THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

ANNUAL CEREMONY TO HONOR FALLEN GR POLICE OFFICERS ADDS NAME, B2

IN BRIEF

GRAND RAPIDS

Woman shot after argument

A 27-year-old woman was shot in the abdomen Thursday afternoon after several women argued outside a house on Alexander Street SE, police said. The victim, who was not identified, suffered injuries that were not life-threatening, police said. Neighbors said the shots came about 4 p.m. from a yard across the street from 710 Alexander St. Authorities said several men were seen running and fleeing in two cars.

GRAND RAPIDS

Man injured outside bar

Police are investigating a shooting outside a Southwest Side bar near Godfrey and Underhill avenues SW. Shots were reported just before 1 a.m., and police found traces of blood in the parking lot of Whiskey Lounge, 1044 Godfrey Ave. SW, where bar employees had kicked out two patrons shortly before the shots were reported. A man in his mid-20s arrived a short time later at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital with gunshot wounds to his shoulder and arm, reports say. Police learned suspects left the parking lot in three vehicles. They are looking for a red or maroon 2006 Chevrolet Malibu, and two black SUVs: a 2002 Suburban and a 1996 Blazer or Jimmy.

ALPINE TOWNSHIP



Off the road: A Kent County sheriff's deputy inspects a vehicle that crashed off Fruit Ridge Avenue NW this morning.

Driver critical after crash

Kent County Sheriff's Department deputies are investigating an accident that sent three people to the hospital early today. A vehicle traveling north on Fruit Ridge Avenue NW past Six Mile Road, left the road and struck a tree about 3:30 a.m. A back-seat passenger was able to get out, but the driver and another passenger were pinned inside. The driver, a 23-year-old male, was taken by helicopter in critical condition, deputies said. The two female passengers, both in their late teens, were transported in serious condition, police said.

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Taser halts stabbing

Police used a Taser on a 57-year-old who was stabbing his father Tuesday. Officers were called to the 2000 block of Breton Avenue SE on a report of a dispute between the man and his 82-vear-old mother. She called 911 from a neighbor's house. Police found her son stabbing his father with a pocket knife. An officer deployed a Taser electric shock, ending the attack. The victim suffered seven stab wounds to the back, two to his neck and one to his cheek as well as a collapsed lung. The suspect was treated for minor injuries.

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Search finds autistic girl

A 9-year-old autistic girl who doesn't speak was found safe about a mile from her Northeast Side home after she walked out of her house about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, police said. Jamie Dubbink was found on the front porch of a residence following a two-hour search by officers and neighbors. The girl was reunited with her parents, who called authorities about five minutes after she slipped out of their house.

Servaas slams 'most biased' system

DISTRICT JUDGE PREPARES TO TAKE CASE AGAINST HIM TO STATE HIGH COURT

BY BARTON DEITERS

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

ROCKFORD — The scathing opinion delivered by the retired judge who heard allegations of misconduct against Rockford District Judge Steven Servaas only confirmed Servaas' belief that he can't get a fair shake from the state agency that oversees the judiciary.

thing I've ever seen, Servaas said. "It's not constitutional."

So the judge is preparing for the case brought by the Judicial Tenure Commission to ultimately end up at the state Supreme Court — at con-

siderable expense to himself and the taxpayers.

Servaas is covered by liability insurance that covers Kent County employees. For the judge, that means that \$100,000 of his fees and costs will be paid by the Michigan Municipal League policy, according to County Administrator Daryl Del-

"When I heard about (the insur-"This system is the most biased ance), I was ecstatic," Servaas said. ing I've ever seen, Servaas said. "I thought \$100,000 would easily cover this."

But Servaas said the bills from the law firm Miller Johnson have already passed the \$100,000 mark and appear to show no sign of slowing



Servaas

Steven Grathwohl

"It's horribly expensive," Servaas said. "I was astounded, all this — for

Servaas said he can see why many judges resign when confronted by the tenure panel rather than go through the expense.

Drawing doodles of breasts and a penis were part of the allegations against Servaas, something he denies. But retired Berrien County Judge Casper Grathwohl found otherwise, saying, "the doodles demeaned his female staff."

Grathwohl, the special master who oversaw Servaas' misconduct hearing six weeks ago, chastised Servaas for those drawings, along with a joke about the chest size of a female employee, saying the conduct "compromised the integrity of the 63rd District Court."

Blogger

'thrilled'

SEE SERVAAS, B2

AIMING HIGH



An inspirational undertaking: Neil Sauter, 25, of Blissfield in Lenawee County, puts on his stilts before visiting classes at the Conductive Learning Center at Lake Michigan Academy in Grand Rapids.

> Overcoming obstacles: Neil Sauter high-fives Jacob Crickenberger and Matt Smith, left, students at the center.



He faces a tall task

Neil Sauter makes inspirational stops during 830-mile stilt walk

> BY EMILY MONACELLI THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS — At 8 feet, 8 inches tall, Neil Sauter must hunch over to fit inside the Conductive Learning Center. If he stands up straight, his head pops through ceiling tiles.

Unless he takes off his stilts.

Sauter paused Thursday in his 830-mile stilt walk across Michigan to speak at the school for children with neural and motor disabilities.

He is completing the trek to inform people about cerebral palsy and to raise money for United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan. Oneeighth of the way through his trip, he has raised about \$5,000.

Sauter, 25, started his stilt-walk May 5 in Lambertville in southern Monroe County. By early July, he hopes to finish in Ironwood at the west end of the Upper Peninsula. He walks on average 20 miles a day, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., down SEE TALL, B2

STEP BY STEP

Stilt man

See him: Neil Sauter will attend today's West Michigan Whitecaps game against the Lansing Lugnuts. Next steps: Sauter walks 18 miles from Allendale to Grand Haven today, along Lake Michigan Drive. Miles walked so far: About 200 Miles to go: About 630 Average miles walked per day: 20

Length of journey: Eight weeks Funds raised so far: \$5,000 Minimum goal: \$10,000 More information: stiltstory.org

to head to DNC Local woman who goes

55 chosen to attend

PRESS WIRE AND LOCAL REPORTS

by wizardkitten among

Along with traditional newspaper and television news media covering this year's Democratic National Convention will be a blogger named wizardkitten — the online identity of a 42-year-old woman from Grand Rapids.

The Democratic Party on Wednesday chose 55 bloggers who will have access to the floor of the Denver convention, representing 54 states and territories and Americans abroad.

Wizardkitten — also known as Cathleen Carrigan, a Forest Hills Central grad and former rock-band bassist with the Cheeztones - said being selected "thrilled" and "overwhelmed" her.

The blog's name comes from Carrigan's childhood cat, Genius J. Wizard Kitten

"The name Cathleen was usually taken for blog names and, for some reason, this stuck out in my mind," Carrigan said. "(The cat) was named by my father."

Carrigan, who began blogging in October 2004, requested that The Press not use her photograph because it will "hurt and damage" her while reporting, and because she has "no desire to be a media star."

Chosen from among 400 applicants, the 55 members of the State Blogger Corps will blog for their states and be seated with their delegations during the August conven-

"Apparently, we'll have access to **SEE BLOGGER, B2**

CONNECT

• Cathleen Carrigan's work can be found at wizardkitten.blogspot.com, bloggingformichigan.com and politico.com.

GVSU community, area mourn loss of 'titan'

Co-founder Arnold Ott hailed as tireless worker

> BY NARDY BAEZA BICKEL THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

Whether it was helping his father with a barn, synthesizing hormones in his career or helping create Grand Valley State University, Arnold Ott was known in West Michigan as a tireless worker and entrepreneur who loved to build.

Mr. Ott, 90, a GVSU founder and GVSU's first provost, agreed.

its longest-serving board member, died Monday at age 90.

Grand Valley President Emeritus Don Lubbers, who worked with Mr. Ott through the 28 years he served on the board, said Mr. Ott felt especially proud of Grand Valley.

"He was a builder and he liked to see the institution developed — that was very much his interest," Lubbers said. "He was proud of his alma mater (Central Michigan University and Michigan State University), but he had Grand Valley ... as a very special place."

Glenn Niemeyer, who served as



Arnold Ott

"He was always a very strong supporter of Grand Valley and very committed to its mission," he said. "He was very in-

terested in what was going on and served

on the board in the earliest years, when there were

more challenging times," he said. GVSU President Thomas Haas, who also is a chemist, said he had

the chance to visit Mr. Ott a couple of times in the past years.

'We made an immediate connec-

tion, and I was really sad when I heard the news. We did lose a titan whose leadership and service to Grand Valley and the rest of the community will be felt for generations and generations to come," Haas said.

In a statement, Amway cofounder Rich DeVos called Mr. Ott "a wise, intelligent, caring man," who took DeVos' son, Dick DeVos, under his wing when he quit college.

'Arnold taught Dick how to run and build a business and encouraged him to finish college," Rich DeVos said. "That is a true demonstration

SEE OTT. B2