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WEEKENDER FRI-SAT-SUN

SEPT. 7-9, 2007 PETOSKEY, MI 49770
VOL. 132 NO. 237 • 44 PAGES • 4 SECTIONS
2 SUPPLEMENTS
75¢ NEWSSTAND

Outside

Saturday, Partly cloudy. High 72. Low 50.

See page A2

COMING MONDAY

Vegetarian fare for your next outdoor barbecue. On Monday's Food page.

Budget stalemate continues

LANSING (AP) — Hours of closed door meetings and rare displays of public pressure on Thursday failed to resolve Michigan's state government budget crisis. Page A3

U.S. troop strength at record high in Iraq; moving higher

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of U.S. troops in Iraq has climbed to a record high of 168,000 and is moving toward a peak of 172,000 in the coming weeks — a level that could extend into December, a senior military official said Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Richard Sherlock, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the increase is the result of troops rotations, as several brigades overlap while they move in and out of the war zone. Previously officials had predicted the number could go up to about 171,000.

Employers cut payrolls by 4,000 in August, the first drop in U.S. jobs in 4 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Employers sliced payrolls by 4,000 in August, the first drop in four years, a stark sign that a painful credit crunch that has unnerved Wall Street is putting a strain on the national economy. The report was much weaker than economists were expecting. They were forecasting payrolls to grow by 110,000.

Police to name missing girl's parents suspects

PORTIMAO, Portugal (AP) — The parents of a British girl who disappeared four months ago will be formally named as suspects by Portuguese police, a family friend said Friday, a shocking twist to a case that has drawn international attention.

Kate and Gerry McCann are both due to be questioned Friday over the disappearance of their 4-year-old daughter, Madeleine. Page A9.

Inside

BUSINESS	A11	OBITUARIES	A2
CLASSIFIED	B6-B13	PEOPLE	A12-A14
COMICS	C6	REAL ESTATE	D1-D6
CROSSWORD	B13	SPORTS	B1-B5
EDITORIAL	A4	TEA TABLES	B14
EVENTS	C1-C8	TV LISTINGS	C6-C7
HOROSCOPE	C6	YOUTH	C5
LOTTERY	A3		

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STEVE ZUCKER/NEWS REVIEW

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians tribal police officers Ryan Roberts (left) and Jake Guenther are two of the department's officers charged with enforcing law on tribal trust lands.

The law of the land

Can these guys arrest you? On tribal land they can

BY STEVE ZUCKER
NEWS-REVIEW STAFF WRITER

Just about any police officer

you meet will probably tell you that law enforcement can be a complex business. Understanding laws, making sure proper procedures are followed, doing oceans of paper work and piecing together investigations can be complicated. Now imagine you're an officer



SEE LAW, PAGE A8

Harbor teacher dies at 59

BY STEVE ZUCKER
NEWS-REVIEW STAFF WRITER

HARBOR SPRINGS — A "beloved and popular" teacher at Harbor Springs Middle School died while teaching on the second day of the new school year Thursday.

Harbor Springs Public Schools superintendent David Larson said middle school technology education teacher William "Bill" Miilu, 59, collapsed on the school's playground shortly after 1 p.m.



Miilu

Middle school principal Wil Cwikli said students immediately alerted other staff members who administered CPR. Paramedics from Allied EMS

SEE TEACHER, PAGE A10

Petoskey charter school hits mark

BY KRISTINA HUGHES
NEWS-REVIEW STAFF WRITER

Concord Academy of Petoskey received the fourth highest scores in the state on the Michigan Merit Exam.

"We're very excited that our students did so well, fourth in the state is something to be proud of," said Anne Scott, the assistant director of Concord Academy Petoskey. "We want the students to receive the recognition they deserve. We're proud of the students' excellent achievement."

Area juniors took the first Michigan Merit Exam last spring. The three part test replaced the MEAP (the Michigan Educational Assessment Program.) The exam includes the ACT, a nationally recognized college admittance exam, ACT Work Keys, a worker readiness assessment and the Michigan Merit test that includes components to assess Michigan curriculum not assessed by the ACT.

The test includes a college scholarship incentive. Students who meet or exceed standards on each of the tests may tap into nearly \$4,000 for college, if they maintain

Michigan Merit Exam Results

Area 2007 juniors took the first merit exam last spring. The exam is a multi-part test that includes ACT components and the Michigan Merit test which include Michigan components not assessed by the ACT.

	Math	Reading	Science	Social studies	Writing	English language
Concord Academy Petoskey	met / exceeded 84	95	74	95	72	89
	not met 16	5	26	5	28	11
Concord Academy Boyne	met / exceeded 25	56	50	69	19	31
	not met 75	44	50	31	81	69
State Standards	met / exceeded 47	60	56	83	40	51
	not met 53	40	68	17	60	49

a 2.5 grade point average in college.

Benjamin Jankens, the executive director of Concord Academy Petoskey, was more than pleased with the results. The students surpassed statewide scores, with 89 percent meeting or exceeding standards on the English language test, compared to 51 percent in the state, and 72 percent of students meeting and exceeding benchmarks for writing compared to 40

percent in the state.

Jankens believes the results show students are achieving in a nontraditional format.

"We truly believe in the integration of fine art and more of an individualized program for students fosters more creativity and ability to work on critical skills," Jankens said. "... The formula we have works. I think the test is a tes-

SEE SCORES, PAGE A10

Harbor Springs man helps fight human trafficking in Ukraine

BY LOUISE NELLE
NEWS-REVIEW STAFF WRITER

HARBOR SPRINGS — When Jason Wiser went to Ukraine in June 2006 he did not intend to stay for very long.

"I went there really on a short-term mission trip," Wiser said. "I thought it would be a great opportunity and it was something that I always wanted to do."

As the son of full-time missionaries Janice and Dale Marcum, Wiser, 36, has missionary work in his blood. So perhaps it comes as no surprise that his short-term trip turned into a long-term trip as he followed in his parents' footsteps to become a full-time missionary.

Now, the former Harbor Springs resident lives in Transcarpathia — a southwest region of Ukraine — where he and his wife, Valeriia, work with the Committee for Sexual Protection of Children in Ukraine (CSPCU).

The committee is an organization dedicated to protecting chil-



COURTESY PHOTO

Jason Wiser and his wife, Valeriia, work with the Committee for Sexual Protection of Children in Ukraine — an organization dedicated to protecting children from human trafficking and abuse.

dren from human trafficking and abuse. Although the committee

protects all children, Wiser said one of their main targets is or-

SEE UKRAINE, PAGE A15

Log On. Learn More. Live Healthy.



Northern Michigan REGIONAL HOSPITAL

UKRAINE: Group raises awareness

FROM PAGE A1

phans. "Traffickers are getting this information on when these kids get released and then they target them. We want to seal this information so it's not available," Wisner said.

He added, "It's not just Ukraine. It's all over, but we're targeting this information specifically to Ukraine."

In terms of abuse, the committee is currently creating a plan to gain access to orphanages in order to monitor what happens inside and tackle abuse where present.

Within two years, the committee will put its plan into action through awareness and education. Awareness includes prosecution, counseling and media. Education includes sexuality (both social and moral repercussions), health issues like sexually transmitted diseases and birth control.

Why the committee has spent and continues to spend time carefully planning is because they are dealing with a very complicated situation.

First, Wisner said there is the problem of entering orphanages. Many orphanages have closed doors whether they be physical or social obstructions. Children may be able to go out but outsiders may not go in — though orphanages usually welcome persons bringing supplies such as school items and clothing.

And once inside, completing social work as a teacher, doctor or missionary remains very difficult. Wisner said if an orphanage notices an outsider trying to monitor orphans that person will no longer be welcome.

Despite obstacles, though, Wisner said the situation has improved.

"More and more doors are opening and you can get in if you have the right authority and the right government backing," he said.

When the committee identifies an instance of child abuse, Wisner said they take action.

"The biggest difficulty is evidence," he said. "Look at the orphanage situation. Who is going to believe the

orphan? A lot of the time, the doctors looking for physical proof of abuse work for the orphanage."

He added that people who are able to help are sometimes connected to the person responsible for the abuse. Also, because orphanages are so close-knit, disconnecting these individuals in order to uncover the truth is not an easy task.

But in spite of all of this, Wisner said he does not want to paint a negative picture of Ukraine.

"It's a wonderful country and there are some incredibly wonderful things happening," he said.

He added, "You've got a country that had a huge political transformation from communism to democracy in 16 years. People are banding together and there's a lot of progress being made as far as demanding social reform."

To learn more about Wisner's mission, visit www.chx-fof.org/michbridge.htm.

Louise Nelle can be contacted at 439-9339, or lnelle@petoskeynews.com.

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