

AND AROUND THE STATE

## Local/state NEWS BRIEFS

### Board rejects student's application to enroll

Petoskey school board members turned down an expelled Petoskey High School student's request for readmission to the district during a disciplinary hearing Tuesday.

The board voted 5-0 to deny the request, school superintendent John Scholten said Wednesday. At the request of the expelled student's family, the hearing took place in closed session.

"It was one of those permanent expulsions that occurred a while back," Scholten said. "They don't feel it's in the best interest of the district to bring the student back in."

Noting student privacy requirements, the superintendent said he couldn't share details of the incident about a year and a half ago that led to the expulsion.

### Senate approves tax deduction costing \$100 million a year

LANSING (AP) — The state Senate on Wednesday approved a new business tax break that could cost state government about \$100 million to \$150 million a year starting in 2013.

Advocates say the change is needed because the new Michigan Business Tax that takes effect in January could reduce companies' book value. But critics say supporters are just looking for a way to keep businesses from paying their share of taxes.

"This isn't a targeted tax break. This is a giveaway to big business," said Sen. Martha Scott, D-Highland Park.

Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, said that because the new business tax includes an income tax, which the former business tax did not, companies might see a jump in their deferred tax liability. That could reduce their book value — or assets minus liabilities — reflected in financial statements.

"Their concern is that's going to harm their stock prices, (which) translates down to jobs here in Michigan," Gilbert said. "I do want to stress: This will have no revenue implications until 2013."

### Secretary of State outlines voter ID policies

LANSING (AP) — State elections officials are reminding Michigan voters that they'll have to show photo identification or sign a statement saying they don't have a photo ID before they can get a ballot on Nov. 6.

It's the first time photo ID will be required.

Although the state passed a law in 1996 requiring voters to show a photo ID at the polls, it was never enforced because of an opinion issued at the time by Democratic Attorney General Frank Kelley that it violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, which guarantees the right to vote.

That changed when the Michigan Supreme Court earlier this year issued an opinion that it was legal to require a photo ID.

### Great Lakes cleanup would boost economy, report says

TRAVERSE CITY (AP) — A proposed restoration of the Great Lakes would generate at least \$50 billion in economic gains — twice as much as the cleanup would cost, according to a report issued Wednesday.

The analysis by the Brookings Institution said healing the ecologically ailing lakes would help industries such as tourism and outdoor recreation. It also would boost property values, reduce wastewater treatment costs and attract new residents.

In addition to such long-term benefits, pumping government money into the region for the cleanup would have a temporary ripple effect worth \$30 billion to \$50 billion as contractors pay workers and make purchases, said economists with the research and policy institute in Washington, D.C.

### Lottery numbers

DETROIT (AP) — Here are the winning numbers selected Wednesday in the Michigan State Lottery: Midday Daily 3, 1-7-8; Midday Daily 4, 5-8-1-5; Daily 3, 2-5-9; Daily 4, 2-8-2-4; Fantasy 5, 4-17-18-24-33; Classic Lotto 47, 1-19-31-33-40-43; Keno, 4, 10, 12, 16, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 40, 46, 54, 57, 60, 70, 71, 73, 77. Wednesday's Classic Lotto 47 jackpot was estimated at \$4.4 million. Friday's Mega Millions jackpot is estimated at \$17 million.

# Sovereign Deed CEO says it's time to mitigate risks to people

BY FRED GRAY  
NEWS-REVIEW STAFF WRITER

Barrett Moore, founder and CEO of Sovereign Deed, the private civil defense firm, told Rotarians in Petoskey on Wednesday that Sovereign Deed is at the forefront of an entirely new industry whose mission is to mitigate the risks posed by threats of man-made and natural disasters.

"Our organization is all about saving lives. In our country we spend about \$500 billion a year protecting inanimate objects, whether it's our homes or cars or boats. It's a medium we've all used to mitigate risk.

"The challenge I ask is what are we doing to protect something far more important, which is life itself? The reality is, we're not doing anything."

Moore said the world faces an increase in natural disasters and threats from "unknown regions and unknown peoples."

"We are at the forefront of an entirely new industry," Moore said. "Ours is unfortunately or fortunately a by-product of the environment we live in."

Moore spoke briefly about the firm's plans for establishing a national response center on 700 acres at Pellston Regional Airport, and then took questions from the audience.

Rotarian Janice Smith, a former trainer of disaster services for the American Red Cross, said what Sovereign Deed plans to do is not significantly different from what the Red Cross has been trying to do for years.

"It sounds to me like you're selling services to people who can afford it, and in a disaster it's very difficult to differentiate who can and who cannot afford them,



FRED GRAY/NEWS-REVIEW

Barrett Moore, founder and CEO of Sovereign Deed, the private civil defense firm, addresses Petoskey's Rotary on Wednesday.

and therefore how are you going to provide?" Smith asked.

Moore responded that he respected Smith's opinion, and said he believed that both the Red Cross and the nation's emergency medical services are doing "wonderful jobs." But he said they cannot meet the demands on them during times of crisis

involving tens of thousands of people.

He said Sovereign Deed has many years of cumulative emergency medical service and disaster response experience.

"We have put together a team that is second to none. We have more experience than the federal government has in many re-

# Charlevoix's Connie Ford wins arts award

BY BENJAMIN GOHS  
CHARLEVOIX COURIER STAFF WRITER

CHARLEVOIX — Though fighting breast cancer which has spread to the bone, 67-year-old Connie Ford may still coach the Charlevoix High School performing arts program she started in 1969.

Ford, who officially tendered her resignation from Charlevoix High School and hopes to selectively coach some students as her illness will allow, has been named a 2007 recipient of the eddi award and will be honored for her decades of service by having a scholarship set up in her name.

"She was a surrogate mom for a lot of kids. Hundreds of students have gone through her program," said former student and volunteer to Charlevoix's performing arts program, Steve Kantola. "Connie has had an impact on an enormous number of people who have stayed in the community and some who have left."

He added, "She is a pure educator, a pure teacher. That's rare."

Ford will be awarded her eddi for arts in education on Friday, Sept. 14 at the Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey.

The scholarship, which will be doled to deserving performing arts students potentially in increments of \$250 or \$500, will be kicked off with a drive in the way of a dinner theater in February 2008.

"The goal is to set up a scholarship fund to honor Connie's many years of service," said superintendent of Charlevoix Public Schools Chet Janik.

Another former student of



CHARLEVOIX COURIER/FILE PHOTO

Connie Ford, Charlevoix High School performing arts teacher for 38 years, was named an eddi Award recipient. Ford is currently battling advanced breast cancer.

Ford's is Charlevoix mayor Norman Carlson Jr.

"She taught me how to speak in public. I learned debate and she taught me not to be afraid to express myself," Carlson said. "That helped me out a lot when I went to college in speeches and meeting people and in classes. I can't tell you how many classes where instructors I had knew who she was. She is so well known and well respected in the state of Michigan."

He added, "She was not only a teacher but a friend to everybody. She was always there for advice or to help. She was a very giving person and she gave her whole life to the performing arts program. So, I think it's a great thing to have a

scholarship in her name."

Kantola agreed that nearly 40 years of service to Charlevoix High School deserves some sort of recognition.

"She has been an integral part of education. The kids in her classes have garnered just about every award you can imagine in competitive speech, forensics, debate," he said. "She has flown under the radar and not ever garnered the type of accolades she is deserving, but there are so many people still in our community and those who have graduated and moved on to other things who say they would not be doing what they're doing today if not for the performing arts program: Doc-

spects," he said.

"At the end of the day we're a nation built on the concept of individual responsibility. Now I know that runs contrary to what so many people have been thinking about for the last 15 years where the people look to the federal government for the course of first response.

"This is about saving lives, and ultimately it's about changing the dialog in the country."

Former Petoskey mayor Herb Carlson said he had been caught in the Detroit riot of 1967, and commented that he thought Sovereign Deed's pre-planning is "out the window."

"When you get caught in an honest-to-God riot, there's no place to go. How many riots have you been in? Have you ever been in one?" he asked.

Moore responded: "I haven't been in a riot but I spent almost 18 months in a war zone, so I would tell you it's probably analogous. I've not actually been in a domestic riot or civil disturbance in our country."

He said Sovereign Deed is not about providing 100 percent assurance.

"No one has a perfect answer but we can create levels of awareness for individuals to not be in the wrong place at the wrong time," he said.

Moore said that in general, civil disturbances last a matter of hours, not days and are largely matters for law enforcement.

"That's not our function," Moore said. "We're dealing with true disasters that inevitably strike large groups of people in significant geographic areas."

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tors, lawyers, professional speakers and our mayor."

Carlson said, as mayor, his ability to listen is one of many important skills Ford taught him.

"She taught me how to speak, how to listen to all sides in a debate and to be able to improvise," he said. "I can't tell you how many times I got to a place and they said 'Oh, by the way, you are speaking on behalf of the city.'"

He added, "Learning how to give impromptu speeches prepared me for what I do on both sides in business I communicate with customers and as mayor trying to represent the city well."

According to Kantola, Ford's program has prepared students to compete with AA schools in cities from Ann Arbor to Detroit.

"We should honor these kids who do well and represent this community in a positive way," Kantola said. "They deserve some recognition as they move on to college and their professional lives."

Ford is among eight other educators to receive an eddi Award this year. Other recipients include June and David Otis of East Jordan for visual arts; Christopher Koury of Petoskey for performing arts; Northern Michigan Chorale for arts and cultural organization; Fran and Jim Kochensperger of Harbor Springs for arts and cultural leadership; Dale Hull of Petoskey for individual patron; Jennifer Eis and Don Ward; and Meredith Richter of Petoskey for lifetime achievement.

To donate to the scholarship call contact Kantola at (231) 675-0587 or Maureen Themm at (231) 622-3238.

### Suspected serial killer charged with Lansing killing

LANSING (AP) — A suspected serial killer was charged Wednesday with open murder in the death of a woman on the city's west side, and more charges could follow in the slayings of five other women.

Matthew Emmanuel Macon, 27, of Lansing, was ordered held without bond during his video arraignment in Lansing District Court after being named as a suspect last week.

Macon, a recent prison parolee and registered sex offender, had been in prison off and on since 2001 before being paroled in late June.

# Local gasoline prices explode overnight, again: Anyone's guess why

Motorists around Northern Michigan and around the state got a case of "sticker shock" if they pulled up to or drove by a gas station Wednesday as gas prices jumped by about 20 cents from Tuesday.

At 8:30 a.m. today, Thursday, gas prices at Petoskey-area stations were at about \$3.24 per gallon. Prices were at about \$3.04 per gallon locally on Tuesday.

AAA Michigan spokesman Jim

Rink, who tracks gas price trends and forecasts, said he was at a loss to explain what prompted the fuel price spike.

"We've been tracking a couple of refinery issues that have been affecting the Great Lakes area and there seems to be some lingering concern about hurricane activity, but I can't really point to anything," Rink said. "It doesn't seem justified."

Rink said prices elsewhere in the

state jumped by about the same degree, but were a few cents lower in some places.

The price increase comes at a time when fuel prices are typically expected to start falling as summer demand eases.

Despite this week's increase, Rink said a recent short term energy forecast by the U.S. Department of Energy called for the national average price per gallon to fall to around \$2.69 by mid-December.