

Bears, people could suffer if Proposal D passes



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The phone has been ringing of the hook lately — both at home and at the office. At election day 1996 approaches it seems everyone wants to know "what the deal is" about the two proposals dealing with Michigan's wildlife.

Actually, nearly everyone I've talked with, hunters and non-hunters alike, are in favor of Proposal G. Proposal G gives complete authority to manage Michigan's wildlife resources to the Natural Resource Commission — the policy-making arm of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and mandates the opportunity for public input in the management process.

The DNR has successfully managed Michigan's wildlife for 76 years and its record speaks for itself.

Because of professional wildlife management we currently have more deer, bear, elk, and turkey in Michigan than we had at the turn of the century.

We have seen the return of moose, fishers, martens and peregrine falcons, and enjoy thriving populations of Canada geese, wood ducks, loons and bluebirds, just to name a few.

Proposal G insures that Michigan's successful professional

wildlife management continues.

"D" is dangerous

Most of the questions I've been asked have to do with Proposal D — the proposal sponsored by Citizens United for Bear (CUB) — which would eliminate baiting and hound hunting for Michigan black bear, the way 99 percent of Michigan's black bear are killed.

Proposal D is dangerous for humans and wildlife in Michigan and is based on half-truths.

CUB is not the grass-roots organization it wants us to believe, and it is not attempting to save Michigan's black bear.

CUB was formed by a disgruntled Upper Peninsula landowner who had a trespassing problem. Rest assured, there is no major trespassing problem with bear hunters in the Upper Peninsula.

The DNR has received less than 50 complaints about trespassing bear hunters over the past five years. That's less than 10 complaints per year, across the entire Upper Peninsula, over the course of a 47-day hunt. Certainly, that's 10 per year, many, but hardly reason to seek an end to scientific wildlife management.

According to reports filed with the Secretary of State in late August, 96 percent of the \$800,000 CUB had raised at that time came from two wealthy land owners and the East Coast-based animal rights group The Fund For Animals.

Michigan's legislature wanted nothing to do with CUB's idea to

outlaw the use of hounds and bait. It realized the danger of a burgeoning population of a carnivorous predator. So, CUB solicited some 350,000 signatures to get Proposal D on the ballot. It paid a solicitation firm to collect many of those signatures.

"They bought and paid for this election," said Rick Janssen, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Club. "It's just a travesty. All they've got is two millionaires and an animal rights group."

A nationwide effort

Proposal D is part of a nationwide strategy by the animal rights activists to eventually achieve their ultimate goal of ending all hunting. It's not about baiting and hound hunting in Michigan; that's just a smoke screen. In a letter to its members, The Fund For Animals stated: "The Fund is now under-

taking the biggest and boldest, and perhaps, the most dangerous campaign in our history. A campaign to stop sport hunting in America."

The Fund For Animals launched and won similar anti-bait and anti-hound campaigns in California, Utah, Colorado and Oregon.

In California, where The Fund For Animals successfully ended bait and hound hunting for cougars at the ballot box, the state now pays officials to kill more "nuisance" cougars each year than hunters ever killed.

Another frightening aspect of California's cougar ban is that two female joggers were killed by cougars last year — the state's first deadly cougar attacks in over 100 years.

Since cougars are no longer hunted in California, the population is exploding and the animals have lost their fear of man.

Is that what we want to happen

with black bear in Michigan?

Some of the Proposal D television commercials are even misleading. One commercial shows the graphic killing of a freed bear. The problem is the footage is of a poaching ring in Oregon some 20 years ago, not law-abiding hunters in Michigan.

Bear population thriving

Proponents of Proposal D say it will save Michigan's black bear from unethical trophy hunters. The fact is Michigan's bear population is thriving and has doubled to over 10,000 animals since 1990. Michigan currently employs the tightest bear hunting regulations in the nation.

To eliminate the way 96 percent of the bear are killed will put the bears and humans in danger as the population will explode within a few years. Nuisance complaints, bear/car accidents, human injury and even

death will likely occur before Mother Nature steps in and controls the population through starvation and disease.

CUB claims the use of bait and hounds is unsporting and inhumane. In reality, the success rate for killing a black bear in Michigan is a mere 26 percent. That means just 26 out of every 100 bear hunters return home with meat for the freezer. Hunters certainly do not have an unfair advantage.

Tell your non-hunting neighbors and friends the truth about Proposal D. Urge them to do something good for Michigan's bear population and vote "No" on Proposal D.

Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (810) 901-2573.

Holman wins top prize in metro-area tourney



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I had a great seat, front row, center for the "finals" of the Pro Bowler Tour last Tuesday at the Thunderbowl Arena.

It was a bit unusual, since the qualifying rounds and final match all took place at Bowl One Lanes in Troy.

It is a new trend, to get into an arena setting, but there are always logistical and fiscal problems associated with the arena setting, and through the good graces of George Prybyla, they were able to pull it off, and "Oh, what a show it was."

The first three matches were all decided as to who got the least number of splits was the winner. In each case, it was the veteran Wayne Webb.

He was matched against Marshall Holman, this week's "pole-sitter" for the championship game.

It turned out to be a well-balanced and exciting contest with Marshall Holman coming through in the clutch for the Greater Detroit Ebonite Open title and \$22,000 in prize money.

Holman had beaten Webb in the same situation back in 1991, and they both remembered that match well.

When Holman rolled the winning shot, he leaped and hollered, "I'm Back," referring to his first title in eight years.

Earlier in the week, some of our local amateur bowlers fared well in the "Pro-Am" event in which Darrell LaDouceur of Farmington Hills cashed in 6th place with a 1,546 combined score, while Mike Zannetti of Rochester came in ninth, Jason Muns and Tom Walker, both of Waterford were 10th and 11th, Larry Huston of West Bloomfield finished in the 24th slot and Frank Kasprzycki of Livonia cashed in a tie for 28th.

The next day I was amazed to have so many fellow bowlers in my league mention that they had seen me on TV that night. Fortunately I was sitting next to Matt Florio of the Free Press, not behind him.

Last Sunday was a lucky day for Bill Funke of Livonia as his league, the University League of Country Lanes in Farmington, staged a make-up for later on. They usually bowl on Tuesday nights, but Funke took advantage of the opportunity and shot a 300 game, his seventh perfect game.

I was present when he rolled his first one also, back in 1984 in the Greenfield Mixed league.

Angela Wilt of Westland led the field for the second week in a row in the Cloverlanes All-Star

Bowlerettes. She had a three game block of 248-228-276 for a 752 series, on the heels of rolling 799 just a week ago.

Those ladies always put on quite a talent show each Monday starting at 8:30 p.m. In last week's action, 48 players rolled 600 or more, with eight of them topping the mark.

Tamika Glenn shot a 286, following her victory the previous day in the David's Rite Line Pro Shop event.

For the victory, Glenn (Farmington Hills) outshot Ben Smoek 233-225, then blitzed Doc Jeffries 298-255, followed by a 254-198 victory over Earl Justice.

Glenn then faced off against Lee Snow of Farmington Hills in the final match, coming through with a 233-192 win.

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Country Lanes (Farmington Hills) Suburban Pro Bowl (Men): Ben Smoek, 206/074; Tim Mayes, 205/709; Bill Morris, 248/025; Kevin London, 237; Dick Wiencek, 236/035.

Suburban Proprietors (Ladies): Viv Wald, 210/540; Debbie VanMeter, 199; Janet Downing, 197/557; Shirley Jacks, 194/548; Wednesday Knights: Ellen Feltus, 279; Dan Emmett, 257; Tom Jenkins, 245/660; Steve Schoenberg Jr., 247-255; Ed Wright 245.

Friday Singles — Tina Schoefers, 227/605; Michelle Gil, 223; Lynn Wegner, 235/580; Cathy Burns, 221; Katty Sestak, 201.

B'Nail B'nish Ben Lusk Traveling — Danny Cohen, 235-235-234; Al Young, 237-200-234/737; Sam Amato, 220/603; Hub Brent, 227-235/632; Kim Grawling, 225-212/615.

Junior League — Justin Resume, 201/550; Nordic Park Seniors — Larry Winchester, 237/589; Mel Picken, 202/530; Hub Brent 224/667.

Monday Youth — Jason Swartz, 240/699; Tuesday Junior House — George Dominguez, 279/698.

W'ns Club Downtown Fox — Jeff Sargue, 237-222-215/674; Jack Geer, 222-213/630; Nancie Rakost, 247/621; Brian Brod, 215-213/619; Jack Dickie, 224/614.

Bel Air Lanes: Our Lady of Sorrows — D.T. Thelisen, 202-224/610; Gary Archer, 225; Steve Thelisen, 226-225-224/660.

Michigan Bell Men — Kevin Runkel, 207-256-207/732 (his first 700); L. Reimer, 204-214-245/661; Nicky B. Williams, 218/610; M. Flowers, 220-212.

Salad Bowlers — Paula Heard, 201; Alice Iaconelli, 208.

Novi Bowl: Senior House — Rich Gilbert, 719; Gary Archer, 257/732; Jason Johnson, 685; Mike Bundy, 688; Jim Burton, 279/733.

West Side Lutheran — Terry Krohn, 699; Don Johnson, 656; Will Krohn, 610; Jim Strach, 609.

Junior House — Ron Nosen, 289; Bill Mueller, 681; Dave Sommers, 273/733; Jerry Stout, 286.

West Side Mixed — Chris Leach, 200/713.

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