GOP primary debate will be held July 2 on WMU campus

The first of three primary campaign debates between Republican gubernatorial candidates Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus and Sen. John J.H. Schwartz will be held on the WMU campus Tuesday, July 2. The pair will face off at 6:30 to 8 p.m. event at a site still to be determined. The debate is sponsored by the Western Student Association and the Kalamazoo County Republican Party. Additional details will be posted on the WMU News Web site at <www.wmich.edu/news>.

Posthumus and Schwartz are opponents in the Aug. 6 primary that will determine their party’s nominee for this fall’s election of a new Michigan governor.

DeVos pediatric specialist
named director of Sinduece

Gary M. Kirk, Pediatric Program director for DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., will be the new director of the Sinduece. Interim Vice President Diane K. Swartz, Student Affairs, made the announcement.

“The leadership and communication skills, along with his passion for education and community involvement, will serve to enhance the quality of service delivered to our students, faculty and staff,” Swartz said.

Kirk, an internist, began his new duties July 15, presides over the Pediatric and Adult Asthma Network of West Michigan, which he helped found, and has taught at the University of Chicago and Michigan State University.

A licensed physician in Michigan, Arizona and Illinois, he received his doctor of medicine degree from the McGill Faculty of Medicine in 1984 and has done postgraduate training at Mt. Clemens Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich., and at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston.

New area code dialing to start

Southwest Michigan’s new area code goes live in less than a month.

The new area code, 269, will be introduced July 13. WMU’s Kalamaoo, Battle Creek and Benton Harbor campuses are included in the region that will change to the new code. The Grand Rapids campus will retain the current 616 code.

During a seven-month introductory period, callers may use either the old or new area code. Mandatory use of the 269 code is slated for Feb. 15, 2003.

David H. Smith, university relations and WMU’s director of graphics and design, recommends that University offices begin distributing materials with the new area code on Aug. 1. Remaining printed items may be used through Feb 2003, but any new or reprinted material must include the new area code. Web sites should be updated by August to reflect the change.

This is last spring News issue

This is the last full-size issue of Western News for the 2001-02 year. Publication of Western News in its traditionally smaller summer format will begin July 11, and summer issues also will appear on July 25 and Aug. 8. The deadline for each issue is 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the publication date.

WMU archaeological team finds evidence of multiple area locations for Rampstown

When a team of archaeologists from WMU was asked to help locate the site of Rampstown, the final stop on the Underground Railroad for many African Americans who fled slavery from the 1830s to 1860s, they didn’t expect to find it in more than one place.

Any signs of Rampstown, a rural enclave located near Vandalia, Mich., believed to have housed hundreds of escaped African Americans, disappeared more than a century ago. Last fall, the Michigan Historical Center and the Vandalia Underground Railroad Foundation asked Michael Nassaney, anthropology, to locate Rampstown’s site as part of a state and local effort to highlight the Underground Railroad’s role in Michigan’s history.

This spring, after eight months of preliminary research, Nassaney and students in WMU’s 2002 Archaeological Field School dug up evidence, which not only verified Rampstown’s existence, but also indicated that, contrary to popular belief, Rampstown wasn’t located at a single site. Instead, Rampstown consisted of a number of cabins and residences spread out over a wide area.

“The name ‘Rampstown’ gave the connotation that it was a very confined place, but in doing our survey we’ve found evidence that ‘Rampstown’ was probably used more as a description for the community of escaped African Americans in this area as a whole,” Nassaney explained. “Our evidence indicates that there was a pattern of distribution of the cabins of these individuals that was like the patterns you find for sharecroppers in the American South. They weren’t all located one place.”

After arriving in Michigan’s Cass County via the Underground Railroad, many escaped African Americans were given five- or 10-acre plots to farm by local Quakers in exchange for their labor clearing land for future crop harvest or harvesting crops. African Americans and their families established cabins on those plots, which most stayed for five to 10 years. Hostile environments created by raiders who came to Cass County to kidnap and take African Americans back to slavery in the South led many of them to move on to other locations such as Battle Creek, Mich., or Canada. It was only decades after the abolition of slavery before standing structural remains of Rampstown could no longer be found. Rampstown’s location also never appeared on any historical maps.

Finding Rampstown became a cause after it came to the attention of the Freedom Trail Project of the Michigan Historical Center at the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Michelle

Bedrosian gets three-year NIH grant to study communication theory

A WMU researcher has been awarded a $780,000 grant to help those with serious communication disorders communicate more effectively.

The grant has been awarded to Jan Bedrosian, speech pathology and audiology professor in the National Institutes of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Bedrosian, an internationally recognized researcher in augmentative and alternative communication—AAC—is using the grant to fund four experiments over a three-year period. Each of these experiments is designed to explore a portion of a theory of disordered communication, which Bedrosian has developed with colleagues in Kansas and Delaware.

“The theory attempts to explain and predict events associated with flawed communication,” Bedrosian says.

AAC is a branch of speech-language pathology that addresses the communication needs of people with severe speech impairments, such as those with cerebral palsy. Since these people are unable, for the most part, to communicate through speech, they must rely on other methods to express themselves to others. One such method involves the use of a special communication computer or device with voice output technology.

Although AAC users find some liberation through communication devices, they still face communication problems, especially when they are out in public and have to deal with people who are unfamiliar with their method of communication.

Bedrosian describes spoken communication as a very spontaneous and fluid behavior that follows a variety of subconscious rules in order to be considered polite conversation. People who use a communication device cannot, however, maintain a spontaneous conversation. They must decide which conversational rules to observe and which to violate. It is the outcome of these rules violations, specifically with respect to the effect on attitudes of service providers, that Bedrosian and her colleagues are investigating.

The theory Bedrosian and her colleagues are testing seeks to define which conversational rules are most important and which are less so. What they learn will help those who use communication devices, companies that design the technology for these devices and the speech-language pathologists who advise people in the use of these systems.

ACA is University’s newest aviation partner

Atlantic Coast Airlines became the University’s newest domestic partner, thanks to a bridge hiring program for pilots announced June 6 at the College of Aviation.

Jim Jennings, chief pilot with ACA, traveled from the firm’s corporate headquarters in Dallas, Va., to the college’s aviation facilities at W.V. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek to sign an agreement with college officials and interview the first candidates for the new program. The program will bring WMU students into the ACA organization as pilot interns and give them preferential hiring consideration for positions as full time officers.

Jennings selected six internship candidates during his stop in Battle Creek, and he extended job offers to three College of Aviation alumni. He told students who gathered for a brief signing ceremony that his airline expected to hire more than 400 pilots this year.

The five-year agreement between ACA and WMU also will bring new aircraft training materials to the college and will allow ACA representatives to be involved in aviation curriculum development.

“We’re tremendously pleased to add ACA to the list of airlines who have reviewed our programs and want our graduates as part of their organizations,” says Dean Gregory A. Lyman, aviation. “Agreements like this one are important indicators that the industry appreciates the quality of our programs.”

ACA, the fastest growing regional carrier in the United States, operates as United Express in the Eastern and Midwestern United States, and is Delta Connection in the Eastern United States and Canada. Atlantic Coast Airlines employs more than 4,200 aviation professionals. In May, ACA officials reported a nearly 50 percent increase in passenger traffic for the first four months of the year in comparison with the same period in 2001.
Four outstanding staff members have been chosen among 21 candidates to receive the 2002 Staff Service Excellence Annual Award, which comes with a $1,000 prize.

The winners selected by the Staff Service Excellence Awards Program Selection Committee are: Sherry K. Bate, College of Fine Arts; Ross M. Boyd, Physical Plant; Pamela D. Ross, Unified Clinics; and Kathryn A. Wright, Department of Sociology.

The prestigious award is reserved for WMU's most outstanding staff employees. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional abilities for excellence, initiative, and leadership in their positions. Winners are chosen from among the winners of the semiannual awards of the same name. The selection team includes representatives from each participating employee group: APA, PSSO, MSEAA, POA, and ASPCE.

In addition to the cash prizes, recipients will be honored at a ceremony in the Siebel Administration Building, A June 26 luncheon in their honor.

Sherry K. Bate

A WMU employee since 1965, Bate joined the University in 1971. Initially hired there as an administrative assistant, she has progressively risen through the ranks to her current post as administrative specialist.

Fifteen nominators spoke in support of Bate, praising her meticulous attention to detail. "While she is always available to answer my questions, she encourages me to learn and grow by working through problems on my own," said one colleague. "Sherry's memory verges on its procedures. "Sherry's memory verges on its procedures. "I wish we had 10 more like him," one of her colleagues said.

Bates also played a behind-the-scenes role in a variety of artistic endeavors on campus. She is an active volunteer in the University community, serving on a variety of committees within and outside the college. Bates is an effective mentor. Her position requires her to interact with countless people, and many of them have recounted how she has helped them develop their skills. "She is approachable, accessible, and knowledgeable, and she is always willing to take the time to answer my questions," said one colleague.

Nearby all her nominators commented on Bate's excellent memory and her immeasurable knowledge of the University and in process of staff and students. She is an effective mentor. Her position requires her to interact with countless people, and many of them have recounted how she has helped them develop their skills. "She is approachable, accessible, and knowledgeable, and she is always willing to take the time to answer my questions," said one colleague.

Pamela D. Ross

A member of the University staff for 10 years, Ross began her WMU career in the Specialty Programs in Alcohol and Drug Abuse. In 1994, she transferred to the University's Community Resources and Alcohol and Drug Abuse. In 1994, she transferred to the University's Community Resources and Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Her work has been impressed with someone's effort, they usually say that she gives 110 percent. One of Ross' nominators, who is a longtime friend, said that Ross gives 100 percent. Known as the first, the last, and the only female on campus, Ross has been an active volunteer in the University community, serving on a variety of committees within and outside the college. She is an effective mentor. Her position requires her to interact with countless people, and many of them have recounted how she has helped them develop their skills. "She is approachable, accessible, and knowledgeable, and she is always willing to take the time to answer my questions," said one colleague.

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Kathryn A. Wright

Before taking her current post as office coordinator in the Department of Geosciences, Wright worked as a secretary in the former Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The improvements in the geosciences office, the Wrights and director of operations, said according to her nominators. She came into the position during a difficult period. "Her positive attitude and her ability to work effectively as a team member has been instrumental in the office," one nominator said.

Wright is an individual who works behind the scenes. Her quiet, nonjudgmental demeanor combined with her competence in the completion of her job duties has earned her the respect of her colleagues and staff, write another nominator.

Wireless education, University's use of technology are engineering conference topics

The University's wireless computing technology has led to an internal expansion of the technology. The wireless technology is being used to provide access to the Internet and other resources to students and faculty, as well as to staff members and other users. The technology is being used to provide access to the Internet and other resources to students and faculty, as well as to staff members and other users.

In addition to her work as a member of the University community, Wright is an active volunteer in the University community, serving on a variety of committees within and outside the college. She is an effective mentor. Her position requires her to interact with countless people, and many of them have recounted how she has helped them develop their skills. "She is approachable, accessible, and knowledgeable, and she is always willing to take the time to answer my questions," said one colleague.

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The University will award more than 1,500 degrees during commencement ceremonies Saturday, June 29, in Miller Auditorium.

President Eison S. Floyd will preside over two ceremonies.

A 9 a.m. ceremony is set for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Aviation, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and College of Health and Human Services.

An 11:30 a.m. ceremony will be held for graduates of the Haworth College of Business, College of Education, College of Fine Arts and General University Studies program.

A total of 985 bachelor's degrees, 500 master's and specialist degrees, and 17 doctoral degrees will be awarded for a total of 1,502 degrees. Students taking part in the ceremonies will include those earning their degrees in June at the end of the spring session and those earning their degrees in August at the end of the summer session.

The University does not hold commencement ceremonies in August.

No tickets are required to attend the June commencement ceremonies. If Miller Auditorium fills to capacity, the ceremonies may be viewed on a large-screen television in 3512 Knauss Hall.

The University's cable television system, and on Kalamazoo Community Access channel 19 of the Charter Communications cable system. In addition, video of the commencement may be viewed online at the time of the ceremonies and for 30 days afterward. The Web site address is <www.wmich.edu/hr>.

On Campus with Ray Wolfram

Ray Wolfram, campus facilities director, definitely sees himself as a "big picture" person.

And as manager of campus construction and Vacation Village, he deals with people to make big plans, grow big blueprints and create big buildings.

"I love construction," says Wolfram, who works on a myriad of building projects. "I love talking with the end users, the subcontractors, the engineers and everybody else. It's a challenge, but it's one that I love."

After completing his construction management degree at Bradley University, the Pavia, Ill., native took a job with Sears & Roebuck, working with the company to build new stores. He later moved to the St. Joseph area to work in hospital construction and in 1985, joined WMU as a maintenance engineer.

In his current job of overseeing construction projects, Wolfram works with designers, contractors and others to manage construction projects from building conception down to the last piece of furniture.

"Nowadays, I'm going to be doing this minute is out is 2003," says Wolfram, who leads a staff of three project administrators and two construction management interns.

"In our work, the weather is less a factor than the academic calendar. Sometimes it can be very challenging."

The same goes for planning major projects like the $50,000-square-foot paper coating pilot plant, the three-story Donald J. Seeley Athletic Center or the new $7.5 million Community Health Sciences Building.

Wolfram's also hard at work trying to make sure WMU's Southwest Regional Center on the campus of Lake Michigan College is on schedule, while juggling a variety of campus road and parking lot projects.

After months—and in some cases, years—of being so close to various projects, Wolfram admits that it's easy to get attached to the work.

"Eventually you're all over to the physical plant, but you're never really separated from it," he explains. "There's always someone who later asks, 'Do you remember what did and which?' "

"It's a good feeling knowing that you're helping to provide answers," says the Calhoun resident who enjoys water sports and traveling with his wife, Donniece, and children, Alex and Jenna.

Human Resources

One-time pay form online

The One-Time Pay Form is now available by Aug. 1. Call K'Anna, Department personnel and authorized representatives at 7-5371 or Bob Balik at 7-5674.

Links to the form are located on the Human Resources Web page at <www.wmich.edu/hr>.

Weber to be feted today

Pat Weber, finance and commercial law, will be honored at a retirement reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. today, June 26, in Room 241 of the Speech and Hearing Center.

For more information, contact Harold Bute, audiovisual, at 7-8032 or e-mail Bute at <harold.bute@wmich.edu>.
WMU professors chronicle rise and decline of 'Black Eden' as premier Michigan resort

Forget the Hamptons. From 1912 until the mid-1960s, if you were African American, Michigan's Idlewild was the summer hot spot for arts, culture, and planning and action, say two WMU professors, it can be again.

The rise and decline of Idlewild, once a thriving resort community in Michigan's Lake County, is detailed in "Black Eden," a new book, written by Lewis Walker, emeritus in sociology, and Ben Wilson, Africana studies, and published by Michigan State University Press.

Idlewild was created in 1912 by white entrepreneurs as a resort specifically for blacks who, at the time, were barred from public places, including hotels and restaurants. It quickly became the most popular black resort in the Midwest, attracting tens of thousands of visitors at the height of a season. Among the resort's vacationers were such black luminaries as Charles Chestnut, Denmark Hill Williams, Joe Louis and W.E.B. Du Bois. Feeling Idlewild's popularity was its entertaining venues, which hosted the best black performers of the day, from Louis Armstrong and Aretha Franklin to Stevie Wonder and Bill Cosby.

Idlewild enjoyed nearly half a century of prosperity before integration and the death of pivotal civic leaders brought about the community's decline. With a testy population of approximately 500 and no gas stations or grocery stores, Idlewild is now a rural community fighting for continued existence in the face of social and economic woes. Unemployment, welfare dependency and poverty have replaced restaurants, clubs and hotels. "Idlewild is a microcosm of the larger U.S. society," says Walker. "It is emblematic of the collective history of a people who have faced instrumentally odds, yet survived; a people who have made enormous contributions to the growth and development of a nation, yet are despised by many because of the color of their skin."

Through the lens of "Black Eden," which illustrates Idlewild's historical and cultural significance and current plight, the book also examines the efforts being undertaken and still needed to help Idlewild thrive once again. "To become a 'good community,' Idlewild must accept the definitional challenge and decide what it wants to become," Walker and Wilson write in "Black Eden." "Will it be primarily a retirement community? A black resort? A black historic community?"

"It will probably be a combination of all of these," says Walker. "The book is an effort to change the focus from the historic Black community's current plight. The authors point out that a number of factors, such as the changing of daylight hours and all fly fixed wing aircraft earn points by surpassing that speed. The WMU participants have enlisted the aid this year of a weather specialist. The team, and additional support has come from the Aviation Weather Center in Kansas City, N.M., to Las Vegas, N.M.; then to Burlington, Colo.; Ponca City, Okla.; and Watertown, S.D., to拉萨, Nev. The race-the 2002 Air Race Classic-opened in New Mexico for the start of the race. After arriving in New Mexico to familiarize themselves with the race, Glison and Homister flew the planned course in reverse to familiarize themselves with the terrain to be covered. They raced their planes from Silver City, N.M., to Las Vegas, N.M.; then to Boulder, Colo.; Ponce City, Okla.; Hot Springs, Ark.; Fayetteville, Tenn.; and Winsoboro, S.C.; before finishing in Chesapeake/Portsmouth, Va.

For a map of the race routes, go to <www.faa.gov/NTAP/NTAP2002/SP02019.HTM>. For more information about the 99s and the air race, go to www.marys-fares.org/cry麸/w.html.

Women aviators make third try at MXU's 100-mile Air Race Classic

Two WMU women aviators took off June 18 on a more than 100-mile air race that dates back to the days of Amelia Earhart. The race—the 2002 Air Race Classic—began June 18 in Silver City, N.M., and will conclude tomorrow, June 21, in Chesapeake/Portsmouth, Va.

This is the third consecutive year WMU aviators have entered the all-women event that first was held in 1929 as the Women's Air Derby. Amelia Earhart was the first president of the 99s, the organization that began the race. The event is made up of two-person teams from around the nation. This year, 40 teams are registered to compete in the event.

The WMU team is composed of senior Michelle Ultman, an aviation flight science major from Byron, Ill., and Michelle Homister, a flight instructor in the College of Aviation and a 2001 graduate of the University's aviation program who was a member of the 2001 Air Race Classic team. The pair is flying a sophisticated Mooney aircraft in this year's race. The Kelllogg Co. of Battle Creek is sponsoring the team, and additional support has come from AeroSonic Aviation, Oxygen Systems.

Entrants fly under visual flight rules during daylight hours and all fly fixed wing aircraft. Since many types of planes are used to compete in the race, each pilot is given a handicap in ground speed, and aviators earn points by surpassing that speed. The WMU participants have enlisted the aid this year of a weather specialist in Georgia who will be able to help them find the best tailwinds over the course of the race. Before arriving in New Mexico for the start of the race, Glison and Homister flew the planned course in reverse to familiarize themselves with the terrain to be covered.

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National stone quilt comes to Unified Clinics event tomorrow

A quilt representing the stories of 35 stone survivors from around the nation will be on display at 1 p.m. tomorrow, June 21, at WMU's Unified Clinics in the University Medical and Health Sciences Center at 1000 Oakland Drive.

The quilt, which is 5' high by 10' wide, hangs in the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's National Center in Detroit. It is being shown at various locations around Michigan this spring and summer. Its afternoon at the Unified Clinics is the final visit it will make during the quilt's three-week stop in Kalamazoo.

The WMU appearance is planned in conjunction with WMU's Aphasia Awareness Month readings that also begin at 1 p.m.