

FUNERAL FUND-RAISER: A fund-raising concert is scheduled Sunday to help pay for the funeral of Matthew Landry, the 21-year-old Chesterfield Township man found shot dead last week in Detroit. The benefit is to be held at the Emerald Theatre in Mt. Clemens from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. The event is \$20 per person and includes food, soft drinks and live entertainment. Landry's funeral service is to be at 9:30 a.m. today at St. Michael Catholic Church in Sterling Heights.



Matt Landry

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19, 2009 WWW.FREEP.COM 3A

Detroit Free Press

METRO

112-222-6400 localnews@freepress.com

State prison still seeks inmates

Gitmo opponents to speak at town hall

By JOHN CHRISTOPHER
and MARGALIN SHAW
 FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

Now that California is no longer interested, Michigan's prison in Standish is open to federal inmates — other than detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba — or those from other states, Gov. Jennifer Granholm said Tuesday.

State Corrections Director Patricia Caruso has lobbied the head of federal prisons to use the maximum-security facility in Standish for federal prisoners, said Russ Marlan,

spokesman for the Department of Corrections.

And Granholm said she'll continue to solicit Pennsylvania — and other states — to send their excess prisoners to Michigan.

Meanwhile, the possible transfer of Guantanamo detainees to the Standish prison continues to roll political waters. Opponents of a so-called Gitmo North plan to voice their objections Thursday at a town hall meeting in Standish, where the looming closure of the prison and loss of 280 jobs

would be a sharp economic blow.

Granholm ordered the prison closed in July to cut costs, but it has been kept open with hopes the state could entice other states to send prisoners, thereby bringing in money and maintaining those local jobs.

But California prison officials told Caruso on Monday the Standish prison would be too expensive and lacked the needed medical facilities. Federal officials met with Standish residents last week after they toured the prison.



Standish Mayor Kevin King. "The economic stimulus that would bring to our area would be immeasurable," King said.

But the notion of housing the Guantanamo prisoners, and possibly exposing the community to terrorist attacks, continued to stir concerns, Granholm said Tuesday. But federal officials haven't answered safety concerns over housing the detainees.

"I'm worried more about the bigger implications of having a facility like that in Michigan," she said.

A SOURCE CLOSE TO GRANHOLM'S OFFICE SAID SHE WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, SAID

Lapeer Man's body is recovered from lake

ELBA TOWNSHIP

The body of a 62-year-old Lapeer physician who apparently drowned Sunday while swimming in Lake Nipissing in Elba Township was recovered Tuesday.

Dr. James McLain of the Lapeer County Sheriff's Office said Antonio Altomare was swimming off a pontoon boat about 1:45 p.m. when he went under. A relative jumped in but couldn't find him.

Ingham I-96 is to go down to 1 lane for 2 projects

LANSING

The Michigan Department of Transportation said Tuesday it will kick off two projects totaling more than \$17 million on Monday between U.S. 427 and M-52 in eastern Ingham County.

The work includes a reworking of I-96 between Meridian Road near Meridian Township and M-52 near Webberville and the first segment of a two-year reconstruction between College Road near Lansing and Meridian Road.

MCTT spokeswoman Kari Amond said all lanes will be open during both days and Michigan State University home football games. But otherwise, the freeway will be down to one lane each way between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Lenox Township Landfill issues create a stink

Neighbors say the smell is suffocating

By STEVE HEALING
 FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Living a mile from the state's largest landfill, Frank Helleboeck said the stench from garbage and methane gas is so suffocating that he has trouble breathing.

The 66-year-old often covers his mouth and nose with a handkerchief when he leaves his house and is among a growing number of residents complaining about the earth shaking from methane in the ground.

Fedup, Helleboeck joined a class-action filed Tuesday against Waste Management, the operator of Pine Tree Acres in Lenox Township.

The suit claims the landfill emits noxious fumes, chemicals, particles and odors that are dangerous to residents living within a mile of the 450-acre dump.

"On hot and foggy days, the smell is so bad you want to crawl in a hole," Helleboeck said. "It's terrible that we have to live like this."

The Pine Tree Acres is a sore topic for residents because it's the biggest importer of Canadian trash, with 80% of garbage coming from across the border, according to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

"That Waste Management toxic itself on its Web site as being green and working to make air pollution a thing of the past, while allowing these intolerable conditions to plague the community year after year is the height of hypocrisy," said plaintiff attorney Mark Roseman.

Waste Management declined to comment Tuesday, saying the firm doesn't discuss litigation.

The township has received numerous complaints about the ground rumbling near the landfill. Township officials said methane gas is causing the ground to occasionally tremble like a small earthquake.

"I would have never moved here if I knew it would be this bad," Helleboeck said of the landfill. "It keeps getting worse and worse."

CONTACT STEVE HEALING AT 313-222-6400 OR HEALING@FREEPRESS.COM

During 100 days in office, Detroit's mayor has shaken up much, angered many — and earned some approval, too



Robert Bobb, left, Detroit Public Schools emergency financial manager, talks with Mayor Dave Bing on Monday at a meeting about school safety. In his first 100 days in office, Bing has gone to battle over the budget and been questioned over his firing of the police chief.

BING UNDERGOES BAPTISM BY FIRE

By SUZETTE MACKAY
 FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

In his first 100 days in office, Mayor Dave Bing has battled with unions over salary reductions and concessions. He has drawn fire for dumping a highly admired police chief and handing another one. He has dove into the city's hemorrhaging budget.

Though some may question his firing of former Chief James Berman, at least one political consultant gives Bing praise for

his selection of Warren Brown as the new chief.

"Warren understands what the crime game is about," said Adolph Mough. Bing has been knocked about for suggesting that some city jobs, such as payroll and tax collection, be privatized, and some has routes to trimmed or eliminated.

"I think he's about to totally destroy city services," said Lennox Wilson, chairman of the presidents of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal

Employees locals that represent city workers.

Bing has had to overcome a learning curve — he's not a politician and had no knowledge of the inner workings of city government.

"He's giving it his level best, and once someone gives you their best, there's not much more you can ask for," said John Gueh, president of the nonprofit Motor City Right Riders.

BING'S FIRST 100 DAYS: 5A

Budget crunch State Fair set to open, but future remains unclear

By JOHN WISLEY
 FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Michigan State Fair motto is "Where memories are made," and fair officials said Tuesday they are working hard to make sure the fair itself remains more than just a memory.

Organizers acknowledge an uphill fight to save the nation's oldest state fair. In February, Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced the state would no longer cover shortfalls. But a recent state house bill would restore fair funding, and the senate is likely to take it up, said Mark Gaffney, president of the state AFL-CIO and chair of the fair board.

"We have a great tradition here and we intend to keep traditions for many more years to come," Gaffney said. Granholm wants the historic fairgrounds redeveloped

to bring jobs to Michigan, and Gaffney said a compromise is possible.

"There are ways to redevelop it, including ways that would allow the fair to continue," Gaffney said, adding that a public/private partnership is one possibility.

Despite its ill fate, this year's fair will be the "biggest and best ever." General Manager Robert Porter said. It offers live live entertainment every night including Gospel-fest, award country acts and bands like Sawyer and Billy Squier. A new midway company is to offer 50 rides, the popular Miracle of Life exhibit returns and exhibits of Michigan-grown food including urban agriculture are to be included.

Porter drove to Lansing early Tuesday to make a presentation to Granholm and her cabinet. He said they were receptive without committing to anything in the future.

"Unless we get a legislative appropriation, we can't start planning the 2010 fair," Porter said.

CONTACT JOHN WISLEY AT 313-222-6400 OR WISLEY@FREEPRESS.COM

St. Clair River Red dye to aid in knowledge of water flow

Red dye is being released into the St. Clair River this week to aid in understanding the speed and direction of the water flow. The information will be used to help with chemical spills and search and rescue.

The Great Lakes Observing System will release Rhodamine WT near Sarnia, Ontario, and then track its flow. The dye will be a reddish pink but will dissipate as it travels downstream.

Statewide ACT average score down over 2008

Like their peers nationwide, Michigan students' scores on the ACT exam didn't show improvement over 2008. For the Class of 2009 in Michigan, the average composite score was a 23.6, out of 36 points.

The national composite score was 23.1, according to results being released today by the ACT.

COMPILED FROM REPORTS BY JOHN WISLEY, MARK HEALING, STEVE HEALING AND SUZETTE MACKAY FOR FREEPRESS.COM