

**IN BRIEF**

**GRAND RAPIDS**

## Inspection Tuesday for Int. 96 bridge

Traffic on Int. 96 over the Grand River will be narrowed Tuesday for bridge inspection, the state Department of Transportation said. The state plans to close the left lane on the eastbound side and the right lane on the westbound side over the river between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., weather permitting.

**GRAND RAPIDS**

## Main breaks bring floods

Water crews again were busy Sunday fixing another water main break, this one a block north of a more significant downtown break Saturday. The break on Saturday at the northeast corner of Fulton Street and Ionia Avenue caused some street flooding, and water seeped into some basements near the break, but the problem was fixed by Sunday morning. Crews were called out again on Sunday, however, after a smaller break on Ionia near Monroe Center NW. No businesses or residents were without water because of the break. Joellen Thompson, acting city water manager, said Sunday's break was difficult to repair because it was next to a natural gas main, steam line and phone cable.

**ZEELAND TOWNSHIP**

## 100 gallons of gas spills

A gasoline spill that sent an estimated 100 gallons of fuel rolling across a gas station's parking lot early this morning likely did not reach any creeks or streams, fire officials said. The 7 a.m. spill at the Family Fare station at 96th Avenue and Riley Street occurred as a fuel tanker was filling underground tanks at the station. Zeeland Township Fire Chief Gordon Van Haitsma said one of the underground tanks overflowed. Fire crews blocked off the station this morning and were using an absorbent and special rags to clean up the gas from snow piles and puddles in the parking lot.

## Bond vote won't raise tax bills

Rising property values increase school district's cash

BY MATT VANDE BUNTE  
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

WYOMING — Wyoming school district voters will decide on another bond request Tuesday, but this one will not add to or extend the taxes they pay.

"It will not cost our taxpayers one cent," said Harry Hudson, Board of Education president.

The reason for this dates to 1997, when district voters approved 3.72 mills to add classrooms, technology and buses.

Since that approval, property values in the district have skyrocketed past original estimates — largely because of construction along M-6 connector and the Metro Health Village development.

Administrators find themselves needing to ask approval to spend money from a millage due to expire in 2023. They are asking voters to approve spending \$15.2 million.

On Tuesday's ballot is a proposal for new technology, 13 school buses and repairs and added security for district buildings.

"All we're asking for is the 'meat and potato' things," Superintendent Jon Felske said. "The things we're looking to replace are things we use every day."

Felske said break-ins earlier this month at Jackson Park Middle

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# Accident on slick road kills driver

## WOMAN LOSES CONTROL OF CAR, SLIDES INTO PATH OF SPORT-UTILITY VEHICLE

BY JOHN TUNISON  
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

GAINES TOWNSHIP — At 23, Rachael Morrison was looking forward to a career in medicine as she studied at Grand Rapids Community College.

"She was thinking about going into radiology," her father, Bruce, said today, devastated after learning his daughter died in a Gaines Township car crash Sunday afternoon.

"She was very outgoing and had a lot of friends," he said, describing her as a popular young woman who was active in sports in her teen years at South Christian High School. She graduated in 2002.

Police said slick roads Sunday contributed to the crash on 100th Street SE near Hanna Lake Avenue.

Kent County sheriff's deputies



Rachael Morrison

said Morrison, of Byron Center, was driving east on 100th Street when she lost control of her Dodge Stratus about 3:15 p.m. and slid sideways into the path of a GMC Jimmy, west of Caledonia.

The collision crushed the driver's-side door of Morrison's car.

The driver of the SUV, Laurie Timmerman, 50, of Middleville, was in serious condition this morning at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus with a head injury and some fractures.

Sunday's crash came amid a flurry of other slide-offs, crashes and roll-over incidents on area roads as

SEE ACCIDENT, B2



PRESS PHOTO/JON M. BROUWER

Dangerous conditions: Damaged vehicles sit along 100th Street SE, west of Caledonia, after Sunday's crash.

## TO OUR SOLDIERS, WITH LOVE



PRESS PHOTO/ERIN MASH

Grand Rapids residents Cindy Hodges and Steve Wodarek prepare care packages as part of "Treats for our Troops," an event hosted by American Legion Post 459 in Grand Rapids. Volunteers gathered Sunday to put together 125 care packages for local troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Items for the packages were donated by local businesses and individuals.

## EMU's silence angers students

Complaints rise after man charged in December killing of woman from Hastings

BY NARDY BAEZA BICKEL  
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

YPSILANTI — After Laura Dickinson's body was found in her dorm last December, Eastern Michigan University security officials began reviewing video surveillance, looking for clues as to how the 22-year-old student from Hastings died.

What they saw worried them. Consistently, students were leaving dorm doors open and letting strangers into the residence hall after hours.

On Sunday, university staff, safety officers and housing administrators spoke to about 50 students and a handful of parents to discuss safety and tell them about murder charges filed in Dickinson's death in her Hill Hall room.

Students posted criticism of the university on Internet blogs, saying administrators kept students in the dark until Friday, when student Orange Amir Taylor III, 20, of Southfield, was arrested and charged with murder and criminal sexual conduct.

"From the student's perspective, all we were told was that there were 'hints' or suspicions of violence, but nothing for sure," said student Kayla Potter, who said she would have liked more information on the investigation. "Then we found out that they had arrested a suspect two months later."



Laura Dickinson



Orange Amir Taylor III

Administrators had said Dickinson's death had been looked into, but it didn't become a murder investigation until evidence came back from a lab Friday.

University Ombudsman Gregory Peoples said in the future, students will be told when there is an active investigation.

SEE EMU, B2

# Tribe calling for state compact

Michigan could lose jackpot if federal deal imposed, Indian leaders say

BY DAVE MURRAY  
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

WAYLAND — Gun Lake Tribe leaders say a court victory they believe paves the way for a new casino should spark Gov. Jennifer Granholm to negotiate a gaming compact, or else the state risks being cut out of any proceeds.

A federal judge Friday rejected all four counts of a lawsuit opponents hoped would block the U.S. Interior Department from placing land into trust for the tribe, a key move toward a casino.

The ruling allows the government to place 146 acres near U.S. 131 in Wayland Township into the trust unless a group called Michigan Gambling Opposition wins a planned appeal.

John Helmholdt, spokesman for the group, said he expected attorneys to file a motion today asking a judge to prevent the land from being taken into trust while an appeal is pending.

Granholm spokeswoman Liz Boyd on Sunday said Granholm is aware of the court decision.

"We have been in regular communication with the Gun Lake Tribe," she said. "And we are carefully working on a course of action that will result in the best interests of the

SEE TRIBE, B2

**MORE**

■ Station Casinos accepts \$5.5 billion offer, B4.

# Landlord hailed for lead cleanup in apartments

Federal grants help property owners get rid of hazard

BY JIM HARGER  
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS — Landlord James Loftis estimates he has used a federal grant program to remove the lead poisoning hazards from nearly 30 of his rental units.

His apartments might be safer for kids as a result, but Loftis said he has reasons of his own.

"I think in the end, it's just good business," said Loftis, who was named "Rental Property Owner of the Year" on Saturday by the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan.

"If I can use this grant money to make my properties more attractive, I was all for it. There are a lot of vacancies around town, and I don't really have that many," said Loftis, who said he rents out about 70 units in the city.

Paul Haan, project coordinator for Healthy Homes Coalition, said Loftis was honored for being one of

SEE LANDLORD, B2

**Fixer-upper:** James Loftis stands in front of a rental house he owns on Bates Street SE. The Healthy Homes Coalition has honored Loftis for his efforts to remove lead from his properties.



PRESS PHOTO/LANCE WYNN