plant and split its 1.5 million refrigerator production between Anderson, S.C., where wages are half as much, and Mexico, where wages are a tenth of Greenville's.

Electrolux AB executives today told workers the plant will close in 2005.

The mountain of money Electrolux says it can save proved far too steep for a task force from Greenville and the state to match. According to the documents, Mexico workers will be paid $1.57 an hour, compared to an average of $15 an hour in Greenville.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm called the announcement "heart-wrenching news" for the city and state. She said the United Auto Workers had offered $32.6 million a year in wage concessions — the first time that figure was made public.

Still, that proved less than half of what the company said it needed from workers after state and local incentives were figured in.

"In the end, however, the company's financial demands were too great, and they turned down our strongest offers," Granholm said this morning. "While this is a painful blow to both the families of Greenville and the people of Michigan, it is not a knockout punch."

On the Web: Coverage on Mlive at www.mlive.com/grpress/electrolux

State officials will meet "to help Electrolux employees find new employment as quickly as possible," she said.

The dreaded news came to employees at 7:30 a.m., between the third and first shifts. The parking lot was jammed with cars as workers stayed in the parking lot and state police stood by.

"Unfortunately, we face significant competitive challenges in today's global economy, most notably that all of our major competitors have located or announced they soon will locate production facilities in Mexico and thus put us at a large cost disadvantage," said Keith McLoughlin, president and CEO of Electrolux Home Products North America.

"Given these competitive and eco-

see CLOSE, A4

(1)

CLOSE

Incentives exceeding $121 million fell short

CONTINUED FROM A1

nomic realities, the combined impact of our own efforts plus proposals from the unions and community committee could not bridge the financial gap."

It means that by next year, 2,700 hourly and white-collar employees will be out of work.

Economic incentives offered by Greenville and state officials added up to $121.2 million, spread out over 15 to 20 years. But Electrolux needed to save $81 million each year at this plant to change its mind; state and local tax breaks and incentives shave roughly $6.5 million annually from that total, according to company spokesman Tony Evans.

Details of the state and city's incentive plan — which does not include worker concessions — were obtained from the state Thursday by The Grand Rapids Press through a Freedom of Information Act request.

These are the major elements:

- Up to $83 million over 20 years, or $4.15 million a year, for job retention tax credits through the Michigan Economic Growth Authority;
- $31 million over 15 years, or $2.06 million per year, for a tax-free Renaissance Zone offered by the state and local governments, and forgiveness of the Single Business Tax;
- Up to $2 million for public works to a new factory site, through a Michigan Community Development Block Grant;
- $3.9 million over 15 years, or $260,000 a year, abating the state's 6-mill education tax;
- $790,000 for 12 years, or $65,833 a year, in a 50 percent abatement of local property tax;
- Up to $500,000, or $250 per employee, for work force retraining assistance.

Electrolux workers this morning were starting to look to the future.

01/16/2004 15:03 FAX → PRESS OFFICE 002

Gary Dwight, 43, of Ionia, said employees were resigned to the plant closing.

"I used to drive a truck, so I'm bumping up my CDL (commercial drivers license) because I figured they were going to fly," the three-year employee said.

He carpools with John Sturm, 27, also of Ionia, who already has three job offers, he said, including one that pays more than Electrolux.

"I'm going to be selling motorcycles in Ionia or Lansing," Sturm said. "I've got something to go to, but I feel bad for the older guys. What are they going to do? Some of them have spent their whole lives here."

The Swedish appliance maker announced it will build a new plant in Mexico, but did not say where. It has a 12-year-old vacuum sweeper parts plant in Juarez, and economic development officials say the company has toured the area in search.

Today's announcement took some by surprise when the company said it would split off production of the top-freezer models to its plant in Anderson, S.C., two hours northeast of Atlanta.

Economic development experts, such as Birgit Klohs of the Grand Rapids-based The Right Place program, said they are devastated by the Electrolux decision.

"I really don't know (where the package fell short)," she said. "We made a Herculean effort to put a package on the table.

"This is the best package I've ever had the privilege to put together and I've been doing this 27 years. I can tell you this: We don't have to look over our shoulder and say we could have done something more, done something better."

Greenville City Manager George Bosanic said the task force will reorganize, with one arm taking on employee assistance and the other working on economic development.

"We have a lot to offer here in Greenville," he said.

"Our pledge is to replace those jobs by the time those folks lose them."

He said the company gave no details as to how the offer fell short. The task force is meeting with the company next week.

"The question is, why? We don't know why. We certainly have a lot of questions," he said.

The decision ends long negotiations between the company and the United Auto Workers. Workers, who already had taken a wage freeze, worried that they could be asked to approve cuts in wages, health insurance and pensions. Layoffs were also expected if the company built a smaller but more modern plant in Greenville.

Electrolux will pay a price for moving. Just closing the Greenville factory carries a $154 million price tag for severance and shutdown.

Trucking refrigerators from Mexico back into the U.S. will cost an extra $26 million a year. And a new plant in the maquiladora zone along the Texas-Mexico border will cost $14 million.

Maquiladoras are factories for foreign companies in Mexico that tap abundant low-cost labor, low taxes, and little regulation. Hourly workers must be Mexican nationals who live on their side of the border. Supervisors and executives usually live on the Texas side and are paid U.S. wages.

A new plant in Greenville would have cost $50 million on a $500,000 site. With the company heading to Mexico, it is likely to lease a plant site and move its refrigerator assembly lines into a shell of a factory.

Details of severance plans have not been made public, although workers whose jobs move to Mexico or Canada are eligible for extensive tuition and retraining money.

Electrolux will join a crowd of competitors already in Mexico. Whirlpool, GE, Maytag, the Chinese company LG, the Korean manufacturer Daewoo and the Japanese company Samsung have plants there.

Those factories have lower labor costs, and competitors are forcing down the price of refrigerators as a result. Since 2001, wholesale prices have dropped 6 percent, while the cost of employee labor and benefits has risen 18 percent in those two years in the U.S., according to Electrolux.

The Swedish company already owns a Eureka vacuum cleaner plant in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

When Mexico president Vincente Fox made a state visit to Sweden last fall, he spoke with Electrolux chief executive officer Hans Straberg, telling him of th high unemployment in the hard hit border towns and factories. The region has lost 100,000 job to China in the past three years. The Greenville plant produces 1 percent of Electrolux sales in con sumer appliances in the U.S. Other products in that categor include dishwashers, string trim mers and lawn mowers. Frigi daires are the primary produc line at the plant that manufac tures both the side-by-side and top-freezer models. Other brands made there include Kenmore, White-Westinghouse, Gibson, and Kelvinator.

The closing is another blow to West Michigan, a region that has lost 30,000 manufacturing jobs since 2000.

Staff writer Matt VandeBunte contributed to this report.

01/16/2004 15:03 FAX → PRESS OFFICE 003

Balancing a budget can be work of art

Bonifas Fine Arts Center tightens belt amid funding cuts

LYNN JOHNSON
Daily Press
and Associated Press

DP 1/15/04 1A

ESCANABA — It's been said only half in jest that the William Bonifas Arts Center is "running on fumes," and in a way, that's not all bad.

Faced with tight funding and entrusted with savored donations from business, local governments and private benefactors, the arts center runs a highly efficient operation, according to Executive Director Hugh Culik. A financially conservative outlook is a must, he believes, when dragging out the center's annual budget — especially in light of such a heavy plunge in funding for the arts.

On The Web

For more:

Bonifas Arts Center:
www.bonifasarts.org

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies:
http://www.nasaa-arts.org/

Michigan's arts budget was cut nearly in half, from $22.5 million to $11.8 million, according to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. California, normally one of the biggest contributors to the arts, dropped its spending from $20.3 million in 2003 to $1.9 million for 2004. Florida, the biggest spender

(See ARTS on page 3A)

Arts take budget cuts

(Continued from page 1A)

on the arts after New York in 2003, went down from $30 million to $6.7 million.

New York's spending dropped from $51.5 million to $44.7 million, but it remains at the top of the list of states.

Roughly 20 percent of the Bonifas Arts Center budget is revenue received through state grants. The cuts would mean a near-10 percent reduction in the center's total budget of $251,000.

For now, Culik studies the center's budget assuming state money won't be there at all. "As far as state monies, in our planning and budgeting," Culik said, "we're assuming come July there may be no money for the arts. That's just because I'm very conservative in my planning."

The center has cut programs in response to a reduced funding outlook. Gone are evening art studios; several art outreach programs to elementary schools; and enrichment activities which would normally enhance art exhibits.

There are a few bits of recent good financial news, however. One is that federal funding for the arts is up slightly. Congress increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by $6.8 million. The NEA's twin organization, the National Endowment for the Humanities, reached $136.1 million for 2004.

"It's a small increase, but it's an increase," Culik said.

The NEH will dole out over $700,000 to the state through the Michigan Humanities Council. The council allocates monies based on a per capita basis.

Another bout of bright news is that the center's Annual Fund-Raising Campaign is going well, Culik said. Individuals and businesses have given more than $60,000, on par with this time last year. Culik has faith benefactors will help plug the gap left by reduced state funding. "We still need to make up some money... With all the other cuts, we're pushing hard for people to cough up some more," Culik said unabashedly.

A lot of people have a stake in the life of the Arts Center, Culik said. "Everybody in town owns the center," he said. "Everywhere you look, you see it. They all dug the orchestra pit, someone redid the floors. Everybody hung the wallboard...It's remarkable."

He also notes the Waterfront Arts Festival; Players de Noc; and many popular gallery exhibits. "It would be a lot different town if that stuff wasn't here," Culik said.

And people who write the checks know that.

— — —

To contact Lynn Johnson call 786-2021, ext. 145, or e-mail ljohnson@dailypress.net

JAN.16.2004 4:24PM LEVIN ESCANABA NO.952 P.18

Accused sex offender takes stand

DP 1/16/04 1A

CAROL BLANCHARD
Daily Press

ESCANABA – Stephen Karban took the witness stand Thursday as the last defense witness to testify in his own trial.

Karban, 35, Rapid River, is accused of 14 counts of criminal sexual conduct. Each count alleges he sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault one of four underage girls. Ten of the charges are first degree criminal sexual conduct and could result in a life prison term.

Karban has been in jail since he was arrested Jan. 5, 2003. His trial, scheduled for eight days, has now taken more than 10.

During his 5 ½-hour testimony, Karban denied each count of sexual abuse. In many instances, his version of what happened with each girl closely matched their testimonies. His accounts lacked any sexual component, however.

In one case, Karban admitted to buying liquor for one of the girls, who was less than 13 years old at the time, and allowed her to drink it until she became sick and passed out. When she collapsed while vomiting in the bathroom, Karban said he carried her onto his bed and took off her outer clothing. He testified he removed her underclothes after she vomited again.

He threw her clothes in the washing machine, he said, and wrapped her in a blanket. She was still naked when she woke up.

"I did not" touch her in a sexual way, Karban testified.

The girl's version alleges she woke up "hurting all over." She believes she had been sexually assaulted while she was sleeping.

Another allegation insists Karban repeatedly had sex with one of the girls, sometimes for hours on end. His ex-wife, Cherie Karban, testified he admitted to one of those incidents in a phone conversation with her. The alleged victim correctly described what his genital area looked like.

In court, Karban denied admitting he had sex with the girl. He said she'd seen him naked once, enabling her to describe his genital area.

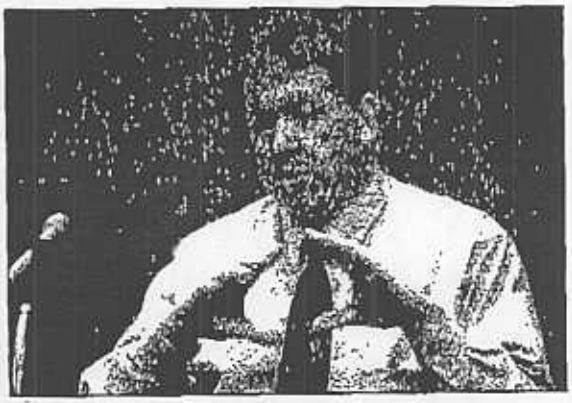
In his explanation, Karban said he

(See TRIAL on page 3A)



TESTIFYING – Stephen Karban, of Rapid River, shows his attorney, Eva Kipper, the layout of various rooms in his home. Karban is defending himself against 14 counts of criminal sexual conduct. Closing arguments in his trial are expected today. (Daily Press photo by Pat Goddard)





IN HIS OWN DEFENSE – Stephen Karban answers questions posed by his attorney and the prosecution Thursday. Karban could face up to life in prison if found guilty of sexually molesting four girls living in his home at the time of the alleged assaults. (Daily Press photos by Pat Goddard)

2 pages

Trial coming to close

(Continued from page 1A)

had been changing in a hotel room after swimming in the pool and was naked when he heard two girls approaching the room. As they entered the room, he testified he jumped into bed and pulled the covers over himself.

"'What are you doing?'" the girls reportedly asked. Karban told them he was changing and needed them to leave because he was naked under the bed covers.

"'I don't believe you,'" Karban testified one of the girls said. She "yanked" the covers back and saw him naked, he said.

In other cases, he said it was "not practical" to complete the sex acts he was accused of in the locations they were alleged to have happened – like on a chair in the TV room at his home in Rapid River. That location is visible from much of the lower part of the house. He did not deny the possibility of the actions.

Karban, who had a job in Green Bay at the time, was arrested by police in Kaukauna, Wis., where he had an apartment. He usually returned to his Rapid River home on weekends.

Testimony revealed that the day before his arrest he had been cleaning out the apartment and packing some items.

He had just pulled into the driveway of his apartment when he noticed the police cars, Karban said. He drove past his normal parking place, he testified, and was driving to a nearby post office when a police vehicle blocked his path.

Karban allowed police to search his packed Chevrolet Suburban. They discovered $1,400 in cash, a new gas container, 12 feet of clear plastic tubing, a new road atlas, an article titled "Creating a New Identity in North America," his birth certificate, his parents' death certificates and his parents' divorce documents.

Prosecutor Beth Paczesny alleges Karban was planning to flee the area and change his identity. Along the way, she believes he intended to siphon gas from other vehicles, presumably to avoid using credit cards.

Karban explained he charged the $1,400 to his Discover card because he had been unable to cash a payroll check from work.

He told the jury the plastic tubing was supposed to be a temporary fix for a cracked brakeline on a truck parked at his Rapid River house for snowplowing. The gas can was intended to replace one of the six cans he kept in Rapid River, he said.

Paczesny challenged his testimony, forcing him to reveal he had promised his wife he would not to return to Michigan even though he purchased items needed at his home in Michigan. He also said he didn't know where he was driving to on the day of his arrest.

Closing arguments were scheduled to place this morning, with jury deliberations beginning immediately after.

– – –

To contact Carol Blanchard call 786-2021, ext. 143, or e-mail cblanchard@dailypress.net

Lodge eyes $2.5M update

DMG 1/15/04 1A

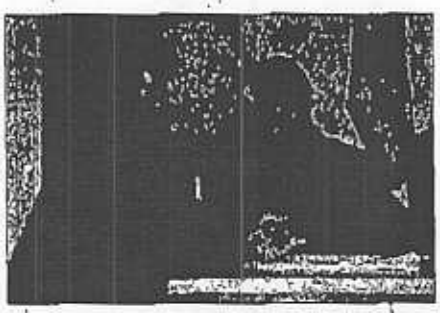
Conference center, winterizing would make facility year-round destination

Project highlights

Here are the highlights of a proposal o winterize the Keweenaw Mountain .odge and build a conference center on the property:

- The center will be a two-story, 6,600 square-foot building suitable for groups as large as 300 people. The first floor will be used for storage; conference facilities will be on the second floor. Total cost: $1.1 million.
- Insulated roofs will be added to the lodge and rental units, along with heating systems. Storm windows also will be added. State Historic Preservation Office will consult.
- Improvements will be made to the water and sewer infrastructure. To allow winter use, the pipes will be moved from one or two feet below ground to six or seven feet. The pipes will be insulated.

Source: U.P. Engineers and Architects



Garrett Neese/Daily Mining Gazette

Keweenaw County Commissioner Clyde Wescoat III, left, discusses a plan to winterize the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge and build a new conference center on the property during a meeting Wednesday. The board unanimously voted to submit pre-applications for a federal grant and loan to pay for the project. The lodge is located just south of Copper Harbor.

By GARRETT NEESE
Gazette Writer

EAGLE RIVER — The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge would become a year-round destination under an ambitious $2.5-million plan to winterize it and build a conference center.

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday to submit pre-applications for public funds to cover the costs of the project.

Some $1.1 million would be used to build a two-story conference center, while another $1.4 million would be spent to upgrade the 60-year-old log lodge, golf pro shop, 24 rental units and water and sewer lines.

The lodge property, which includes a nine-hole golf course, is located just south of Copper Harbor. It is typically open from mid-May to mid-October.

Commissioner Clyde Wescoat III said the project would have a significant economic effect on the area.

"It's a wonderful idea," he said. "I'm sure it's going to pay for itself if everything goes as planned."

Some $1.25 million would come in the form of a grant from the federal Eco-

Please see page 8

Lodge eyes year-round operations

Continued from Page 1

nomic Development Agency. Another $1.25 million will be borrowed from the federal Rural Development agency. It would be paid off over 40 years at 4.5 percent interest.

If the application is approved, construction on the project would start in spring 2005. The conference center would be complete in the summer of 2006, with the lodge beginning year-round operations that winter.

Keweenaw County Park Trustee and road commissioner Joel Tourinlemi said the project would enable the lodge to fulfill its potential.

"It's a pretty major opportunity to qualify for that kind of a grant," he said. "Hopefully the funding comes through and we can proceed."

In a letter of support to the county, Keweenaw Industrial Council Executive Director Phil Musser said the conference center could be a catalyst for new jobs and more economic activity for businesses at the tip of Michigan's northernmost county. The facility is expected to create 30 new jobs in its first winter.

"The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge ... would become the core facility for Keweenaw County's economy by drawing in many new businesses that would, in turn, provide increased revenues for other businesses in the county," Musser said. "I do not believe it would compete with other local businesses but, rather, would bring in many new tourists that would patronize other Keweenaw County businesses."

Steve Rowe, a part-time guide with Keweenaw Adventure Co. in Copper Harbor, said a revamped lodge would attract more tourists to the area.

"It wouldn't be a day trip; it'd be a destination," he said. "You'd get people from Houghton and Calumet to take some trips up here if it's done right."

The Keweenaw County Park Trustees and Economic Development Commission passed a joint resolution supporting the pre-application at a meeting earlier this month. Most people attending the meeting supported the project, said county Commissioner Frank Stubenrauch.

"There were some questions regarding the viability of it," Stubenrauch said. "Other than that, it seems everybody wants to give it a try."

Making the lodge successful year-round will be a challenge, he added.

"We're taking a five-month facility and planning to run it for 12 months," he said. "After the end of the color season until the snow comes, it's a very slack time. Same goes for the spring."

Still, Stubenrauch said, the economic possibilities for the lodge justify the potential risk.

"It's been talked about for so long, and it's going to be something different, something new to Copper Harbor," he said.

'Listening tour': Labor, growth chief starts trip in Copper Country

Says state efforts have focused on saving jobs

DAG 1/15/04 1A

By RYAN OLSON
Gazette Writer

HOUGHTON — There are two options for addressing economic development in a cash-strapped environment, the head of the new state labor and economic growth department said in Houghton Wednesday.

"We can whine about it and complain about it, or we can figure out a way to do things differently," David Hollister told business leaders at a Keweenaw Industrial Council luncheon.

Hollister, director of the new state Department of Labor & Economic Growth, chose the Upper Peninsula for his first economic tour of the state. His first stop was Houghton.



MUSSER

"I'm up here on a listening tour," he said. "I'm here not just to talk about what we're doing, but to listen to what the needs are."

That's good news, said Phil Musser, executive director of the Keweenaw Industrial Council.

"He obviously made a point of coming into the Keweenaw because he wanted to begin to establish a relationship," Musser said.

Bob DuPont, vice president of the 1st National Bank of Lake Linden and Calumet, was impressed.

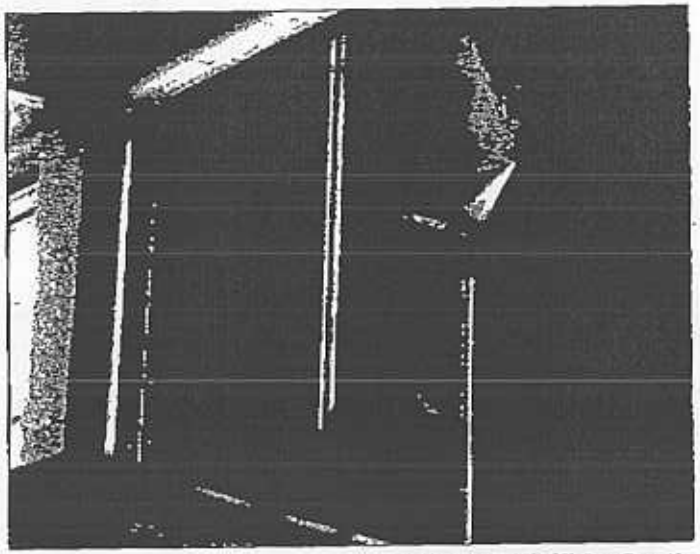
"I think (Hollister) has a real positive approach to economic development," DuPont said. "I think he reduces a very large problem down to handling-sized pieces."

With a sluggish economic recovery under way in the state, Hollister said government efforts have been focused on preserving jobs.

"You're not really attracting (new business)," he said. "You're working your fanny off to keep the facilities from going someplace else."

Hollister pointed to the state's efforts to provide economic incentives to companies to remain in Michigan. He said the state offered an economic package to the Russian company buying out Rouge Steel if it re-

Please see page 8



Ryan Olson/Daily Mining Gazette

David Hollister, director of the new state Department of Labor & Economic Growth, addresses the Keweenaw Industrial Council during a luncheon Wednesday in Houghton. Hollister's visit to the Copper County is part of his first economic tour since the department's formation in December.

Labor, growth chief starts tour in Copper Country

Continued from Page 1

tained jobs in the state and continued buying iron ore from the Tilden Mine in Marquette County.

The creation of his department probably couldn't have happened a few years ago when state coffers were flush, Hollister said.

"When you've got to cut your budget by 10 percent, it's easier to go before the Legislature and say we're going to downsize, we're going to consolidate, we're going to do things differently," he said.

The new agency consolidates the career development department with the department of consumer and industry services. The Michigan Economic Development Corp., is among the independent agencies reporting to the new department.

Locally, the MEDC is helping with the development of the Michigan Tech EnterPrise SmartZone and Main Street Calumet.

Musser said Hollister is finding out more about local success stories. He said Hollister is interested in the collaborative model the SmartZone is developing.

"I think he sees a lot of elements of what the state is trying to do already in operation in the Copper Country," Musser said.

After a brief talk, Hollister went to the Houghton powerhouse for a tour of SmartZone operations. Later, he visited Northern Hardwoods in South Range.

Hollister's swing through the U.P. continues through Friday in the Marquette area. His plans include meeting with the U.P. Economic Development Alliance and touring the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base.

JAN.16.2004 4:24PM LEVIN ESCANABA NO.952 P.17

ESCANABA MI

LAPTOP LEARNING

Baraga decides to take fed money for sixth-grade computers

DMG 11/14/04 1A

By ERIN ALBERTY
Gazette Writer

BARAGA — The state may have pulled the plug on a $22 million plan to provide a laptop computer to every Michigan sixth-grader, but the Baraga Area School District is using federal funds to resuscitate the project locally.

The school board approved $15,000 to buy 50 Hewlett-Packard laptop computers for its sixth-grade classrooms. Federal funds designated for the state's failed laptop initiative will cover about $18,000 of remaining expenses to install and maintain the computers and train staff to use them.

"It's going to cost some money, but at the same time, we can get a good deal on the computers, and we thought it was important for the students," said Robert Koskinen, school board president.

Superintendent David Morehouse said the state contracted with HP to buy the computers for $650 apiece. Federal funding covers about $350 of each computer.

"We couldn't get nearly that good a deal otherwise," Morehouse said.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced last summer a plan to commit $22 million of

Please see page 8



"It's not appropriate for every school district, but at this time it's appropriate for our kids."
— David Morehouse
Baraga superintendent

Baraga sixth-graders will get laptops

Continued from Page 1

state funding, along with $17 million federal funding to provide laptops at $25 apiece for each sixth-grader in a district. The initiative was discarded as part of the state's budget deficit-reduction plan this December.

Many school boards objected to the plan, arguing that districts should decide for themselves how money should be spent and that laptop computers are unneeded or impractical for some schools.

The $17 million in federal funding is now being distributed to districts that choose to invest their own money to incorporate the computers into sixth-grade classrooms.

"It's not appropriate for every school district, but at this time it's appropriate for our kids," Morehouse said.

Morehouse said many districts are steering clear of the federal offer out of concern that maintenance and operating costs for the computers will be prohibitive.

"That's the big question mark," he said. "That's what's scaring a lot of people off, and I don't blame them."

He said the the district will abandon the program if it requires excessive school resources.

"I'm not going to throw good money after bad," Morehouse said.

He added that students will use the computers only in the classroom to avoid damaging them.

Morehouse said the staff at Philip LaTendresse Elementary School has been developing classroom plans for the computers, which are expected to arrive in March.

"We're ready for them if they're here on time," he said.

Koskinen said the laptops will help teach students core academic subjects and make them more comfortable using technology.

"It's the age of the computer, so the more technological training we can give, the better," he said. "The sixth-grade level ... would be a great place to start. It gives them a good preparation as they enter high school."

JAN. 16. 2004 4:20PM LEVIN ESCANABA NO. 952 P. 10

State seeks counsel of U.P.'s sole nanotech firm

Lake Linden company develops cutting-edge manufacturing materials

DMG 1/14/04 LB

By OLIVIA BARTLETT
Gazette Writer

LAKE LINDEN — When dealing with big projects, sometimes you have to look at the smallest details.

Just ask Dr. Frank Underdown Jr., a physicist and CEO of the Lake Linden-based Keweenaw Nanoscience Center, the only nanotech firm in the Upper Peninsula.

He studies nanomanufacturing.

"Designing with nanoparticles allows us to build devices that have new optical, electrical, magnetic and thermal properties," he said.

Nano refers to one-billionth of a unit.

Many people think of the burgeoning nanotech field as it relates to medicine, such as how it can be used to direct drug delivery.

In chemotherapy, for example, drugs can be coated with nanoparticles and guided to the tumor. The particles become embedded and, when activated, they release medication.

But Underdown's work applies to life sciences, electronics and optics.

Keweenaw Nanoscience Center
Where: E-Center, 700 Calumet St., Suite 214, Lake Linden
Call: (906) 296-9072
On the Net: http://www.nanosciencecenter.com

He specializes in materials science and manufacturing.

"There are so many problems to work on in this century," he said. "The application for nanostructured materials are endless and could include lightweight panels for autos, a heat resistant and flexible skin for space shuttles and optical computing and biomedical equipment."

Running the U.P.'s sole nanotech facility has its advantages. The Michigan Economic Development Corp. has asked Underdown to help advise the state on nanotechnology research.

Since Underdown is funded by grants, he doesn't have access to high-tech lab equipment. He often conducts research at universities.

Underdown, been working with University of Michigan researcher Katsuo Kurabayashi on designing laser beams to propel nanoparticles down a glass fiber and onto a silicon material.

"This will help (Underdown) develop his business and me develop my biosensors," Kurabayashi said. "By combining nanotechnology with (micro-electro-mechanical systems) we can develop some interesting devices."

Underdown holds a bachelor's degree in physics and master's in nuclear physics from Central Michigan University, and a doctorate in molecular and optical physics from Michigan Tech University.

After graduating in 1999, the Chicago native decided to stay in the Midwest. His family had a passion for outdoor sports.

But there was one problem.

"For us to survive up here, I had to find a way to make a living," Underdown said.

So he decided to open his own firm in Lake Linden's E-Center.

Grants fund his research, and he pays the bills through consulting work and teaching as an adjunct professor.

He most recently worked as a visiting assistant physics professor at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn. There, he established nanotechnology research on campus.

Underdown has 11 publications in print, three patents on file and has taught college courses on physics, calculus, electronic instrumentation, astronomy labs and nanotechnology.

In addition, he's testified in court as an expert witness in the area of physics, materials science and auto mechanics. He's investigated accidents and worked with lawyers as a forensic science consultant.

And Underdown does it all from his base camp in Lake Linden,

"I think you can live and work just about anywhere you want now," he said.

JAN.16.2004 4:21PM LEVIN ESCANABA NO.952 P.11

"We should thank them for what they did. I wish I could do more."

Local, state veterans thank C-L-K students for poster project

DMG 1/14/04

By GARRETT NIESE
Gazette Writer

CALUMET — When Sean Jacques' and Cindy Twardzik's eighth-grade classes began sending out thank you posters to veterans in 2001, they thought they might get a few cards or letters in return.

Tuesday, they got a quite a bit more.

Local and state officials from the American Legion stopped by Washington Middle School in Calumet Tuesday to meet with some of the students who made the posters, and present them with gifts of their own, including an American Legion video for the school library.

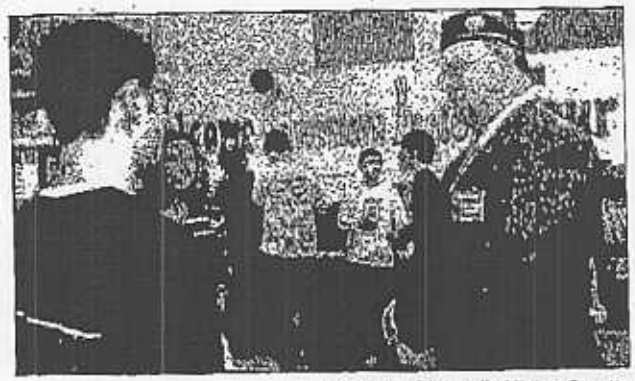
"We came down to basically say thank you ... I don't think we do enough of this, letting them know we appreciate things," said Darwin Krieger, the American Legion state commander.

Ron Pearson, Sons of American Legion state committee chairman, encouraged students to keep making the posters.

"We do appreciate this," he said. "Don't stop sending them. We kind of like them."

Jacques and Twardzik began sending the posters out to all Veterans of Foreign Wars and

Please see page 8



William A. Rice/Daily Mining Gazette

Raymond Carlson, 12th district of Michigan commander of the American Legion, speaks with Pete Golus, 13, of Laurium at Washington Middle School in Calumet on Tuesday. Golus is part of a group of students at C-L-K schools that make posters for veterans.

Vets thank C-L-K students

Continued from Page 1

American Legion posts in the Upper Peninsula on the Veterans Day following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"They're free to be as creative as they want ... some write poems, some write simple 'We appreciate you' statements," Jacques said. "They have a good time with it, and they're creative."

Jacques said Upper Peninsula veterans appreciate the posters, which students have been making for three years.

"We have gotten thank you notes from a lot of the posts ... some will send a photograph or a little proclamation honoring us," he said. "I think a lot of these organizations are happy students remember what they've done for this country."

Raymond Carlson, Legion 12th District commander, said sometimes children don't appreciate veterans, but not this bunch.

"You don't see enough patriotism and appreciation for veterans in school systems nowadays .... we like what they're doing in Calumet," Carlson said.

In turn, students were happy to have their efforts acknowledged.

"It's nice because they can show us how important it is to show respect for the people who represent our country," said Tony Stromer, one of Twardzik's students.

Pete Golus, a student in Jacques' class, agreed.

"It was good that we got to visit with the Legion members," he said. "We should thank them for what they did ... I wish I could do more."

A taxing bevy of bad alternatives

DMG 1/14/04 4/7

A self-destructive, albeit comical, debate has broken out among the Democratic presidential candidates over taxes.

IN OUR Opinion

In one corner, the terminally peeved Howard Dean and U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt say repealing all of President Bush's tax cuts is the way to the White House. In the other corner, Wesley Clark and Sen. John Kerry argue merely for sticking it to "the rich." Unfortunately, Democrats seem almost genetically predisposed to regularly redefining downward the income level of America's high-rollin' "rich."

Meanwhile, on the sidelines, Sen. Joe Lieberman correctly worries that the leaders of the Democrats' presidential contest are taking the party off a political cliff.

Among those ignoring him is Kerry, who nevertheless notes wryly that the Dean and Gephardt camps' idea of a political winner against a president presiding over a growing economy is "taking away the child credit, taking away the 10 percent (tax) bracket. ... and (reinstating) the marriage penalty."

Gephardt and Dean both promise to use money from the vast tax winfall to expand government's role in health care, among other programs. You'd need a flow chart that looks like a circuit-board diagram to explain where the cash goes. Just a wild guess, but we believe most people would rather keep their earnings than see them filtered through three or four layers of paternalistic bureaucracy.

For all his concern about Dean and Gephardt, Kerry trots out his own pandering, soak-the-rich program, with an added golden liberal oldie: a one-year "Social Security tax holiday." Such a "holiday," however, would undermine the imperiled program's financial position, while ignoring the pressing need for fundamental reform.

Then there's Wesley Clark, the quirky former general who argues that everyone with an income of less than $50,000 should be exempt from federal taxes. He would create a new top marginal tax rate of 46.6 percent, a level of confiscation not seen since President Reagan's bipartisan tax reform of 1986 lowered the 50 percent top rate to 28 percent. Clark's plan requires shifting the tax burden onto everyone making more than $50,000, which, of course, includes plenty of working-class people.

Lieberman remains a lonely voice of something approaching reason. While his own tax-hike proposals would harm the economy, he at least sees the folly of attempting to beat Bush by proposing to repeal the president's economic policy. "I don't know of a case where a Democratic candidate for president has been elected who called for a massive increase in taxes on the middle class," he said in a radio debate. "These are our people."

More to the point, in a nation where some 60 percent of Americans now own stock directly or indirectly, a whole lot of those Lieberman paternalistically calls "our people" aspire to be what the candidates disparagingly call "rich."

BRIEFS DMG 1115/04 3A

Presidential caucus info available

HOUGHTON — Information about next month's Michigan presidential caucus and Democratic presidential candidates will be available at the Houghton County Democratic Party monthly discussion group.

The group will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Super 8 Motel in Houghton.

The Houghton County caucus will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 7 in the motel conference room. Democrats interested in participating in the caucus must be residents of Houghton County and declare themselves to be Democrats. They do not need to be registered voters or dues-paying members.

At the same time and day are scheduled the Keweenaw County caucus at the county building in Mohawk, the Baraga County caucus at the L'Anse Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall and the Ontonagon County caucus at the Centennial Hall in Ewen.

Registered voters also may vote in the caucus by mail or over the Internet.

For more information, visit the Michigan Democratic Party Web site at www.mi-democrats.com, or call Janet Metsa at 482-5665 or Amy Wisti at 482-9691.

Marq-Tran may ask for millage hike

MJ 1/14/04 11+

By AARON PETERSON
Journal Staff Writer

MARQUETTE – The Marquette County Transit Authority may ask voters for an increase in its 20-year old operating millage this August.

The Marq-Tran board is expected to discuss the issue at a regular meeting Thursday in Marquette.

Since 1984 Marq-Tran has had a dedicated millage for partial funding of its mass transit operations. The original rate of about .3 mills was increased in 1994 to .5 mills. However, due to rollbacks from the Headlee Amendment, which ties the millage rate to the rate of inflation, the rate is currently at .48 mills. The Aug. 3 ballot will ask for an increase to .6 mills.

"We've looked at our budget critically over the last year and reduced where we could," Marq-Tran Director Robert Niemi said. "There was no way we could escape not asking for a millage."

Niemi said the agency has made reductions to Friday night and Saturday routes among other cuts, but increases in health care costs without appropriate increases in federal and state operating assistance have left them short.

"Just like every organization, we've been faced with horrendous increases in health care costs," Niemi said.

Marq-Tran operates on an Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 fiscal year and in FY2004 will have a $2.46 million budget. Of that, about $611,000 comes from the millage. About $1 million of the budget comes from the state and about $264,000 from the federal government. Niemi said the increase to .6 mills would give the agency about $836,000.

Currently, Marq-Tran bus fees are 25 cents for elderly, handicapped and K-12 students and 50 cents for others in Marquette, and 50 cents and $1, respectively, for routes between Marquette and K.I. Sawyer, Negaunee, and Ishpeming.

Also expected at the meeting is a progress report on construction of a new $5.2 million 66,000-square-foot Marq-Tran facility behind the Westwood Mall in Marquette Township. The facility will replace a 12,000 square foot building on Spring Street in Marquette.

Niemi stressed that the project is funded separately with state and federal grants, not millage revenue.

"This is not for the new building," Niemi said. "This is to keep buses on the road on a daily basis."

The project is expected to enter its second phase this spring and be finished in August.

The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Suite 209 on the upper level of the Marq-Tran center at 145 W. Spring Street in Marquette.

Monument planned to honor Civil War vets

MJ 1/14/04 1A

By BUD SARGENT
Senior Staff Writer

MARQUETTE — A monument is being planned to honor the Union soldiers from Marquette County who died in the Civil War.

The Upper Peninsula Chapter of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War is planning to erect a monument near the Marquette Maritime Museum on Lakeshore Boulevard to honor those who died in the war.

More than 600,000 soldiers on both sides died from 1861 to 1865, said Gary White, commander-elect of the chapter. The monument will honor those from the city of Marquette or Marquette County, including several who died in the infamous Andersonville prisoner of war camp in Georgia.

"It's true these men died a long time ago but their sacrifice is still very important," White said. "It was a war that shaped our nation."

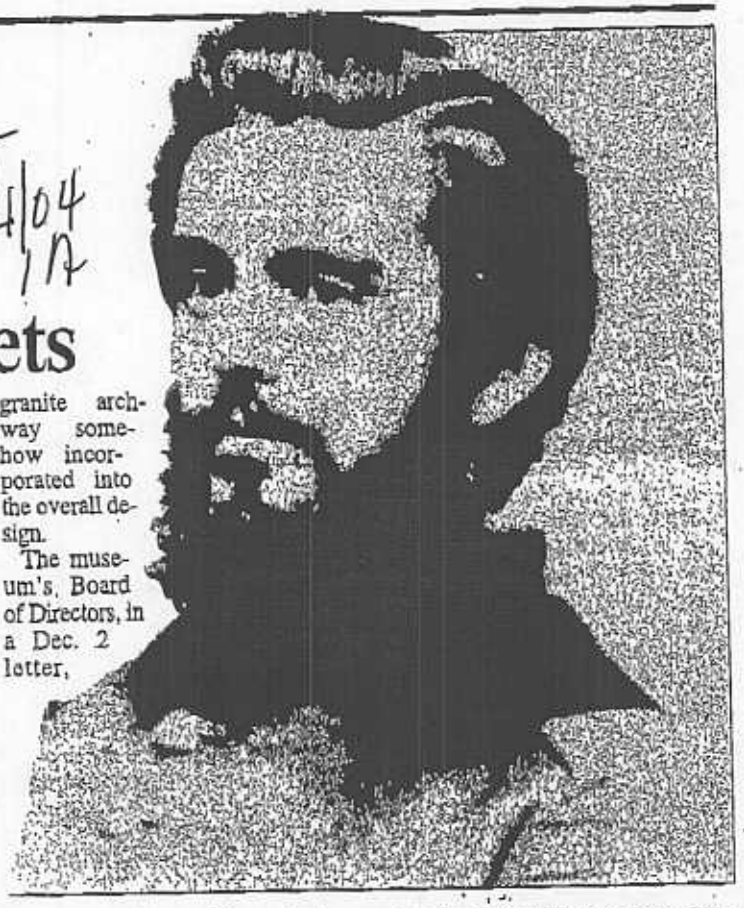
The organization is chartered by Congress. A large part of its activities is to conduct research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to verify a soldier's identity and war service.

The object of that work is to ensure the grave is properly marked with a headstone purchased by the government.

The monument's design has been decided and it is expected to consist of a 20-foot by 20-foot granite base holding a large granite boulder.

The stone will come from a quarry White owns on Station Road in Sands Township. A bronze plaque bearing the names of the fallen servicemen will be placed on the boulder, with a granite archway somehow incorporated into the overall design.

The museum's Board of Directors, in a Dec. 2 letter, supported the concept of a Civil War Memorial.



This is a photo of the only known local resident killed in the Civil War who is buried locally. Albert Jackson died Sept. 19, 1864, after sustaining wounds at the Battle of Winchester in Virginia. (Photo courtesy Gary White)

Because 19th century record keeping was often spotty and maintaining official residences far less formal than today, a key challenge will be developing a definitive list of Marquette County residents who died in the war.

John Gorto of Ishpeming, a member of White's organization, is compiling the list.

"It will never be 100 percent. It's impossible," Gorto said. "But we're doing what we can."

Richard Rupley, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel who taught military history at Michigan Tech University in Houghton, is conducting similar research.

Based on what he has found so far, Rupley said he believes about 50 Marquette County residents may have died in the Civil War.

Upper Peninsula men, including those from Marquette County, "were in regiments that were pushed hard during the war," said Rupley, who lives in Chassell. "These guys were in the fighting regiments. Those units took a terrible beating."

Specific monument costs haven't yet been determined. White's organization has begun a fund-raising effort.

For more information, call White at 346-9704.

Major sewer repair project set in Ishpeming

MJ 1/14/04 3A

By BUD SARGENT
Senior Staff Writer

ISHPEMING – A large-scale public works project north of U.S. Highway 41 West in Ishpeming this summer is designed to eliminate the chance of raw sewage discharging into rivers and streams.

The city will spend $2 million to separate the wastewater and stormwater sewers in the Eighth Edition, according to City Manager John Korhonen.

The area is a 1950s-era subdivision that is bordered on the north and east by the Al Quaal Recreation Area, on the south by U.S. 41 and on the west by Second Street.

In the Eighth Edition, wastewater and stormwater run through the same pipe to the Ishpeming Area Wastewater Treatment plant on Sunset Drive.

"This is something that really needs to be done," Korhonen said. "We've had problems ... and this project will eliminate future problems."

An unusually fast April 2002 winter meltdown, coupled with an extended period of rain, resulted in about 10 inches of water being dumped on some parts of western Marquette County over three days.

The pipe handling both stormwater and sanitary sewer water was overwhelmed; Korhonen said several million gallons of this water was discharged into an unnamed stream that empties into the Carp River.

Under the upcoming project, several miles of new stormwater pipe will be installed beneath city rights of way. On the north side, runoff will empty into the Teal Lake watershed. On the south side, runoff will empty into the stream that empties into the Carp.

The existing wastewater pipe will continue to funnel sewage into the treatment plant.

The money is a federal grant that is administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Work is expected to be complete during the coming construction season. Local matching dollars are not required.

Korhonen said bid specifications are being prepared. He expected bids to be let by the end of the month. A contract will be awarded by about April, with work to start shortly after.

Forecast: $13.5 million in red

CCI posts loss

MJ 1/14/04 1A

By JACQUELINE PERRY
Journal Ishpeming Bureau

ISHPEMING – Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc., expects to record a loss of more than $13.5 million during the fourth quarter of 2003, the company announced today.

The loss of more than $1.30 per share is due to a number of factors, including the Tilden Mine kiln shutdown, restructuring costs, acquisition and startup costs of the Eveleth Mine assets, and an accrual increase for stock-based compensation, according to a Cliffs news release.

Cleveland-Cliffs announced in early December that part of the Tilden pelletizing plant Unit 2 kiln cracked, causing its shutdown. The shutdown, which did not result in any layoffs, cut 2003's Tilden pellet production by about 300,000 tons, down to a total of 7 million tons for the year.

The lost production, accelerated maintenance and repairs cost the company $6 million, Dale Hemmila, spokesman for Cliffs Michigan Mining Co. previously said. CMMC is a combined operation between the Tilden and Empire mines managed by CCI.

Hemmila would not comment on the press release, the company's end-of-year finances or the status of the Tilden kiln. He said the company expects to issue a year-end financial report within several weeks.

The United Taconite LLC acquisition of the Eveleth Mine assets in December cost the company about $3 million, including startup costs and resuming production, Cliffs said. United Taconite LLC is 70-percent owned by Cliffs with the balance owned by Laiwu Steel Group, Ltd.

However, Cliffs' preliminary figures indicate a $3 million gain regarding the acquisition could be recorded in the fourth quarter, according to the company. The gain would not be included in the company's loss from continuing operations.

Cliffs recorded a $2.5 million restructuring charge in the fourth quarter relating to the reduction of its salaried employee program. The reduction, in addition to the $6.2 million restructuring charge in the third quarter, affected 135 employees at Cliffs' United States operations.

An increase in the accrual for stock-based compensation cost CCI $5 million during the fourth quarter, according to the company.

Cleveland-Cliffs, headquartered in Cleveland, is the largest producer of high quality iron ore pellets in North America. The company operates a total of six iron ore mines in Michigan, Minnesota, and Canada.

Ore deposit shrinks at local mine

Empire in trouble

MJ 1/15/04 1A

By JACQUELINE PERRY
Journal Ishpeming Bureau

PALMER – Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. has slashed its iron ore reserve estimates at the Empire Mine in Palmer, which could close the mine earlier than anticipated, according to company documents.

Iron ore reserve estimates for the Palmer-based mine have decreased from 116 million tons in 2002, to 63 million tons last year, to 29 million tons at present. In two years, the company has lowered its reserve estimate for the mine by 75 percent.

The new estimate was reported Tuesday by CCI in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company periodically conducts a formal evaluation of its iron ore reserves at all mining locations.

"If the ore reserves at Empire are insufficient to sustain our operations there, we may be required to close the mine," Cliffs stated in the report. "We have taken significant asset impairment charges relating to the Empire mine."

Cliffs officials this morning declined to comment on the Empire situation.

The reduced reserves estimate is CCI's failure to develop effective mine plans to produce cost-effective combinations of production volume, ore quality, and stripping requirements, according to the report. As a result, the company could reduce the annual production at the Empire Mine, according to Cliffs.

However, studies to identify the Empire's optimum production rate and mine life are ongoing, according to company documents. Cliffs is also evaluating satellite mineral resources which could increase the mine's reserve base.

Closing the Empire would cause Cliffs to incur significant closure costs, employment legacy costs, severance-related obligations, reclamation and other environmental costs and the costs of terminating long-term obligations such as energy contracts and equipment leases, the company said.

"A closure of the Empire Mine sooner than we anticipate could materially and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition," according to the company. "We rely on the estimates of our recoverable reserves, and if those estimates are inaccurate, our financial condition may be adversely affected."

Several uncertainties are involved in estimating quantities of reserves of mines, including historical production figures, future iron ore prices, future industry conditions and operating costs, geological conditions and ongoing mine planning, according to the company.

Mine troubles worry union

By BUD SARGENT
Senior Staff Writer

ISHPEMING – Union officials reacted sharply this morning after learning the iron ore body at the Empire Mine is a fraction of an earlier estimate.

In a Tuesday filing with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. disclosed that more recent estimates place the ore body at the Empire Mine at about 29 million

See Union Page 10A, col.5

Union

Continued from page 1A

tons, less than half of its estimate last year and 75 percent lower than two years ago.

The mine employs workers belonging to the United Steelworkers of America.

As recently as last year, CCI estimated the mine's ore body at 63 million tons. In 2002, the Empire estimate was 116 million tons.

"This really comes as a shock to me. I don't know what they (CCI) are doing or what they are saying," said Harry Lester, director of USWA's District 2, which covers Michigan and Wisconsin. "The company hasn't said anything to us at all about this. This comes as a total shock."

Lester, who works out of the union's downstate Taylor office, said CCI "should have discussed it with the union before making it public. The whole community depends on CCI. This is totally uncalled for."

Al Firby, who serves as CCI staff representative in Negaunee, voiced similar sentiments while noting that ore body estimates tend to change over time.

"We're hoping there's going to be work there well into the future," Firby said. "If the ore body is reduced, then that's going to shorten the life of the mine. But that's not to say there aren't other ore bodies here."

Lester said the union is prepared to make available to the company its own geologists and other experts to more accurately determine the iron ore reserves at the Empire Mine.

"We'd do that to get a fair and accurate reading on it," he said.

CCI owns 79 percent of the Empire, with Ispat International owning 21 percent.

Lawsuit against CCI heard by court

LANSING (AP) — A law enabling any citizen to file suit over environmental violations may hang in the balance as the Michigan Supreme Court considers a dispute involving an Upper Peninsula mine.

Lawyers for the National Wildlife Federation and Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. debated the matter Tuesday before the state's highest court.

At issue: whether the Legislature overstepped its bounds in a 1970 law allowing "any person" to file a lawsuit over alleged environmental violations.

"It's a very major issue for environment and resource protection in Michigan, and it's a major issue in other areas as well," said Andy Buchsbaum, director of the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Office in Ann Arbor.

A ruling in favor of Cleveland-Cliffs could also limit citizens' ability to file suits over alleged violations of the Open Meetings Act and certain taxpayer issues, Buchsbaum told Booth News Service.

The court is expected to issue a ruling by July 31.

NWF filed suit in 2000 to contest a state permit that allowed Cleveland-Cliffs to fill wetlands as part of a planned expansion of the Empire Mine in Marquette County.

Marquette Circuit Court Judge

See Lawsuit Page 10A, col. 1

Lawsuit

Continued from page 1A

Garfield Hood dismissed the case, ruling that the environmental group had no legal standing to sue, since it hadn't been specifically harmed by the mine project.

The Michigan Environmental Protection Act of 1970 specifies that "the attorney general or any person" can bring a suit "for the protection of the air, water, and other natural resources and the public trust in these resources from pollution, impairment, or destruction."

Hood cited other court precedents in ruling that, despite the legislative language, a person had to claim actual injury in order to have standing to file suit.

The State Court of Appeals overturned that decision and Cleveland-Cliffs appealed to the Supreme Court.

Attorney Mary Masseron Ross, representing Cleveland-Cliffs, told justices the Michigan Constitution gives legal standing to file lawsuits only to those who can claim a specific injury.

"Judicial powers exist to resolve conflicts between individuals who have a concrete interest at stake," Ross said.

Several justices raised the possibility of reinstating the federation's lawsuit on narrow grounds, but also questioned the constitutionality of granting any person standing to sue.

"There are things that the Legislature may want to do, but can't do because of the constitution," said Justice Stephen Markman.

Former Gov. William Milliken, who signed the Michigan Environmental Protection Act into law, filed a friend of the court brief in favor of preserving the right of any citizen to file environmental lawsuits.

Corps awards security contracts

SAULT STE. MARIE – Two contracts recently awarded by the Corps of Engineers Detroit District will improve security and lighting at the Soo Locks complex, according to a statement.

The statement announced contract awards to Johnson Controls, Inc. for up to $1.2 million and to S&T Electrical International Inc. for $565,750.

The Johnson Controls contract covers a number of electronic improvements including: intrusion detection, security cameras, fencing, security doors, vehicle barriers and other measures to increase security around the Soo Locks complex.

Johnson Controls is located in Milwaukee.

The smaller contract with S&T Electrical International, a Sault Ste. Marie firm, calls for new and improved lighting at the Soo Locks, using new and existing light poles.

The new lighting will significantly increase visibility during nighttime hours and overall security, the statement said.

The additional installations at the Soo Locks are part of the Corps' effort to improve security at federal installations after an intensive study of key infrastructure on or near international borders in the wake of the 2001 terror attacks.

Completion of the two contracts announced recently and other security-oriented projects at the Soo Locks is scheduled for May.

Total cost of security upgrades at the Soo Locks will total about $4.5 million, the statement said.

White Pine, steelworkers settle

Contract extension called key to power plant future

By JAN TUCKER
Globe Staff Writer

DG 1/15/04 1A

WHITE PINE — The White Pine Refinery and United Steelworkers of America Local 5024 have reached a contract extension agreement that is key to future operation of the White Pine Power Plant.

Mike Reid, chief operating officer and general manager of the refinery, said the new agreement extends the contract with the steelworkers to 2010 and enables the company to secure a long-term utility supply contract.

Ten- to 20-year utility contracts are expected to be signed in the next 30 days, Reid said.

"These utility supply contracts will help lower refinery operating costs so we can be competitive in the world market," Reid said.

The power plant is expected to come on line in April. Reid said the White Pine Electric Power Co. is in the process of capital construction improvements of more than $4 million and will come on line as a full-time electric company supply utility, supplying the grid with electric power.

Reid said the company is also negotiating with the Hudson Bay Mining Co. to extend its contract to provide copper to the White Pine Refinery through 2012.

Reid praised the steelworkers' actions as part of the package.

"We have received a lot of calls from those interested in opportunities in the White Pine Park. What we needed was a good utility rate, rail service and stable

(See WHITE PINE — Page 3)

WHITE PINE

(Continued from Page 1)

workforce at a competitive rate. We now have that package," he added.

Local 5024 President John Haapala, vice-president Chuck King, committee member Tom Hintze and staff representative Arthur Firby, Ishpeming, participated in the signing of the extension with Reid and Laurie Niemi, Human Resources administrator representing the company.

Haapala said the previous contract would have expired in 2006 and noted it is unusual for a contract to be extended for such a lengthy period. He explained the company approached the union and said extending the contract could move the process to reopen the power plant, decrease production costs in the refinery and increase jobs.

Steelworkers supply the copper refinery and powerhouse with the hourly workforce to run both facilities. It is expected the powerhouse will add another 20 hourly positions and another 25 spin-off jobs.

Local 5024 has 45 union members working at the refinery.

At the peak operation of the White Pine copper mine, more than 3,000 Steelworkers were employed.

Haapala said the key issue for Steelworkers was health insurance.

"Sometimes our workers' benefits are more important than wages. The new contract dealt with revisions to the health care, pension plans, vacation days, and early retirement option, as well as wages.

"By doing this, we assure people decent pay, jobs and benefits and open the door to more employment, as well as economic benefits to the community," Haapala said.

Operation of the power plant is a giant step for the economy

"I feel the power plant is the key to future expansion in the area," Reid said. He added most contracts are three years in length and the new compact is essentially a six-year extension. "The action showed faith in the company and we have faith in our workforce," he said.

Firby said the flood in Marquette that resulted in a lengthy power outage, was a "blessing in disguise" for the Ontonagon area.

"This power plant went on line in a matter of a couple of days, when some thought it would be weeks. It showed the White Pine Power Plant produced quality power and helped save the area, including industry, from serious downtime. We need this power supply," he concluded.

'Shouting match' fails to reinstate Bessemer housing director

By PAMELA DAVENPORT
Globe Staff Writer

DG 1115104117

BESSEMER — At a special meeting Wednesday, the Bessemer Housing Commission stood by its decision to fire executive director Richard Brackney.

An extremely heated verbal altercation ensued, which led to the resignation of board member Donald Pucilowski.

"I don't need it, I don't get paid, I don't get anything back," Pucilowski said as he dropped a prepared note in front of BHC board president Becky Matonich and walked out.

The board did not accept his resignation. It scheduled another special meeting for Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. to reword the advertisement for a new director.

About 20 housing residents attended Wednesday's meeting.

Gertrude Saari spoke in opposition to Brackney's termination, saying she had informed the Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak and State Rep. Richard Brown, who promised her they would investigate the situation. The board decided on Dec. 16 to dismiss him; his last day was Jan. 9.

Matonich said the board had the right to discharge a director in the six-month probation period if it was not satisfied with his performance. The board voted 4-1 in favor of termination, she added.

From there the meeting deteriorated into a "shouting match," in the words of Clarence Negri, board vice president.

The board's displeasure seemed to stem mainly from its perception that Brackney was unable, or unwilling, to work with his assistant, Sherry Graham.

"In my mind, you did not regard your assistant as an assistant," Matonich said. "You did things without talking to her. ... You didn't want anyone else to know what you were doing. You should have asked questions during your first six months."

(See BESSEMER — Page 2)

> "You did not regard your assistant as an assistant. You did things without talking to her. ... You didn't want anyone else to know what you were doing."
>
> — BECKY MATONICH

BESSEMER

(Continued from Page 1)

Brackney indicated he did not consider Graham's job as equal with his, when Matonich said told him "you have to work together."

Graham said Brackney had altered a filing system that was established two years ago by a new auditor, one who worked solely with HUD accounts.

"Two years ago we changed auditors because of HUD," Graham said. "He said this is the way it should be done. I took one day off. You never asked me any questions. There are things required by HUD and the filing system was changed."

Brackney responded that he changed only the location of a banking statement so he could find it more easily.

Graham also alleged that Brackney had told some tenants they would be evicted because their incomes increased after they signed their lease. "You cannot kick them out if they qualified the day they signed the lease," she said.

A tenant said Brackney told her daughter that her rent would be raised because she had gotten a new job.

Graham also said she did not receive messages to return calls.

In the meeting's only moment of calm, Brackney said he did not attend the meeting to "beg for my job back." He said he was there so the tenants could see "how the board responded to their requests. They were never given an opportunity to hear the allegations. There was no discussion. I did not know why (you made the decision), neither did they." The tenants had asked him to attend, he said.

"The board should be working for us, not against us," said Saari, as the board turned its attention to advertising for a new director.

JAN.16.2004 4:26PM LEVIN ESCANABA NO.952 P.24