

Troop rally slated

A rally in support of U.S. troops will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at the north side of the Oakland County Courthouse grounds.

The one-hour event will feature many speakers, including Congressman Knollenberg, Congressman Mike Rogers, Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, County Prosecutor David Goreyca, Oakland County Republican Party Chairman Paul Welay, the spouse of a military officer and a representative from the Iraqi Forum for Democracy.

"People from across Oakland County have approached and called us repeatedly indicating how much they want to show support for our troops," said Welay.

For more information, call the Oakland County Republican Party at (248) 655-0501.

AT THE LIBRARY

■ Gaines appearance
Ernest J. Gaines, author of the "Everyone's Reading" program featured novel, "A Lesson Before Dying," will speak and sign books at the Farmington Community Library's main branch, 32727 W. 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills, 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3.

There is no charge for this event.

For more information, call the library, (248) 553-0300.

■ Nutrition help
In recognition of National Public Health Week, teens, parents and adults will have the opportunity to ask questions about weight loss, cooking and eating healthier or nutrition.

A public health nutritionist will answer nutrition questions for free 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at the Farmington Hills Community Library.

Appointments are recommended.

Call (248) 452-9174.

Students survey attitudes on Canadian waste issues

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

A group of Wayne State University students need your help to complete a project for a technical communications class and, possibly, help influence action on the controversial issue of importing trash from Canada.

Steven Stone of Livonia, a senior in mechanical engineering at Wayne State, said the students were assigned to research whatever topic they chose with the idea of making a difference on a public issue.

Part of the project was to approach a newspaper about running a survey to gather public opinion on the subject.

"The research is geared to an inevitable audience, our audience is state legislators," Stone said. "We thought that public opinion was the best way to reach legislators."

The students - Stone, David Benefield of Sterling Heights, Dennis Hitchins of Lincoln Park, Ken Dunlap of Sterling Heights and Mike Nicolls of Lincoln Park - have made e-mail contact with several state legislators, the governor's office and Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

After researching the topic, the students devised the survey accompanying this article. Responses need to be returned by April 8. A final 30 minute report will be given to the class describing their research and response.

The results will also be sent to Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Sen. Stabenow, and state and federal legislators.

The topic has been a hot button topic in recent months.

Michigan is the third-largest importer of trash after Pennsylvania and Virginia.

In 2001, Canada accounted for 44 percent of the imported waste to Michigan landfills.

Beginning this year, all of Toronto's trash was exported to Michigan landfills, raising concerns on both sides of the border.

Twenty percent of all Michigan trash for 2001 was imported from Ontario and neighboring states.

Stabenow has introduced legislation to ban importation of Canadian garbage and U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Brighton) have proposed legislation that would limit the ability of Canada to export trash to Michigan.

The state House of Representatives has recently passed a resolution encouraging Congress to allow states to limit the solid waste they receive from outside.

State Rep. Paul Gieleghem, D-Clinton Township, has reintroduced two bills, 4098 and 4099, that would regulate the importing of solid waste and prohibit beverage containers in landfills.

"Public outrage is critical to stem the tide of garbage from Canada and other states," Gieleghem said in a January press release from the Democratic Party. "We also need tough new laws to keep the garbage at the borders. It's high time to stop the trashing of Michigan."


Democrats think such legislation will withstand a court challenge despite recent rulings. In the past the courts have ruled that Michigan cannot stop importing trash without violating the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution.



Talking trash

1. Would you consider yourself knowledgeable regarding the importing of foreign trash into Michigan?
Yes, No, Undecided
2. Would you consider yourself in favor or against this issue?
In favor, Against, Undecided
3. Would you support legislation that would ban the importing of foreign waste?
Yes, No, Undecided
4. Would you support legislation that would limit the kind and/or amount of trash that is imported into Michigan?
Yes, No, Undecided
5. If you were informed that local communities receive financial benefits from the importing of foreign trash, would this change your response to the previous question?
Yes, No, Undecided
6. Are you aware that Michigan exports some hazardous, household waste into Canada?
Yes, No
7. Would this information change your response to any of the previous questions?
Yes, No, Undecided

Please return survey answers to Hugh Gallagher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.



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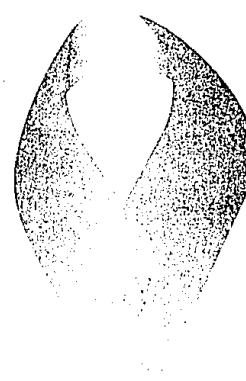
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