

OAKLAND COUNTY

County debates minimum wage

By **Dustin Blitchok and John Turk**
For *The Daily Tribune*

Oakland County business owners and employees were wrestling Wednesday with the overall impact of a bump in Michigan's minimum wage after Gov. Rick Snyder signed off on an increase from \$7.40 to \$9.25 an hour over four years.

Danielle Nelson has worked summers as a barista at Bosko's Coffee & Kitchen since the deli on Orchard Lake Road in Keego Harbor opened, earning minimum wage. She's also an economics management and public policy major at Albion College.

"I'm sure with the gradual increase, employers (will) be slower on hiring employees, but maybe they'll be able to adjust enough so they won't have to lay people off," said Nelson, 19. She said she supports the increase, but thinks a large increase could hurt the economy and the business she's grown

to love.

The legislation signed by Snyder on Tuesday ties the minimum wage to inflation, with possible increases of up to 3.5 percent annually beginning in 2019, and increases the minimum wage for employees earning tips from \$2.65 to \$3.52 hourly.

Dave Jovanovich, co-owner of Bosko's, said that with more than 100 hours a week spent at the business, he'd love to pay himself minimum wage.

"... When you're a small business owner, it all falls on your shoulders. I caulked a leak in our roof myself last night to help cut costs."

While Jovanovich said an incremental increase in the minimum wage won't seriously ding his finances, he worries that more may never be enough.

"It could hurt as much as it helps," said Jovanovich. "Prices will go up across the board."

At the Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director Marie Hauswirth said she's

hearing concern from the chamber's membership of mostly small- to mid-sized businesses.

"There are certainly two schools of thought, and time will tell," Hauswirth said.

Group moves forward with ballot proposal

Oakland County Democratic Party Chairman Frank Houston was in Lansing on Wednesday, the deadline for the group to submit more than 300,000 petition signatures to put a proposed increase in the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour before voters in November.

"Any time low wage workers get a raise, I consider it a good day. I also think we need to be honest here about what happened," Houston said.

The Republican-controlled Legislature pushed the smaller wage increase through in order to "sidestep the constitutional rights of Michi-

MINIMUM » PAGE 5



Danielle Nelson serves up a Pastrami sandwich at Bosko's Coffee and Kitchen in Keego Harbor. Nelson, 19, an Albion College student, works for minimum wage plus tips at the business.
TIM THOMPSON-FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

EDUCATION

5-year-old girl chosen to promote college savings

By **Diana Dillaber Murray**
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The folks who run Michigan's Education Savings Plan were looking for a bright, positive future college student to promote the state program and they found her in Lorelei Susko, the 5-year-old daughter of Dan and Michelle Susko of Rochester Hills.

Lorelei became the college savings plan's new face for television commercials, digital and printing advertising after she was selected as grand-prize winner of Metro Parent magazine's CoverKids Search contest.

The future farmer's parents submitted the photo minutes before the deadline of the contest sponsored by MESP. It shows the very feminine Lorelei wearing her blond hair in braids and a pretty pink dress while she holds out her hand filled with a squirmy worm. When Michelle Susko received a call that Lorelei was the grand prize winner, she said she almost fell out of her chair.

As part of the grand prize, the MESP awarded Lorelei \$1,529 to start up her MESP savings for college, plus she will be featured on the cover of the June issue of Metro Parents magazine. The commercial of Lorelei talking about the difference in earnings between college graduates and non-graduates is airing already on WXYZ Channel 7.

Lorelei's mother said her daughter loves to sing wherever she goes, including at stores such as Trader Joe's. She has been in dance recitals, and routinely makes up plays to put on for her family at the spur of the moment. But this is the first time she has done any performance on such a major level, her mother said.

Michelle Susko said besides being a singer and actor when she grows up, Lorelei wants to be a horse farmer. She has been saving all the change she can find with money to buy the horse farm when she grows up.

Recently, the family visited Michigan State University. They toured some of its veterinarian and agricultural programs and

SAVINGS » PAGE 5



Lorelei Susko, 5 of Rochester Hills, in her preschool dance class at the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority in Rochester.
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HAZEL PARK

Council approves 2014-15 budget

By **Aftab Borka**
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The Hazel Park City Council members approved the city's budget for the fiscal year 2014-15 during the Tuesday night's meeting.

The city had been struggling to reduce nearly a million dollar deficit to the budget that projects the annual revenue of about 12.4 million dollars.

The budget has a total expenditures of 13.3 million dollars which includes appropriations of \$4.2 million to police department, \$2.3 million to the fire department and \$2.4 million to retiree and other health insurances.

During the past city council meetings, City Manager Edward

BUDGET » PAGE 5

'AMERICAN IDOL'

Jena Irene attends prom with 'Idol' winner

By **Erin Hampton**
Special to The Oakland Press

"American Idol" finalist Jena Irene Asciutto flew back home from the bright lights of stage stardom to the comfort of her hometown where she got ready for every high school girls' dream night — prom.

Asciutto did not come back home alone. She brought her experiences, her fame, her dreams in hand and her new best friend, "American Idol" winner Caleb Johnson, who escorted her into the Dearborn Inn on Wednesday, May 28.

"He is an awesome date," said Asciutto. "We have been best friends for a couple months now."

IDOL » PAGE 5

JEANNE TOWAR COLUMN

Berkley Rotarians work together

Club hopes to attract new members when its weekly meetings resume June 2 at O'Mara's restaurant. **PAGE A3**



LIONS

New coordinator in awe of Calvin Johnson

To say Calvin Johnson has impressed new offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi is putting it mildly. **PAGE B1**

EDUCATION

Student receives Merit Scholarship

Royal Oak resident has won a National Merit Scholarship awarded by Vanderbilt University. **PAGE A3**

HEALTH BLOG

Gyno Groupie looks at whooping cough

Blog: Tdap vaccine during pregnancy improves chances of baby receiving "passive" immunity. DAILYTRIBUNE.COM/BLOGS