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**WEEKEND  
NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Education report:  
Some good, some bad**

WASHINGTON — America's schoolchildren are doing a little better in mathematics than they were a decade ago, but for many of them reading and science skills have declined slightly since 1992.

The government's 1999 National Assessment of Education Progress also shows a widening gap in the test performance of white and black elementary school students on reading, math and science. And black 17-year-olds on average are still four years behind whites in their reading skills.

**Normal radiation levels around sub,  
officials say**

MOSCOW — The radiation level in the area where a nuclear submarine exploded and sank is normal and there is no cause for alarm, Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said Friday, Russian media reported.

Concern has been high that radiation could leak from the Kursk, which sank Aug. 12, but officials in Russia and in neighboring Norway have not reported any increase in radiation levels.

**NHTSA: Tire recall may be broadened**

WASHINGTON — The recall of 6.5 million Firestone tires may be expanded if an investigation by federal regulators finds more widespread defects.

New National Highway Traffic Safety Administration head Sue Bailey, who came on the job Monday, would not discuss specifics of the investigation but said, "If we feel there is a defect affecting safety, we will issue a recall."

**Doubt cast on government's case**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A federal judge has agreed to free a former Los Alamos scientist accused of mishandling nuclear secrets, saying the government's case "no longer has the requisite clarity and persuasive character necessary" to keep Wen Ho Lee in jail pending his trial. U.S. District Judge James Parker's ruling Thursday follows a hearing last week in which Lee's lawyers cast doubt on the solidity of the government's case and on the sensitivity of the nuclear material involved.

**Weather**

Tonight, mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Saturday, mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. High 75-80. See extended weather page A3.



**Bringing you the news for 125 years**

August 25, 1937 — Petoskey Evening News "Estimate 2,500 visited grounds on opening day"

... for the public wedding at the Emmet County Fair. Ed Hilderbrand and Laura E. Lewis mounted the platform before the grandstand last evening and were made man and wife. They received a large number of gifts in cash and merchandise.

Our special 125th anniversary book — *Million Dollar Memories* — a 125-year pictorial Recollection of Little Traverse Bay is available at the News-Review and area books stores for \$23.95.

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**Are you ready for some ad wars?**

By LAURA MECKLER  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The presidential ad war escalates next week, with the Republican National Committee set to concentrate millions of dollars in Michigan and eight other states.



A senior Republican official Thursday said the party would spend about \$5 million

on next week's TV commercials. Democrats, who track the opposition's ad buying, pegged the figure closer to \$7 million.

Either way, that's on top of some \$5 million that George W. Bush's campaign will spend next week.

All Gore's Democratic campaign is also spending more than \$5 million per week, meaning that with more than two months until the election, TV viewers in key states could see 20 or 30 campaign ads in a single week.

For most of the summer, Democrats have

outspent Republicans in the ad war, as Gore tried to catch Bush, who was leading in the polls. Over two months, the Democratic National Committee spent some \$30 million on pro-Gore, anti-Bush spots.

But now, with Gore even or slightly ahead in national polls, the DNC is holding its ads back, waiting to see what Republicans put on the air.

"The mere fact that the Republican National Committee feels the need to spend that much money up front says something about how the dynamics of the campaign

have changed," said Gore spokesman Chris Lehane.

The RNC ads are set to run in traditional battleground states along the Great Lakes: Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, plus Arkansas, Delaware and Washington state. Strategists believe these states will remain hard fought all the way to Election Day.

The ads are also headed to Louisiana and Missouri, which the GOP hopes to lock into Bush's column with an early, aggressive ad buy.

**Auction day**

**Youngsters' livestock go to highest bidder**

By DEIDRE TOMASZEWSKI  
News-Review staff writer

As 4-H members curried their animals one last time, potential bidders gathered and talked around the show ring in the slanting afternoon sun, building suspense with each wave of murmurs. Meanwhile, at one corner of the tent, 4-H workers and volunteers set up a computer database, an inconspicuous sight in the open air.

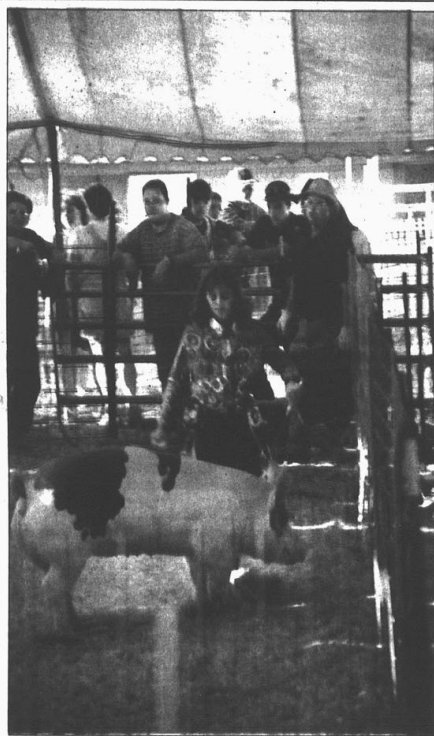
By the time the more than four-hour auction was over Thursday evening, young people had sold a total of 132 steers, lambs and hogs at auction at the Emmet-Charlevoix County Fair. Each young salesperson had a story. Here are two of them.

Kalie Jaronesi, in her second year of showing feeder beef livestock, had the grand champion in that category this year. A member of the Bear River 4-H Club, her steer weighed in at 615 pounds.

Kalie entered the ring first in the second category of the night, after market steers. Two auctioneers circled around, taking bids, as Kalie led a steer almost as tall as she was at the shoulder. When the bidding was done, her steer had fetched a price of \$1,600 a pound from Poinseau Woodworker of Boyne Falls.

Lambs came next, and the girl who had the grand champion lamb also had a champion hog.

Amanda Furgeson of Petoskey, at the ripe old age of 12, has been showing 4-H livestock since she was a toddler. She has



Amanda Furgeson of the Bear River 4-H Club directs her grand champion hog Baby in the Emmet-Charlevoix County 4-H Livestock Auction ring Thursday. The 285-pound Baby was sold to Circle M Ranch of Wolverine for \$2.50 a pound. (NEWS-REVIEW photo by Deidre Tomaszewski)

See AUCTION, page A2



As carnival barker Jamie Ronn (right) watches, a youngster takes aim at rows of brightly-colored balloons in search of a prize during the Emmet-Charlevoix County Fair Thursday afternoon. Ronn, of Marquette, is in her second year of traveling with Skerbeck Carnivals. (NEWS-REVIEW photo by Deidre Tomaszewski)

**Long rides, long days for carnival workers**

By DEIDRE TOMASZEWSKI  
News-Review staff writer

Jamie Ronn, a worker for Skerbeck Carnivals, which is taking part in this week's Emmet-Charlevoix County Fair, said she enjoys the travel that being with the carnival allows.

See WORKERS, page A2

**Schools, unions reach tentative contract**

By MARIE CHESTNEY  
News-Review staff writer

On the same day their current contract expires, Aug. 31, Petoskey's 170 teachers will meet at 8 a.m. to vote on a tentative three-year agreement reached earlier this week between their union — the Petoskey Education Association — and Public Schools of Petoskey.

A tentative agreement also has been reached between the school district and the 50-member Petoskey Education Support Personnel Association, according to superintendent John Jeffrey, the sole negotiator for the district.

The contract for the district's support staff, its cooks, custodians and secretaries, expired June 30.

The board of education will hold a special meeting at 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31, to hear details of both contracts from Jeffrey, and to approve the two contracts if they have been ratified by union members.

Because the two tentative contracts contain pay raises for union members, Jeffrey at this meeting will also recommend similar raises for the approximately 75 non-unionized workers in the district. This includes administrators, teacher aides and lunch-hour monitors.

"Typically, salary adjustments are close to what unionized workers get," Jeffrey said.

The superintendent declined to give details of the two contracts before they are seen by union members.

"The most difficult negotiations always relate to wages and health insurance, that's where the bulk of the district's costs are," Jeffrey said. "Eighty percent of our budget is wages."

It was important for the district's elementary teachers to get additional planning time, he said.

See CONTRACT, page A2

**Bay View rejects new bike-pedestrian pathway**

By FRED GRAY  
News-Review staff writer

The Bay View Association has turned down a request from Emmet County to use the former railroad right of way in Bay View as part of the bicycle/pedestrian pathway that closely follows the shoreline from Bay Shore to beyond the Petoskey State

Park. Rodney Stocum, executive director of the association, wrote to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners earlier this month that a bike path already exists through Bay View that was built in 1989 to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) safety standards.

Stocum said in an interview Thursday

that the Bay View section was "the anchor leg" that established the bike path, known as the Little Traverse Wheelway. "It allowed everyone else to use it as a launching pad to build the entire network," he said.

The county contends the Bay View section of the path is effectively a 5- to 6-foot wide sidewalk for use by pedestrians, and

too narrow to be safely used by bikers and

inline skaters. Fred Pettis, who chairs the Harbor-Petoskey Trail Committee, said the path should be 10 feet wide. He said any trail built by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be 10 feet wide, if

See PATHWAY, page A2

