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### LATEST MICHIGAN NEWS



Jobs, city improvements, healing highlight Kilpatrick address

"In the daily press of events, in the midst of foreclosures, joblessness, Iraq and Afghanistan, presidential politics, hatred and racism, and even the Kwame Kilpatrick roller coaster ride, sometimes we may not see our own time for what it truly is," Kilpatrick said in prepared remarks. "Tonight, we are at the dawn of a new, transformed Detroit."

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monday, March 10, 2008

Are we really saving money by going `green`?

I'm trying to do my part in the ``green'' movement by dialing down my thermostat, but I get the feeling that we are in a lose-lose situation when it comes to energy use and saving money.

When we cut back usage to save energy, the energy companies, in order to make a profit, increase what they charge us. So, in the end, we pay more but are using less.

Somehow, that feels like we're on the wrong end of the stick.

Nancy Crowell

Mattawan

Support equal parenting measures in Legislature

It is time for Michigan to recognize and for citizens to demand there be a fundamental right to parent your children within the state's constitution and family law. To this end, I implore everyone to actively support both the ``parental rights'' resolution and House Bill 4564, the ``equal parenting bill."

Children are a part of the family and they have the right to the love of both of their parents and their extended family, too. Allowing the state, without due process of law through the courts and government child welfare bureaucracies, to interrupt the child-parent relationship has destroyed many childhoods and caused untold damage to our society.

Parents should have the right to decide how their children are educated and medicated as long as there is no clear evidence that these choices will seriously harm their children. Demonstrating to children that the family is important by making sure that both parents and the entire family are respected will give children the courage to have a family of their own.

In divorce cases, the state is allowed, through the supposed best interest of the child criteria, to pressure most fathers to relinquish custody to the mother or be denied custody in court because they want to create winners and losers instead of promoting joint custody.

HB 4564 and the resolution will help ensure that children will have the stability and love of both of their fit, willing and able parents.

Darrick Scott-Farnsworth

Executive Director, A Child's Right Augusta

Patience was missing

in driving encounter

What kind of man shows road rage against a female?

Driving home on Feb. 11, I encountered a person like this. I was waiting for traffic to clear so I could turn onto East H Avenue. I guess I wasn't moving fast enough for the man driving a vehicle behind me.

He pulled out behind me and cut me off. The roads weren't cleared and were still icy. I honked my horn at him for making such a stupid move. He then stopped his vehicle on the road, got out and started walking toward me.

Are people so angry they can't wait their turn?

Anna Perkins

Kalamazoo

Zoning ordinances may disenfranchise mentally ill

I am the chief executive officer of Let's Talk About It Community Mental Health Services, a company that serves the needs of individuals within our community with various mental health histories. We provide housing and other services to our customers with the support of Kalamazoo's Community Mental Health and social service agencies.

We are currently dealing with the city of Kalamazoo's Zoning Board with regard to housing inequities for the impoverished and mentally ill within the city of Kalamazoo. There is an attempt to legislate equal access to housing via Kalamazoo's zoning ordinances, which would disenfranchise the mentally ill who don't prefer adult foster care housing but seek traditional housing with support services.

I write to make it known that our business will be a voice for the voiceless and an advocate for the disenfranchised in this community because politics, bureaucracy and current ordinances don't necessarily take into account the best interests of ALL residents.

Eliakim Thorpe

Nazareth

Demand that Upton back green technology

On Jan. 17, U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, the top Republican on the critical House subcommittee for Energy and Air Quality signaled he would not support a global warming bill that would put mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

Rep. Upton's comments were a major departure from his so-called environmentalism, and showed signs the representative was neither serious nor strong on climate change solutions.

In fact, Upton went as far as to say that spending trillions of dollars and losing a countless number of jobs, to possibly alter temperatures by a fraction, while China and India continue to spew emissions is not the option for America.

Unfortunately, Rep. Upton could not be more incorrect in his comments on loss of jobs and China and India. According to studies done by the United Steelworkers, and the Union of Concerned Scientists, Michigan alone will benefit immensely from a green economy.

According to the report, Michigan can see the creation of more than 34,777 manufacturing jobs as a result of investments for 185,000 megawatts of energy from renewable sources like wind, solar and geothermal. The report concludes that counties like Kalamazoo (\$106.2 million in new investments) can be revitalized, thus creating a movement toward the green sector.

As Rep. Upton's constituents, we should be demanding he do something for the sake of Michigan's economy and the future of our planet. It is time the representative begins to listen to the scientists and experts and put Michigan and America on a new path toward green jobs. Call Rep. Upton's Washington office (202) 225-3761) and demand he be a leader and support clean and renewable energy.

Duane Parker

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