

# Mall theater operator faces state investigation

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A state agency is investigating a father's complaint that his son didn't get paid and worked a 14-hour day at a Livonia theater, which has since closed.

John Sawula claimed his 16-year-old son, John, was owed money and worked from 10 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. at the Livonia Mall Cinemas on a school night in September. John attends Stevenson High.

The father, who works with the state Department of Corrections, filed a complaint with the Hourly and Wage Division of the state Consumer & Industry Services Oct. 15.

On Dec. 11, the state agency determined the cinema operator, Shores Theater, which is run by David Tolfree, owed Sawula \$73.60 in unpaid wages.

"The employer sent a letter saying they did not own the theater at the time when the claimant worked there," said Maura Campbell, Consumer & Industry Services spokeswoman. "Since then we've learned the claimant was a minor."

The agency continues to investigate whether the teen worked 14 hours in one day, which is a violation of state's youth employment standards. Employers can be fined for not complying.

Investigator's attempts to reach David Tolfree have been

unsuccessful, Campbell said. Tolfree couldn't be reached for comment.

The teenager thinks other employees went unpaid. "The guy's a chump," John Sawula said of his son's former employer.

Livonia Mall's general manager hasn't heard any other reports.

"That's between the employer and employee," said Karl Zarbo, mall general manager. "We're not the employer."

Zarbo said Tolfree could no longer operate the three-screen cinema, which closed in December, for undisclosed personal reasons.

# Rocky's office returns \$15K to state

State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski (R-Farmington Hills) has announced he came in under budget on his office expenses for the past year.

Preliminary figures indicate Raczkowski returned close to \$16,000 to the state.

"I want to ensure that the taxpayers' money is spent wisely, and that starts with my own office," he said. "It's important to stand up for fiscal restraint, and even more important to practice what you preach. This is especially crucial now during such

strains on state budgets." Annual office allotments can cover such expenses as mailings, printing, publications and telephone service.

Raczkowski returned \$15,891 to the state, which represents 15.3 percent of his total budget.



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