

Wednesday
July 4, 2007
DAILY BRIEFING

**Notices of courts
and public places**

The Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

MARY BETH KELLY
Chief Judge, Third Circuit of Michigan

Please be advised that the Wayne County 36th District Court will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Only Criminal arraignments will be conducted.
MARYLIN E. ATKINS
Chief Judge, 36th District Court

The Wayne County Clerk's Office will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

CATHY M. GARRETT
Wayne County Clerk

Please be advised that the Wayne County Probate Court will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Wednesday, July 4, and will reopen on Thursday, July 5, at 8 a.m.

MILTON L. MACK JR.
Chief Judge, Wayne County Probate Court

Due to lack of funds in Fiscal Year 2007, the Court of Appeals will be closed on the following dates pursuant to the order of Chief Judge William C. Whitbeck:

—Wednesday through Friday, July 4-6.
Filing deadlines that fall on closure dates are extended to the next regular business day. On a closure date, call (517) 373-0786 if you have an emergency matter that must be resolved before the next regular business day.

WILLIAM C. WHITBECK
Chief Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals

**Squiggle authenticates
new state license plate**

DETROIT (AP) — Many across Michigan have been wondering: What's with that squiggle line in the middle of the new license plate?

Kelly Chesney, spokeswoman for the secretary of state, told Detroit Free Press columnist Matt Helms for a story Tuesday that the silvery squiggle mark is a security device like a watermark on a check to show that a plate is the real deal, not phony.

Michigan officials are taking precautions on drivers licenses, too. The reflective outlines of the state and the state's name in capital letters also is a fraud-fighter.

Michigan started phasing out the "Old Blue" license plates this year. The plates, which had been a standard since the early 1980s, did not have a security feature.

**Court rejects school's
appeal in T-shirt case**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Putting its recent ruling on student speech into practice, the Supreme Court last Friday rejected a school district's appeal of a ruling that it violated a student's rights by censoring his anti-Bush T-shirt.

A seventh-grader from Vermont was suspended for wearing a shirt that bore images of cocaine and a martini glass — but also had messages calling President Bush a lying drunk driver who abused cocaine and marijuana, and the "chicken-hawk-in-chief" who was engaged in a "world domination tour."

After his suspension, Zachary Guiles returned to school with duct tape covering the offending images.

Williamstown Middle School Principal Kathleen Morris-Kortz said the images violated the school dress code, which prohibits clothing that promotes the use of drugs or alcohol.

An appeals court said the school had no right to censor any part of the shirt.

Last week, the court said schools could regulate student expression if it advocated illegal drug use. Justice Samuel Alito cautioned that schools could not censor political speech.

The case is *Marineau v. Guiles*, 06-757.

INSIDE

- Calendar.....3
- City Request for Bids.....5
- Classified Ads4
- Legal Notices.....5
- Mortgages.....4



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Detroit Metropolitan Bar enjoys banquet, annual meeting

The Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association recently conducted its 171st President's Awards Banquet & Annual Meeting at the Roostertail Banquet Center.

Over 200 attendees enjoyed a pleasant evening on the Detroit River. DMBA President Raymond Carey with Foley and Lardner, and Lynn Ingram, publisher and editor-in-chief of Michigan Lawyers Weekly, hosted the gala event beginning with the Past Presidents Reception, sponsored by Robert Half Legal and BPI Consulting.

The enjoyment of the evening continued as attendees helped DMBA and Michigan Lawyers Weekly acknowledge the accomplishments of colleagues during the banquet sponsored by AT&T, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Kelly Law Registry, Detroit Legal News, Lumen Legal and Findlaw.

This year also marked the 10th Anniversary of Michigan Lawyers Weekly "Lawyer of the Year" acknowledgment.



DMBA Immediate Past President Henry B. Cooney (right) with Plunkett & Cooney P.C. took a moment to congratulate the 2007-2008 team of (left to right) DMBA President-Elect Douglas D. Hampton of Douglas D. Hampton & Associates P.C. and 2007-2008 DMBA President Raymond J. Carey with Foley & Lardner.



Among those enjoying the good conditions on the Detroit River at the DMBA banquet were (left to right) Megan K. Cavanagh of Garan Lucow Miller P.C., Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, and Reginald M. Turner Jr. of Clark Hill P.L.C.



Gathering for a photo at the banquet were past DMBA presidents (left to right) George T. Roumell Jr. with Roumell Lange & Cholack (1974-1975); Louis Theros with Dickinson Wright (2005-2006); Karen Kienbaum with Karen Smith Kienbaum & Associates (1992-1993); Charles Rutherford with Dykema (1975-1976); Margaret Costello with Dykema (2003-2004); Roger Wolcott with Law Offices of Catherine A. Gofrank (1997-1998); Barbara Rom with Pepper Hamilton L.L.P. (1995-1996); Eugene H. Boyle Jr. with Boyle Burdett (2001-2002); Carole Chiamp (1982-1983); Henry B. Cooney with Plunkett & Cooney P.C. (2006-2007); and James T. Heimbuch with Bodman L.L.P. (2004-2005).



The staff of Michigan Lawyers Weekly (MLW) and Lawyers of the Year (LOTY) posed for a shot featuring (front row, left to right) Annette Abdour (MLW account executive), Lindsay Johnson (MLW account executive), Judy Susskind (former LOTY), Elina Day (MLW ad director), and Megan Cavanagh (2006 LOTY); along with (back row left to right) Lynn Patrick Ingram (MLW publisher & editor-in-chief), Dan Saylor (former LOTY), Charlene Boccaccio (MLW account executive), Mark Stodder (executive vice president of Newspapers for Dolan Media), Molly Dilbeck (MLW news reporter), Todd Berg (MLW editor), Melissa Stewart (MLW news reporter), Brian McKeen (2006 LOTY), Jim Gross (2006 LOTY) and Jesse Reiter (2006 LOTY).
Photos by John Meiu

New state lawmakers learn to feed Capitol traditions

By TIM MARTIN
Associated Press Writer

LANSING (AP) — Whoever said there's no such thing as a free lunch didn't spend much time at the Michigan Legislature.

Lawmakers often eat for free, sometimes with grub provided by their newest colleagues. They say it's honoring a legislative tradition that new lawmakers provide their entire chamber, either the House or Senate, with a token of appreciation after getting their first bills passed.

Taxpayer money doesn't pay for the spreads, which have become more elaborate and expensive in the past few years. Lawmakers typically cover their bill-passing lunches out of their own pockets or campaign finance accounts, although sometimes they are helped with donations from culinary schools, restaurants and businesses.

It's a great deal for veteran lawmakers who passed their first bills long ago. But for a new lawmaker passing a first bill, it comes with a personal price tag that can reach or exceed \$1,000.

"Frankly, it's kind of an expensive tradition to have," said Rep. Brian Calley, a freshman Republican lawmaker from the Portland area who had the task of feeding 110 House members, plus a few dozen employees, one day last week.

Calley brought lasagna, salad and breadsticks from Portland's Wagon Wheel restaurant. He was spared providing dessert because lawmakers who had birthdays last week filled that gap with some celebratory cake.

But Calley will be on the hook for dessert at a later date.

The first-bill meals come in addition to luncheons hosted by special interest groups and other lobbyists, also a fairly common event at the Capitol. Those groups reported more than \$450,000 in food and beverage expenses lobbying lawmakers and other Michigan public officials both inside and outside the Capitol in 2006, according to online records filed with the state.

Both the House and Senate, which has 38 members, have had first-bill traditions for several decades. But expectations have risen since term limits took effect in the late 1990s, causing a steady stream of new lawmakers — and new people to provide meals — every few years.

It used to be lawmakers could get by bringing their colleagues a token from their districts. The gesture often revolved around food, such as fudge from a northern Michigan district or packets of syrup from a region rich with maple trees.

But times have changed.

Sen. Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, bought ice cream for fellow lawmakers when his first bill passed the House in the late 1990s. When his first Senate bill passed the chamber earli-

er this year, he arranged a multi-course feast catered by Monroe County Community College's culinary arts program.

The menu included beef, turkey, chicken, desserts, breakfast foods and some gourmet treats Richardville couldn't even describe, except to note they tasted good.

Sen. Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing, provided a well-received brunch with the aid of Michigan State University's Kellogg Center for her first Senate bill earlier this year. It came complete with a visit from Sparty, the university's mascot.

A few lawmakers have quietly questioned the perception, elaborateness and cost of the fancier spreads. But those same legislators — both Republicans and Democrats — note a first-bill tradition provides a good chance for members to promote their districts and get to know other lawmakers.

"You learn a little bit more about who you are working with," Richardville said. "In this era of term limits, I don't think any camaraderie building goes for naught."

Rep. Terry Brown, D-Pigeon, used his first-bill lunch as a way to show off some of the Thumb area's resources with the help of the Huron Area Technical Center and a few area businesses. The meal included bean soup, corn bread, honey, bottled water and sugar cookies in the shape of Michigan, including both peninsulas.

(See LUNCH, Page Two)

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■ **Lionel's Plan**

Lionel's sole right to file Chpater 11 plan is extended.

Page Two

■ **Love Law**

Citing little known law, man sues over lost love.

Page Three

■ **Ford Emissions**

Ford joins GM group fighting greenhouse gas emissions.

Back Page

