

DIAMONDS
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Democrats to meet

The Sanilac County Democratic Party will hold its meeting Friday at 8 p.m. at the Civic Center in Sandusky.
Plans will be made for the 8th District Steering Committee meeting July 20 from 3-6 p.m. Sanilac County will be the host.
Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.



AROUND THE FARM
Bean field monitoring
By William Bortel

A special bean monitoring project has been initiated in Tuscola County.
The project is through the cooperation of the Michigan Farm Expo funds, Tuscola County Board of Com-

missioners and the Tuscola Cooperative Extension Service.

Barbara Bilitzke of Caro has been hired for six weeks to monitor bean fields throughout Tuscola County for insects and diseases. She will be walking fields primarily looking for problems.

With the tremendous increase in pinto and black turtle bean acreage in Tuscola county and the Thumb in 1980, we are sitting on a potential powder keg of insect and disease problems.

The finance committee of Michigan Farm Expo determined this to be a priority project in 1980 and hired a monitor. There were a few dollars left in the Expo account following the Farm Expos of 1976 and 1977.

Ms. Bilitzke will be bringing individual samples of insects and potential diseases to the Extension Office in Caro for positive identification. Summaries of the week's finds will be used in newspapers and on local radio. Travel expenses will be paid by the county Board of Commissioners from county funds.

Akron Fund Fair set July 26

For many years, some citizens have been hoping that their idea of a sidewalk from the Akron village park to the center of town would be a reality.

The First Annual Fund Fair, Saturday, July 26, is a drive to meet that goal.

Cyclists, pedestrians and school children would be safer on such a sidewalk. It would enhance the appearance of the village

and point to the pride the citizens have in their community.

About 2,000 feet of sidewalk is needed at a cost of approximately \$6,500. Donations and pledges are part of the drive. The Fund Fair is to offer more financial support.

The fair will be at the village park from 10 a.m. until dark.

A 7-mile walk or 14-mile bike ride kicks off the day, leaving from the park at 10. A chicken barbecue will be served from 1-7 p.m.

Other activities will include arts and crafts and flea market stalls, alternate energy displays, Boy Scout dunking pond, entertainment for children, refreshments and an auction at 6 p.m. of donated saleable items, excluding clothing.

Organic farm group to meet

The Thumb area chapter of Organic Growers of Michigan will meet Thursday, July 17, at 7 p.m. at the farm of Kay and Joe Scrimger, 4550 Barnes Road, Clifford.

There will be a farm tour, discussion on farm certification and business meet-

Energy meeting Thursday

Jerry and Roger Cantu of Saginaw will discuss the home-sized ethanol production unit they market, at the Tuscola County Energy Society meeting this Thursday.

It will start at 7:30 p.m. in the basement meeting room of the county jail in Caro, behind the courthouse.

It and future meetings will be on the second Thursday of each month. In addition to the public, dealers are invited to bring promotional literature on any phase of alternative energy.

New books at the library

NO LOVE LOST, by Helen Van Slyke (fiction). In 1939, Lindsay Thresher, 19 years old and pampered only daughter of a wealthy businessman, marries young Geoff Murray secretly. Her love for Geoff transcends mere material possessions—or so Lindsay thinks at first. Not even to her family or her best friend will she admit that she might have been too hasty in marrying Geoff. This novel of changing love and misplaced passion is by the author of "A Necessary Woman" and "The Best Place to Be."

SINS OF THE FATHERS, by Susan Howatch (fiction). A sequel to "The Rich Are Different," "Sins of the Fathers" concentrates on the lives of the wealthy Van Zale family—particularly Van Zale's nephew and heir, Cornelius, and his daughter Vicky. In a world of American heirs and heiresses, Susan Howatch explores the effects of the past betrayals on the present and future. In a saga of dreams, both realized and shattered, Victoria Van Zale is a survivor. She fights her father's practice of ruthlessly inflicting his power on those who threaten him.

ENERGY PRIMER: SOLAR, WIND, WATER AND BIO-FUELS, by Richard Merrill (non-fiction). An oversized book which covers all forms of alternative energy—solar water and space heaters, water wheels, wood-burning heaters, windmills and biofuels (methane digesters, alcohol stills, etc.), this volume explains the processes used and the hardware involved in these alternate energy forms as well as providing a discussion of installation, cost and use. The emphasis is on small-scale systems for individuals or small groups, and the book emphasizes the need to conserve and to build passive solar systems into all new structures.

New wheat meeting this Thursday

Wheat producers, industry personnel and others interested in the new wheat varieties are invited to a meeting Thursday evening, July 10.

The two newest wheat varieties adapted for this area, Frankennuth and Augusta, will be on display.

The meeting will be at the Harold Hickey farm starting at 7. The Hickey farm is three miles west of Fairgrove on M-138 and north on Garner Road, one-half mile.

The two new varieties have outyielded Arthur and Abe by 17 percent, outyielded Tecumseh and Genesee, 13 percent, Ionia by 10

percent and Yorkstar by 3 percent.

The two new varieties are soft white and both have excellent pastry quality, according to Bill Bortel, Tuscola County Extension Director.

Dr. Russell Freed, wheat plant breeder at Michigan State University, will be present.

Milk output continues to increase

Production of milk on Michigan farms totaled 431 million pounds during May 1980, 3 percent above the same month in 1979.

This figure reflects a 30 pound rise in productivity per cow coupled with a 1,000 head increase in cow population. The state's 395,000 cows averaged a total of 1,090 pounds of milk per cow during May, according to the Michigan Agricultural Reporting Service.

Dairymen received an average of \$12.90 per hundredweight for milk during the month, 11 percent higher than a year ago. Slaughter cows went for \$47.50 per cwt., \$9.20 below the 1979 selling price.

The price to replace a milk cow continues to rise. This month's cost, at \$1,220 is 9 percent above the 1979 cost and doubles the 1978 price.

National May milk production totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 3 percent from May, 1979. Production per cow averaged 1,075 pounds, 31 pounds above a year earlier. Milk cows averaged 10.8 million head for May, up 47,000 head from last year, but 21,000 below May, 1978.

Dairy products manufactured in Michigan during April, 1980 increased substantially from 1979. Butter output increased 29 percent to 4.3 million pounds. American cheese production totaled over 2.1 million pounds, 28 percent higher. Ice cream production in Michigan is up 18 percent from 1979 to over 3.1 million gallons.

Barley meeting July 16

Malting barley producers, industry personnel and others are invited to attend the 1980 Thumb malting barley twilight meeting Wednesday, July 16, at the barley nursery plots.

The special twilight meeting will replace the tour, according to Bill Bortel, Tuscola County extension director.

Stop Number 1, 7 p.m. -- Wallace Hecht farm, 3225 Bradford Road, 1½ miles east of Richville to Bradford Road and north a half-mile. Michigan State University malting barley research plots are located at this farm.

8 p.m. - John Harrington farm, 2586 Bradleyville Road, 3½ miles east of Reese to Bradleyville Road, then south 1¼ miles. The malting barley outlook and reports will be presented followed by liquid refreshments and bratwurst.

The evening will feature a tour of malting barley research plots with Jim Nelson, malting barley breeding program coordinator at Michigan State University, plus a look at new malting barley varieties, Red River Valley barley outlook, Thumb barley outlook, Stroh's Brewery report, Rickel Malting report and delivery of the 1980 crop.

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Friday, July 18
Saturday, July 19

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