

KALAMAZOO GAZETTE



PREP FOOTBALL RESULTS SPORTS/B1

Paw Paw	23(OT)	Lakeshore	24
Otsego	20	Portage Northern	16
Parchment	50	Mattawan	35
Kalamazoo Christian	0	Niles	21
Kalamazoo Central	32	Loy Norrix	25
Portage Central	22	Coldwater	8

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Signs of bipartisanship in comments of Obama, Upton?

LOCAL/A2

Allegan County Fair opens; entertains for 159 years

LOCAL/A2

WHEN IT RAINS, FRESHMEN INNOVATE



GAZETTE/JONATHON GRUENKE

Incoming freshmen Cecilia Gasca, 18, left, and Savannah Carrington, 18, both from Decatur, laugh while wearing buckets to keep dry as rain pours down Friday afternoon during Bronco Bash on the campus of Western Michigan University. The football team will be in action at home at 7 p.m. today for the CommUniverCity game against Nicholls State University.

Local horse contracts deadly disease

OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE CASE IS ISOLATED

BY ROSEMARY PARKER
KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

RICHLAND — Thanks to a conscientious horse owner here, health officials are hopeful that a deadly equine disease has been stopped in its tracks after its first victim.

Tests confirmed Wednesday that the 23-year-old mare, Justa Sailin', put down Sept. 1, had the much-feared equine herpesvirus-1 myeloencephalopathy, EHV-1, the virus that spread across six Western states and killed 13 horses in May and June.

That outbreak resulted in canceled shows, costly quarantines and testing, and national worry among horse owners. It was linked to the spring weekend National Cutting Horse Association Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah, where U.S. Department of Agriculture figures show a total of 421 horses were potentially exposed. In all, 1,685 other horses were considered subsequently exposed when horses from the show returned to their home states or mingled at other shows.

But when the horse in Richland got sick last week, even before a diagnosis was confirmed, her owner, Betsy Rohr Hoyt, initiated precautions just in case.

And that, veterinarians said, makes all the difference.

Show horses, including Hoyt's, are routinely vaccinated against the garden variety equine herpes virus that can make them very sick with respiratory illness. But there is no vaccination to protect against the occasional virus mutation that attacks the animal's central nervous system and leads to almost certain death, said James Connell of Town and Country Veterinary Hospital in Allegan, who



PHOTO COURTESY BETSY ROHR HOYT

Confirmed case: Tests confirmed that Justa Sailin', a 23-year-old mare put down Sept. 1, had EHV-1. Officials believe the case was isolated because of the horse owner's careful precautions.

treated the horse.

For now, the only protection is to isolate animals that have the disease, keeping home all animals that might have had any contact with a stricken horse and taking extraordinary measures to prevent any germs from leaving the farm, he said.

In his case, that meant a shower, a change of clothes and the purchase of new shoes when the requisite bleaching ruined the pair he had worn on calls to the farm last week to treat the animal.

In Hoyt's case, it meant forgoing an end-of-the-year show with a seemingly healthy hunter-jumper from another farm, days before lab tests came back showing that EHV-1 was responsible for her mare's death.

Hoyt went into voluntary quarantine mode, taking stringent sanitation steps.

"I just finished bleaching everything yesterday," Hoyt said Friday.

SEE HORSE, A4

Allegan in talks to decrease taxes

City thriving; committee will examine lowering millage rate

BY ROD SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

ALLEGAN — The city of Allegan is contemplating doing something unusual: voluntarily lowering its taxes. "I'm not aware of any city in any

part of the country that is talking about the potential of rolling back taxes," Mayor Mike Morton told the city council Thursday.

Mayor pro tem Ed Kowalski agreed. "There may be opportunities for us to put some money back in taxpayers' pockets," Kowalski said. Allegan, he said, had been fortunate to keep functioning as a normal city in a bad economy.

Unlike most places, the city of Allegan is doing relatively well during the

recession. Although there have been some setbacks, such as the closing of the Haworth plant, Allegan has mostly kept growing. It's the home of the L. Perrigo Co., the world's largest manufacturer of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals. Perrigo is thriving. Allegan is growing despite the fact it levies the highest property taxes in the county among similarly sized cities.

According to a memorandum by

SEE ALLEGAN, A4

Granholtm talks success, regrets, 'idiots' in new book

Former governor doesn't mention her successor

BY PETER LUKE
LANSING BUREAU

LANSING — Former Gov. Jennifer Granholm regrets the budget cuts she signed during her tenure, doesn't regret metaphorically putting her foot on Republican challenger Dick DeVos' "throat" during the contentious 2006 campaign and doesn't think much of a legislative process she said lacked trustworthiness.

Granholm's account of her eight years in office — "A Governor's Story:

The Fight for Jobs and America's Economic Future" — is officially scheduled for release Sept. 20 but already is appearing in bookstores in the Lansing area.

Written with her husband, Dan Mulhern, Granholm doesn't mention Republican successor Rick Snyder, who this year quickly sought to overhaul the economic development strategy Democrat Granholm says is helping Michigan recover from the 2008-09 recession.

But she casts doubt on the ability of across-the-board tax reductions that Snyder signed into law to propel a state economy that's in global competition with countries like China and India.

"Dreading" the likelihood of months

of Republican attacks on her first-term stewardship over Michigan's economic decline, Granholm writes she briefly considered not running for re-election and suggested enlisting U.S. Sen. Carl Levin to replace her. It was quickly rejected by aides and her husband.

She concedes that as the 2006 campaign began to unfold, she handed DeVos a "club" with her State of the State assertion that "in five years, you're going to be blown away" by Michigan's economic transformation. Her aides urged her not to say it, but she did anyway because it was a line of "optimistic promise."

She calls DeVos and his wife, Betsy, "Michigan Republican royalty." But she said Amway's corporate

restructuring that cost 1,400 Michigan jobs when the family-owned company was investing in China allowed her to "paint the newest would-be hero as the villain."

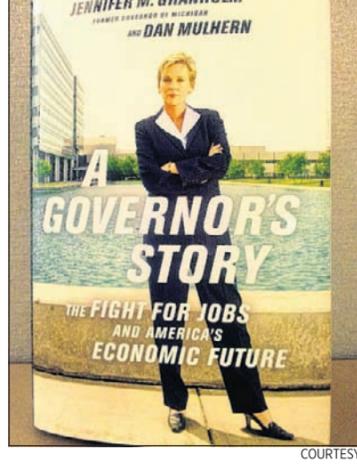
She said her campaign ads "offered no subtlety, no nuance, no shades of gray" in portraying DeVos as a businessman who "had eliminated jobs in Michigan and created them in China."

She said her campaign adopted the strategy of Sun Tzu's "Art of War," that "when your foot is on the throat of your enemy, press harder."

"So we pressed harder, with a second crushing commercial," Granholm writes.

Granholm never visited China in

SEE GRANHOLM, A4



COURTESY

Tell all: Former Gov. Jennifer Granholm's book is set for release Sept. 20, but already is appearing in Lansing bookstores.

Now you know

STARTS SEPT. 19

Douglas Avenue work delayed

KALAMAZOO — At least one lane will be open during construction, but beginning Sept. 19 you might want to seek an alternative route when the project to resurface Douglas Avenue from Kalamazoo Avenue to a quarter mile past Ravine Road starts. The project's start date has been pushed back a week from its original start date. The resurfacing is expected to be finished by Nov. 8 with access to all businesses and residences maintained. When

the work is done, city officials say Douglas will be striped with a "three-lane cross section" with parking on the east side of the street from Kalamazoo Avenue to North Street. From North Street to the city limit, the road will be striped with a three-lane cross section with bike lanes on each side. The Douglas renovation, one of several street repair projects in the city, comes with a \$658,600 price tag. Federal transportation funds are

paying for \$459,000 of that cost.

CHANGE OF PLANS

Outing canceled

A Vicksburg High School bands golf outing scheduled for Sept. 17 at the Angels Crossing Golf Club has been canceled. The outing was reported on Page 1 of today's South County Commercial-Express, but the cancellation notification came after the paper went to press.

EVENTS TO PLAN ON

IN THE NEXT 24

VINEYARD BIKE TOUR

Break out your bike and pedal any of three routes — 22 miles, 39 miles or 60 miles — through orchards during the Vineyard Classic Bicycle Tour on Sunday. Riders should meet at the Van Buren Human Services Building E, 801 Hazen St., in Paw Paw. Registration is from 7 to 9 a.m., with the tour beginning between 8 and 9 a.m. Cost: \$15, or \$20 at the gate. Helmets required. 269-657-6309.

QUILT SHOW

The Cal-co Quilter's Guild Quilt Show, featuring more than 200 quilts, a raffle, demonstrations and more, will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Marshall Activity Center, 15325 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Cost: \$6. 269-963-8454.

coming SUNDAY

BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD

Catch the special section previewing the Street Rod Nationals North show coming to Kalamazoo County this week.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR FALL

Our Fall Arts Preview is loaded with theater, music and art events for every appetite, including a university production of the "Rocky Horror Show."