

CATCH OF THE DAY: Local fishing crew hooked on winning, Page 3C

TOMORROW'S WEATHER MOSTLY SUNNY 85° 63° 4-DAY FORECAST, 2A

SINCE 1869 PORT HURON, MICHIGAN

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Pledge ruling put on hold

Judge changes mind, asks for full court review

The Associated Press SAN FRANCISCO — A day after he flabbergasted the nation by declaring the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional, a federal

appeals court judge put his ruling on hold indefinitely Thursday. Meanwhile, Attorney General John Ashcroft said the government will seek a rehearing. Circuit Judge Alfred T. Goodwin, who wrote the 2-1 opinion that said the phrase "under God" violates the separation of church and state, stayed his

ruling until other members of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decide whether to reconsider the case. He gave no reasons. The appeals court can rehear the case with the same three judges, or on a 12-judge panel. Ashcroft said the Justice Department will request a hearing by an 11-judge panel.

The Justice Department will defend the ability of our nation's children to pledge allegiance to the American flag," he said. Goodwin's stay has no immediate impact, since the ruling already was on hold under court rules for 45 days to allow for any challenges. Gov. Gray Davis and school officials in Elk

Grove, where the plaintiff lives, both promised to appeal. Goodwin stunned people across the political spectrum when he declared rejecting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional because the phrase "one nation under God" is unconstitutional. See PLEDGE, 2A



LOYAL IN LANSING: Rep. John Stewart, R-Plymouth left and Rep. Cameron Brown, R-Sturgis, recite the Pledge of Allegiance during a House session Thursday in Lansing.



GETTING READY: Michael Ricketts, 20, of Bay City works Thursday on the stage at Port Huron's Memorial Stadium where Lee Ann Womack will perform tonight.

Songs, sails heating up the summer

Womack fans get ready for kickoff concert by LISA AICHLMAYR Times Herald

It's a safe bet people will be dancing as the sun sets on the St. Clair County line. Lee Ann Womack, known for her country chart-topping "Hope You Dance" and her duet with Willie Nelson, Memorial County Line, will perform at 7:30 p.m. today at Memorial Stadium on 24th Street in Port Huron. The free concert headlines the second-annual Southside Summer Festival, sponsored by Acheson Ventures.

Participants must have tickets to enter the show. They were distributed from local offices last month. No more tickets are available. Bob Beedon, executive director for board and curriculum services at the Port Huron Area School District, said some people gave extra tickets back to the district to be redistributed. "They were snapped up quickly," he said. "To get ready for the concert, the school district has been cleaning up the stadium. Beedon said volunteer ushers and local law enforcement will be on hand to help manage crowds. Cheryl Carsons, 40, of Port Huron said the



IN CONCERT: Lee Ann Womack is scheduled to perform tonight in Port Huron. No tickets remain for the free concert.



HEADING IN: The Niagara heads past the pennants flying from the Highlander Sea at the Port Huron Seaway Terminal along the St. Clair River on Thursday afternoon.

Mackinac sailors stop as visiting tall ship pulls in

By DAN HOCKENSMITH Times Herald A catamaran's roar at about 12:45 p.m. Thursday interrupted the annual Port Huron news conference on the Port Huron-to-Mackinac Island Sailboat Race. Two shots several minutes apart signaled the arrival at the Seaway Terminal on the city's south side of the 198-foot U.S. brig Niagara of Erie,

Pa. The Mackinac Island Sailboat Race is a replica of an American warship from the War of 1812, moored in front of the 154-foot topsail schooner Highlander Sea, which is owned by Acheson Ventures, the development company founded by Port Huron

businessman and philanthropist Jim Acheson. The company leases the terminal from the city and will host the second annual Southside Summer Festival there this weekend, when the ships can be publicly viewed. The waterfront setting was perfect for the Mackinac race news conference, race Chairman See MACKINAC, 2A

Michigan ban stands despite voucher win

Supreme Court endorses school funding option

The Associated Press LANSING — Many observers doubt Michigan's constitutional ban on vouchers will be overturned anytime soon, despite the U.S. Supreme Court's decision Thursday allowing publicly funded vouchers for religious schools.

In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court said a Cleveland voucher program does not put the government in the unconstitutional position of sponsoring religious indoctrination even though more than 99% of the vouchers are used for religious schooling.

Two years ago, Michigan voters rejected a proposal that would have required poorly performing school districts to offer financial vouchers for students to use at private and parochial schools. It also would have cleared the way for local elections or school board decisions to bring vouchers to any district in the state.

The Michigan constitution bars spending public money directly or indirectly on private schools. The

MORE INSIDE, 8B COURT ALLOWS RANDOM DRUG TESTING



Betty DeVos In 2000, they defeated the voucher proposal 69% to 31%. "These opposed to parental choice have had their day in court," said Betty DeVos, who helped lead the voucher drive in 2000 and now heads a group called Choices for Children.

"Now it is time for us to move forward with empowering all parents with the ability to provide their children with universal access to high-quality education," she said. State Superintendent Tom Watkins expressed frustration with the ruling. He said there is no conclusive evidence competition from vouchers improves public school performance. Instead, vouchers drain money away from the schools that need it most.

Cancer risk may come with fries

The Associated Press GENEVA — Health experts have a "major concern" that a substance in certain high-carbohydrate foods — such as french fries and potato chips — may cause cancer, they said Thursday after a three-day U.N.-sponsored conference on the subject.

To the relief of the snack and fast-food industry, the experts did not issue guidelines warning consumers against eating foods with the potentially cancer-causing substance, acrylamide. Instead, they said more study is necessary to determine the extent of the risk — and how to reduce it. "It is a matter of high concern, and we need to do research quite urgently in order to be able to reduce the levels of acrylamide in food," said Dieter Arnold, a



HEALTH ALERT: Scientists warn of possible cancer-causing agents in such foods as french fries.

scientist with Germany's Federal Institute of Health Protection for Consumers. The meeting was convened after a study by Sweden's National Food Administration found high levels of acrylamide in french fries, some brands of potato chips, some types of breakfast cereal and some types of bread fried or baked at high temperatures.

INDEX Business/4A, Classified/7B, Comics/7D, Crossword/8D, Horoscope/8D, Living/8C, Weather/2A

DEATHS, 6D Viola S. Andrews, 76; Karen A. Austin, 76; Nancy A. Bateman, 72; Mary K. Beattie, 90; Benjamin Brown, 45; Nathan J. Friley, 45; Jane C. Maury, 78; Kevin A. Matt, 32; Howard C. Price Jr., 61; Julia Siccho, 90; Leo P. Spertshury, 75; Nancy Wehnert, 58

SPORTS, 1C Scott Hebert wins 4th straight Michigan Open; St. Clair's Riedel comes in 11th

LOCAL, 1B Library card helps parents regulate children's internet use at county libraries

MERCY'S Baby of the Week Victoria Rose June 10, 2002. When You Need... Outpatient Surgery. MERCY HEALTH CENTER Fort Gratiot