



Head for Holland's annual celebration of Dutch heritage. **The Weekend, page 4**

FINAL ON THE OUTSIDE



SPORTS

Big Brown doesn't have a favorable post position, but he's the favorite in Saturday's Kentucky Derby. **D1**

NATION | WORLD
HISPANIC
POPULATION
TRENDS UP **A3**

REGION
SCHOOL RESISTS
MERGER TALK **B1**

BUSINESS
GREENHOUSE
CELEBRATES
95 YEARS **C1**

**Advice,
TV, Comics**
For life lessons, listings
and laughs, look inside
Region B9-B11

COMING UP
Friday: Check out the
review of "Iron Man"
in Your Life.



HUNGRY?

Digest recent Press restaurant reviews to choose a place to dine www.mlive.com/grpress

THE GAS GAUGE

Average price of regular unleaded gasoline in greater Grand Rapids

\$3.74

High: \$3.75 Low: \$3.61

GALLON OF DIESEL

High: \$4.34 Low: \$4.09

Prices reported this morning on grandrapidsgasprices.com

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Ada to Zeeland... **B5** Lottery..... **A2, C4**
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Deaths..... **B6** Weather..... **C4**
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Union role stirs GRPS board race

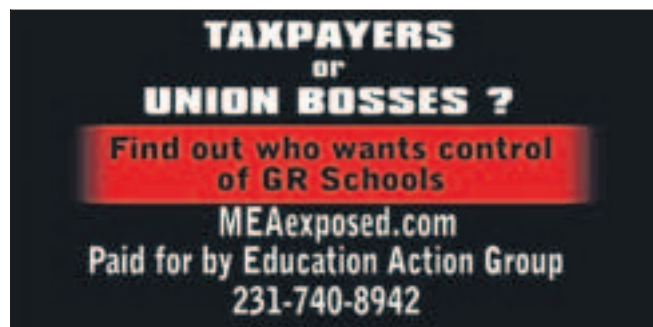
TEACHERS' INVOLVEMENT IS CAMPAIGN ISSUE

BY DAVE MURRAY
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS — A year after two incumbents ran unopposed, the race for the Grand Rapids school board features seven candidates, a billboard, slick Web sites and mailings, and an outside group extending help to

people who did not ask for it. Shows what a little labor unrest can do.

Drivers along U.S. 131 today will see a billboard reading, "Taxpayers or union bosses: Find out who wants control of GR schools," paid for by the Education Action Group, Muskegon-based activists who are critical of



Outside influence: This billboard message was paid for by a Muskegon-based group critical of teacher unions. The group also is mailing a brochure to Grand Rapids households.

MORE

- A look at the candidates, **A2**
- Who is the leading fundraiser? **A2**

teachers unions.

The EAG has a similar anti-union message — this time with a photo of a cigar-chomping tough guy — that should hit residential mailboxes before Tuesday's election.

That follows a series of mailings from the Grand Rapids Education Association, which is embroiled in a contract dispute with the district and loud debates over school safety. The GREA is recommending three candidates, who its leaders say are not union plants but people with open minds.

Candidates say they worry the continuing drama with the union and Superintendent Bernard Taylor is over-

SEE UNION, A2

PROM DATE PROPOSALS: CREATIVITY COUNTS



PRESS PHOTO/KATY BATDORFF

Rowing to romance: Matt Crain asked Sara Cadwallader to go to Lowell High School's prom with him by hanging a sign from the railroad bridge across the Grand River in downtown Lowell. Both were in the same eight-person boat during crew practice last week when they rowed under the sign. Sarah said yes.

How to ask date to prom? Let us count the ways

Students use wild, attention-grabbing ways to pop the question

BY KYM REINSTADLER
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

There's no benefit to being shy or boring when asking a girl to prom, Lowell student Matt Crain believes. And he's not alone.

Finding creative ways to ask a date to the prom is becoming part of the culture at some high schools. Strategies include displaying an invitation on a strategically placed sign, tucking it into a favorite publication or painting it on a garishly decorated car.

In Lowell, Crain hung a 5-foot-by-3-foot sign from a railroad trestle



- Upload your prom photos and see more prom coverage and tips at mlive.com/prom
- **VIDEO:** Watch prom proposals at the "Geek Guide" Web log.

over the Grand River to ask crew teammate Sara Cadwallader to the May 16 prom.

"Some other girls suggested it when I said I wanted to ask Sara,"

said Crain, a junior. "But I take credit for actually doing it."

Cadwallader, in an eight-person boat that included Crain, said she could not have been more surprised when the coxswain stopped under the sign and wouldn't continue until Crain stopped laughing and said yes.

Many students attend prom with a group of friends. But for those who want a date, students say asking in a cute or clever way makes it harder for someone to say no. Teens who need inspiration find help on Web sites with ideas on setting the stage for a Cinderella moment.

Rockford High senior Robert Banaszak said his goal was to be "not so normal" when he painted a charming invitation on the windows of Ashley Ek's maroon Malibu and decorated it with balloons, bows and streamers.

Trouble was, it wasn't Ek's car. She parked in another lot that day.

SEE PROM, A8

Granholtm recovery to take 3 weeks

Governor in 'good spirits'
after bowel surgery

BY PETER LUKE
PRESS BUREAU

LANSING — Gov. Jennifer Granholtm faces a week in the hospital and up to two more weeks of recovery at home following the removal of a total obstruction in her small intestine.

"She's in pretty good spirits. Her pain is being managed. She's up and around and moving as the doctors want us to do," her husband, Dan Mulhern, said Wednesday at the Sparrow Hospital complex where the surgery was performed. "She's fine."

Dr. Timothy McKenna, the operating surgeon, said the obstruction stemmed from a surgical repair to an intestinal injury Granholtm suffered in a 1993 car accident in Washington, D.C.

McKenna said that repair weakened and the bowel twisted around itself.

Tuesday evening's surgery involved removing a "short section" of the small intestine, he said.

Granholtm was 72 hours from boarding Wednesday's scheduled flight to Tel Aviv for a weeklong business recruiting trip in Israel and Kuwait when the symptoms hit. Liz Boyd, Granholtm's spokeswoman, said the trip will be rescheduled.

McKenna said had the symptoms flared during the flight, it "could have been an emergency-type" situation.

Mulhern said the 49-year-old governor was feeling poorly before attending Sunday's NAACP dinner in Detroit. Granholtm kept a full schedule Monday but didn't sleep Monday night. Still feeling ill with flulike symptoms Tuesday morning, Granholtm underwent an examination and CT scan that revealed the obstruction.

Boyd said well-wishers should feel free to send cards but not flowers.



Jennifer Granholtm

E-mail Peter Luke at pluke@boothnewspapers.com

Honesty, good fortune combine to reward Scout's honor

BY TOM RADEMACHER
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

A Boy Scout is loyal, helpful, friendly and, in the case of 11-year-old scout J.R. Bouterse, about 30 bucks richer. All supporting the adage that what goes around, comes around.

If you missed Tuesday's front-page news, J.R. is the Scout from Allegan County who made international headlines for his decision to return a wallet he found containing more than \$800.

He figured he should do the right thing but also acted out of empathy,

because he had recently lost his own wallet in a park near the same Dorr church where he discovered fast-food manager Jessica Cutler's cash.

"I knew exactly how she felt," J.R. said of Cutler's pain.

And now he knows exactly how it feels to be reunited with something lost, thanks to an Allegan County two-some who read Tuesday's story and realized they had J.R.'s wallet.

Nancy Bosse, 56, and granddaughter Rachael Bosse, 6, attended the same Easter egg hunt that J.R. observed, and they stayed after to play in the park.

"We were there longer than anyone else," Nancy said. "And as we were leaving, we both saw something on the ground."

The kindergartner's first words? "How are we going to get this wallet back to the person, Grandma?"

J.R.'s wallet contained no ID — only about \$30 (some \$15 less than he had thought) and a makeshift "credit card" he uses to access a home-based bank



J.R. Bouterse

account designed to teach him about saving, giving and spending.

Nancy Bosse decided to turn the wallet over to an area bank, instructing it to direct the cash to next year's Easter egg hunt if no one claimed it.

But as she read of J.R.'s find — and loss — on Mlive.com, she figured she and Rachael had the Scout's stash. A phone call confirmed it.

"That's our community," said J.R.'s mother, Michelle, lauding the actions of Bosse and her granddaughter.

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