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LOCAL/STATE

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Charter-school backers, foes spend big on GOP

Teacher's union, DeVos group duel for hearts, minds

By AMY FRANKLIN
The Associated Press

LANSING — Education groups on both sides of the charter-school debate are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on Republican candidates in several close primary races for the state legislature.

Betsy DeVos' political action committee, the Great Lakes Education Project, spent \$268,370 so far this year on candidates who support charter school expansion, according to the group's campaign finance report filed Thursday.

The political action committee of the Michigan Education Association, which represents the state's largest teacher's union, is trying to help candidates who face project-backed challengers with contributions of its own.

support issues that our members care about," she said.

The project is trying to send a similar message for those who agree with its stand that parents should be given more choices about which school their child attends.

The Grand Rapids group has raised \$268,208 so far this year, but ended the second quarter with \$38,204 because the project carried over money from its balance sheet of 2001, executive director Greg Brock said Friday.

Days before Thursday's campaign finance report deadline, the project received two large donations: \$50,000 from Richard DeVos, Betsy DeVos' father-in-law and the cofounder of Amway Corp., now known as Alticor Inc., and \$25,000 from Ron VanderPol, chief executive officer and chairman of the board at RVP Development in Grand Rapids.

DeVos and her husband, Dick, former president of Ada-based Alticor Inc., each donated \$25,000 to the PAC.

ONLINE TO LEARN MORE

- Michigan Education Association: www.mea.org/home.html
- Great Lakes Education Project: www.glep.org
- Campaign finance statements are available on the Michigan Secretary of State Web site: www.michigan.gov/soi/

District: The project spent \$5,629 on Grant's campaign, mostly in the form of glossy campaign literature mailed to voters, according to the group's report.

Grant said the project mailings are helping point out the difference between the candidates on the school choice issue. Stewart wants to limit the number of chartering universities to give the go-ahead to more open more charter schools.

School choice is an important issue to residents of the 20th House District, which includes the western Wayne County communities of Plymouth, Canton and Northville, Grant said.

"If I had to pick the top three issues in the district, it would be number two or three," he said.

Stewart, who has not received any of the project's mailings, has created an awareness about the school choice issue.

"It's simply ironic, inaccurate and about to try and label state Representatives Mike Pumford and John Stewart as meriting an 'F' in regard to their care and concern for children and education," he said about mailings in his district and in the 100th House District.



Truck jackknifes, blocks traffic

Traffic on Interstate 94 at Water Street was blocked Friday morning after this tractor-trailer jackknifed as it tried to enter the freeway. No injuries were reported. Witnesses said the driver might have been trying to avoid a stopped car. No other details were available Friday night.

Wounded officers battling back

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Officers Lance Sullivan and Raquel Avery are working to recover from one of the most terrifying situations police can confront on the job.

Sullivan and Avery both were shot when they responded to a call for help on the morning of May 18.

Now their lives are taking different turns as they try to move forward.

On Tuesday, Sullivan, 33, who was shot through the upper right arm and through his left hand, reported four hours of light desk duty in the 13th Precinct.

"I'm ready to come back," said the father of three. "When I

hired on, I know something like this could happen, and I'm just glad I'm able to be back."

Also on Tuesday, Avery, 32, started a physical rehabilitation program at St. John Hospital. Her doctors hope the regimen will relieve constant numbness below the knee in her right leg.

The woman who knew she wanted to be a police officer since she was 6 years old said she's not sure what will happen when she recovers.

"I always wanted to help people," she said.

Sullivan and Avery had never worked together before that Saturday morning in May.

The two met for the first time at the 8 a.m. roll call, where they

were paired up in a patrol car. Five minutes later, they had a call. When the officers pulled up to the driver's side white Avery, with her gun in her hand behind her leg, approached the passenger door.

"When I got the driver out, he was shaking and nervous and then I realized he was trying to warn me quietly that the other guy had a gun," Sullivan said.

Sullivan tried to alert Avery, but she was ordering the passenger out of the car.

After that, Avery only remembers being knocked to the ground as her body went numb.

The passenger then spun around and shot at Sullivan.

JUDGES: District Court race generates money

Continued from Page 1A leads the pack with about \$64,000 spent so far out of the almost \$70,000 raised. More than half the money came in the form of loans to herself. She lives in Burtville Township.

Fort Grant resident Mary Kelly, the county chief assistant prosecutor and wife of Circuit Judge Daniel Kelly, raised more than \$52,000, of which she has spent about \$40,000. Most of her money comes from individual donors.

Local lawyer Bryan Black has raised more than \$21,000 and has spent about \$18,000.

The campaign of Kenosha Township resident Steven

Unlike Black, Simasko said he expected some of his opponents to raise the amounts they have. He said he has enough money to have some newspaper and radio ads, and is using signs from his 1998 bid to be a district judge.

"You can buy an image," he said. "But you can't buy a reputation, and I'm running on my reputation."

Kelly and Platzer could not be reached for comment Friday.

Michael McNamee, who this month finished a term as the St. Clair County Bar Association president, said the St. Clair County judicial race rules in comparison to Oakland and

Macomb counties, where money is in the hundreds of thousands.

"The amount of money that these people are spending really doesn't seem that exorbitant to me," he said.

McNamee said judges, despite having to run for re-election every six years, essentially win the job for life, as voters almost always return incumbent judges to office.

"A district judge, regardless of what county they serve in, makes \$138,272 a year.

The seat is open because Judge John Cummings isn't seeking re-election.

You can call reporter Fred Woodhams at (810) 980-4258.

U.P. land sale raises fears

DETROIT — A trust company's plan to sell nearly 300,000 acres of Upper Peninsula land has raised concern among some conservationists and area residents.

A tract of forest and lakeshore that spans 10 Upper Peninsula counties will go up for sale this year, officials at the Kamehameha Schools Trust of Hawaii said.

The trust expects to make more than \$10 million on the sale, said Martin Wilk, president of Shelter Bay Forests, which manages the land.

The land includes several miles of Lake Superior shoreline, Wilk said.

The land is covered by the Commercial Forest Act. That means the owners receive a tax break in exchange for keeping the land open for snowmobilers and hunters.

"The U.P. is being looted," said Doug Corbett of the Northwoods Wilderness Recovery, a nonprofit group based in Marquette that advocates the protection of forests in the Upper Peninsula.

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Sole Talk

with Dr. Gary E. Hoesy and Dr. Neil T. Shaw II

HAMMERTOES

Hammer toes occur when toes bend downward excessively, while claw toes involve an excessive upward bend of the joint of the ball of the foot - the metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint. Claw toes often develop in conjunction with hammer toes and affect the four smaller toes. Hammertoes typically affect the proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joints, between the first and second bones of the toe. These are the most common culprit responsible for hammer toes and claw toes. When there are too short, pointy, or high-heeled shoes are a combination of all three, feet are aggravated considerably. Over time, the foot contract to accommodate the shoes. Nerve conditions due to genetics or injury can also lead to claw toes. Switching to a properly fitting shoe often relieves the condi-

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