



Marching band
receives top scores
PAGE 4



Stratford
PAGE 2

How to make
turkey
cookies
PAGE 5



Varsity Football:
District
Champions
PAGE 7

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THE WY-NEWS

Roosevelt High School

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Wyandotte, Michigan

National companies try to help

BY DEVIN CADE

Companies across the United States are trying to make a big impact on the green movement.

After hurricane Katrina many homeowners in New Orleans were forced to rebuild or do major repairs to their houses. Seeing an opportunity to help make New Orleans a "greener place" and a cost effective way for homeowners to rebuild, The Green Project was created.

The Green Project operates in a warehouse that sells salvaged building materials at a low cost. This store is helping to reduce the amount of usable materials in the landfills by going through the city and taking unneeded materials from damaged properties and restoring its use.

"I think it's really good for the environment. We [The United States] need help to make products we use not interfere with the environment," junior Violet Hopper said.

The warehouse also currently serves as a recycling center for New Orleans and takes cardboard, newspaper, paper, aluminum cans, and household "e-waste" (electronic equipment like computers, stereos, printers, monitors, cell phones, etc.)

New York City is also getting involved with the green movement with the project known as Taxi's of Tomorrow.

The New York Taxi and Limousine Commission is in charge of over 13,150 yellow medallion taxicabs, and is working to propose rules that revise current vehicles specifications to mandate hybrid-electric technology by 2009.

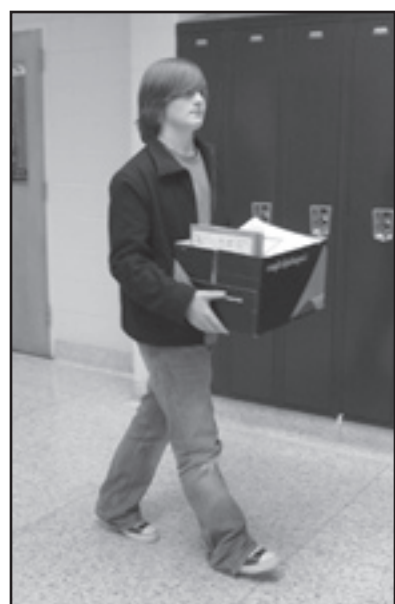
"The less dependant we are on fossil fuels the better the future looks," said science teacher Kathryn Ebrahimi.

Some changes are also being made in Michigan. Michigan Green Cabs is a taxi cab service that services the southeast Michigan area. With every 150 new green cabs the company is saving 1,200,000 gallons of fuel each year and reduces green house emissions by seventy percent.

Green changes are also being made at Central Michigan University. The Education building on campus was built using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The Building was built using reused materials, and uses more natural light, which in turn means less electricity.

"I think that [the education building] is awesome at Central, even though I will no longer be a student there to enjoy the building," said student teacher Stanley Grzebyk.

Students realize the importance of helping the Environment



Science Club vice president Aaron Glenn is working with the new club to make the school a greener place. Recycling is one of the things the Science Club plans to do to help out. Photo: Brittany Cooper

"It's extremely important that we start with our kids in understanding how important it is to be environmentally friendly. It's very important to make them conscious of taking care of our natural resources."
- WMS Principal Tom Kell

GO GREEN

Science Club moves RHS toward greener pastures

BY BRITTANY COOPER

Roosevelt's new Science Club has dedicated itself to helping RHS go green.

The club is recycling paper, cans, and is cleaning up assigned spots on the Rouge River.

Sponsored by Science teachers Tina and Jeff Weller, Science Club is taking the necessary steps to make RHS a more "eco-friendly" school.

Principal Mary McFarlane thinks that what the Science Club is going to bring to RHS is great.

"I'm thrilled, we have a dynamic science department," McFarlane said. "I'm also thrilled that we are utilizing those talents to move Roosevelt forward in a green initiative."

Junior Science Club President Jason Glenn is hoping this green movement will catch on.

"I'm hoping there will be a lot of success. We are going to try and make Earth Day a school wide function and not just for the Earth Science classes. We would like to get the entire school involved," Glenn said.

From recycling cans and paper to cleaning up the Rouge River from time to time, the Science Club is on its way to making RHS and the places around it a cleaner environment.

Though Roosevelt did many other things to make our school more energy-efficient beforehand, the Science Club will improve it greatly.

"We have always recycled cans and paper along with Key Club," said

Weller. "We use energy-saving light bulbs and we are trying to become green about electronic equipment and are going to see if we can recycle used cell phones."

Weller is very confident about Science Club's ability to do various things to make RHS green.

"We are making it as easy and as organized as possible," said Weller. Science Club is going to transform our school into an energy efficient building, saving electricity and money.

"RESA [Regional Educational Service Agency] has awarded us a grant to buy equipment for water testing. [We have this because] we are assigned a spot on the Rouge River to clean up," said Weller.

The Science Club has been organized into groups and assigned a goal to help reach this green initiative.

"The students are in sub-committees and each of them is assigned one of the ten goals to conduct," said Weller. "[Of those ten goals] they must get them approved by the principal."

The 'Friends of the Rouge' experiment is another clean up project that Glenn is excited about.

"I'm going to help out a lot with our 'Friends of the Rouge' clean up trips. I helped with these clean ups in seventh and eighth grade and really enjoyed it," said Glenn. "Also, in the sub-committees we are starting soon, I hope to arise solutions to help endangered species. I'm going to contribute as much time as I can into the Science Club."

Wyandotte Public Schools initiate a Green First



Wilson Middle School's 10 kilowatt solar-powered system is paving way, saving money

BY MOLLY GUCKIAN

Wilson, the City of Wyandotte, CRESIT Energy, and Johnson Controls (which has been doing the school's electrical upgrades) teamed up to install the solar powered system to generate electricity and cut energy costs. Wyandotte Public Schools received a \$50,000 dollar grant from the state, and another \$50,000 grant from Johnson Controls.

"We've hired Johnson Controls three different times and [this time] they put a proposal together that if they do certain upgrades like different lighting, center controls on the heat and different things like that, they promised us we would save some money," Wyandotte Superintendent Dr. Patricia A. Cole said. "Over a ten year span, we'll save three and a half million dollars."

Solar panels on the school's roof transfers sunlight directly into electricity through the photovoltaic process. "It is tracked, how much energy is produced and that energy goes into the main grid of the city, but by tracking how much energy is produced, they subtract that from our bill," Wilson Principal Tom Kell said. "It's not like the energy powers our lights directly."

By establishing the solar panels, Wyandotte has gained positive attention statewide. "We're the first in the state [to take on a project of this magnitude]," Cole said. "We're the first, we do it best, and we're the model [for the rest of the state]. It's been done on other kinds of buildings, but never a school building before."