

THE MONROE NEWS

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

75 CENTS



Dundee's Jimmy Root, 12; Haleigh Gekle, 11; Vicky Cooley, 12, and Summer Green, 12, (from left) fill paper seedlings cups with soil as each gets milkweed seeds to grow during the Lake Erie Water Festival held on the campus of the IHM Motherhouse Wednesday. Sixth-graders from schools throughout the county made their way to a variety of stations, learning about water and other environmental topics.

— Monroe News photos by KIM BRENT

Downtown parking plan moves forward

BY DEAN COUSINO
dean@monroenews.com

A City of Monroe traffic panel is recommending that S. Monroe St. (M-125) be reduced from five lanes to three so that parking can be added to the west side of the road and to create a more friendly, welcoming environment for pedestrians and bikers.

The traffic committee okayed the recommendation from the city engineering department by a 6-2 vote Wednesday.

The city council will take up the panel's recommendation at its next meeting Monday night, at which time a Bloomfield Hills firm that has studied the matter will make a presentation on the plan.

Hubble, Roth & Clark Inc. studied three-lane and four-lane options and wrote a 100-page report after consulting with the Michigan Department of Transportation. MDOT also must okay the plan since it impacts M-125, a state highway that is be-

See **PARKING**, Page 6A

NATURE KNOWLEDGE



YOUNGSTERS SPEND DAY LEARNING ABOUT ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM

BY DANIELLE PORTEUS
dporteus@monroenews.com

A group of sixth-graders gathered around Sharon McNeil, begging to taste the thin, green stems as she plucked them from the ground.

"These are chives," she explained to the students. "They are from the onion family."

A few students tasted the chives without much of a reaction while others made faces in disgust.

Ms. McNeil, ecology director for St. Mary Organic Farm, talked with the students about eating healthy foods and explained about the garden on the campus of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The organic farm was one of the stations more than 300 sixth-graders from across the county could visit during the 2014 Lake Erie Water Festival held for the first time in Monroe Wednesday.

"Did you know that you are the first generation that has more problems with heart



Twelve-year-old Olivia Motter of Dundee examines one of the fairy houses in the butterfly garden

"The setting is perfect because of the sustainability features, the native prairie, the savannahs, the solar panels and the organic farm."

— Lisa Appel

watershed education coordinator at Cranbrook Institute of Science

disease and diabetes?" Ms. McNeil asked. "Why do you think that is?"

She explained about the increased amount of sugar in processed and packaged foods and encouraged stu-

dents to make better selections.

"You should try to eat as much whole foods as possible," she said. "Eat more fruits, eat more vegetables."

While at the garden, Sarah

Reicker and Kristen Meiser, both 12, created mini-pots and placed soil in the pots where plants eventually will grow.

The girls said they enjoyed learning about what they can do to help the environment.

"It helps us to save the world," Sarah said. "This teaches us how to take care of the environment."

Kristen said she enjoyed learning about the solar panels on the IHM campus as well and how the panels can be useful to save energy in homes.

Lisa Appel, the watershed education coordinator at Cranbrook Institute of Science, said the purpose of the one-day festival was to teach students about the environment. She said the IHM was the "perfect" location for the event.

"The setting is perfect because of the sustainability features, the native prairie, the savannahs, the solar panels and the organic farm," Ms. Appel said.

See **NATURE**, Page 6A



— AP photo by PAUL SANCYA

General Motors Orion Assembly Plant's wastewater treatment facilities are shown in this file photo. Michigan is fourth in the nation in the share of its workforce associated with industries that develop freshwater technology and services.

Michigan a leader in water jobs

■ An analysis of industries whose focus or dependency is on water shows they employ 21 percent of the state's workers.

BY JOHN FLESHER
Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Michigan is fourth in the nation in the share of its workforce associated with industries that develop freshwater technology and services or are highly dependent on plentiful and clean water, according to a report released today.

From wastewater treatment to farming and advanced manufacturing, a wide swath of the state's economy is particularly sensitive to any changes in water quality or abundance, said the analysis prepared on behalf of three public universities that conduct extensive water research.

It also says that those industries and the

See **WATER**, Page 7A

Since 1825
No. 148 (USPS 359-400)
Monroe, Mich.

© 2014 Monroe Publishing Co.



0 94922 70543 3

THREE SECTIONS

A&E 1-4C
Classified 6-7B
Community 5B
Comment 4A
Comics 4B
Local 3A
Sports 1-3B

TODAY'S OBITUARIES Details, 7A

TODD M. ATWOOD, 48, of Monroe
RAYMOND J. (SKIP) ANTEAU, 79, of Monroe
ROSE M. BROOKS, 68, of Monroe
EARL L. COUSINO, 70, of Erie
ROBERT J. (BOB) EMRICK, 59, of Dundee

GARY W. SAYLES, 60, of Carleton
ARMELLA (MILLIE) VENIER, 87, of Sylvania, Ohio

WEATHER Details, 6A

TONIGHT
Clear



54°

FRIDAY
Mostly sunny



77°