



Photo by SCOTT BENEDECIT

'Women of Steel' show soft side

The Women of Steel, Michigan Seamless Tube plant employees who are part of a national organization of female steel workers, recently passed the hat at work for Active Faith. The result, over \$1,000 in donations, which event co-chairs Marie Foljahn and Doraretha McKey, and

member Anita Claxton presented to Active Faith executive director Kathy Reed (right) on Sept. 27. "Active Faith helped out many of the families that worked here during our strike back in 1989," said Foljahn. "We felt that we should help them in return."

Board members will personally monitor plant

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which has an extensive record of environmental violations at their previous location in Detroit and is developing quite a record in Lyon Township as well.

Continental Aluminum found its way onto the agenda before the Lyon Township Board for its Oct. 4 meeting. Before a packed audience, Lisa Scarpelli, Environmental Quality Supervisor for MDEQ, explained what measures her office has taken to address the situation with the company.

"We have been able to cite the facility in violation in relation to the odor, and that was because our staff was able to confirm that complaint," she said. "The company needs to respond to that violation next Monday. We have talked to them and they are planning on doing that."

After that time, Scarpelli said the MDEQ will determine if the steps offered by Continental Aluminum as a means to address the problem are sufficient to cure the problem. Once the government agency is satisfied with the measures to alleviate the problem, the next step is the actual clean up of the facility. No time frame was given by Scarpelli to when that would be necessary, which was met with objection from residents and questions from the board.

"The MDEQ is dancing around the issue," said an angry resident whose wife suffered the same reaction as did Phillips over a year ago, he said. "This is something that happens continuously from Continental Aluminum. They brought their baggage from Wayne County out to here."

Scarpelli then addressed the measures the department was taking in regards to the injury of Phillips. The only thing we could possibly do related to that is a declaration by the director that there is an imminent health threat. We are gathering information at this point, but I am not convinced it will be able to support an imminent health threat."

Scarpelli said information her office received from the medical staff which treated Phillips stated that the employee suffered from abrasions to the corners. She added that the information was not enough to declare that hydro-

gen-chloride caused the damage.

"What can we tell our township residents?" asked Patricia Carcone, Township Treasurer.

The board was told that the doctor who treated Phillips must provide information as to what exactly caused the condition with the building inspector's eyes.

It appeared to be a consensus with both residents and township officials that with all the documented accounts and complaints that MDEQ could not finalize their position with Continental Aluminum and shut the facility down.

Scarpelli addressed the issue by saying in her years with the department no facility has generated more response from MDEQ than Continental Aluminum. She added that despite the numerous reports, many times her field employees find very little if anything wrong with the facility, due to the time it takes them to get to the site from their Livonia office.

That is counterproductive to the cause, she stated.

"We have numerous times in our files that we came out and staff witnessed no odors," she said. "That tends to make it look like there is not a problem."

In an effort to compile sufficient evidence of violations by the company, Carcone suggested that each member of the board spend some time during the late evening-early morning hours and videotape the smoke escaping through the walls of the facility.

The opposite side of the issue was answered by William Wickers, who serves as the company's legal counsel. "None of this is particularly new, we know this is an ongoing issue," he said. "The company has put in a number of improvements to address these issues to try to reduce the potential for these types of problems."

Wickers stated the company is attempting to work with both the MDEQ and the township to resolve the matters of concern.

Resident Robin Allen offered: "I ask that they be shut down."

Watergate hearings took back seat

Continued from 1

had been without a theater for several years, debuting with Walt Disney's Snowball Express.

For Dallas Phillips, owner of Phillips Travel Service, business and family matters were more pressing on his mind.

"My father had died in 1971, and took over running the business in 1972, so I probably had the challenges of running a business on my mind," he said. "But I have no distinct recollections of the Watergate hearings and how I felt about them at the time."

Still, he opined that, in the more recent scandals in Washington, as each new media report unfolded, he constantly questioned how much of what was reported was true.

"Until it hits you personally, I don't think you have hard and fast opinions about them," he said.

For a little over two years, however, news of Watergate dominated political reporting. It began on June 17, 1972, when five burglars broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office building in Washington, D.C., intent on wiretapping and stealing Democratic campaign secrets.

As it became increasingly evident that the Watergate burglars

were tied closely to the Central Intelligence Agency and the Committee to Re-elect the President (CRP), some of Nixon's aides began talking to federal prosecutors.

The deletion of aides such as Jeb Stuart Magruder, assistant to CRP director John N. Mitchell, quickly implicated others in Nixon's inner circle. The Senate established (February 1973) an investigative committee headed by Sen. Sam Ervin, Jr., to look into the growing scandal. Amid increasing disclosures of White House involvement in the Watergate break-in and its aftermath, Nixon announced the resignations of John Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman, two of his closest advisors, and the dismissal of his counsel John W. Dean III.

Despite several Nixon firings of those who might prosecute him, edited tapes - albeit with suspicious gaps in them - were turned over in April of 1974.

Not satisfied, Judge John Sirica subpoenaed additional tapes. When Nixon refused, the case moved to the Supreme Court, which ruled (July 24) against him by an 8-0 vote. The Court ordered that a president could withhold national security material but insisted that Watergate was a criminal matter.

On July 27-30, the House Judiciary Committee, whose public hearings had disclosed evidence of illegal White House activities, recommended that Nixon be impeached on three charges: obstruction of justice, abuse of presidential powers, and trying to impede the impeachment process by defying committee subpoenas.

A beleaguered President Nixon released three tapes to the public on Aug. 5, 1974. One revealed that he had taken steps to thwart the FBI's inquiry into the Watergate burglary. The tape made it clear that Nixon had been involved actively in the cover-up from its beginnings. These disclosures destroyed the President's remaining congressional support, and facing certain impeachment and conviction, he resigned on Aug. 9.

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Single Business Tax cut may cost businesses more

By Mike Maiotti
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE

State lawmakers may have voted this spring to get rid of the hated Single Business Tax, phasing it out over the next 23 years, but Michigan business leaders are not done with the issue yet.

"Twenty-three years, are you kidding?" Onsted businesswoman Sharon Roy asked at the Speaker's Summit on Small Business.

Nearly 400 business men and women gathered with legislative leaders at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing Wednesday, Sept. 22, for the first of its kind meeting.

Speaker Chuck Perricone, R-Kalamazoo Township, organized the summit meeting to allow small business owners to meet with the chair of each committee in the House of Representatives.

Lingering concerns about the SBT dominated much of the conversation. "Once you get done adding back the Investment Tax Credit for the

Capital Acquisition Deduction, it will take 15 years before this is even revenue neutral," Roy continued.

The bill adopted by lawmakers in the spring phasing out the SBT also replaced the Capital Acquisition Deduction with an Investment Tax Credit. While similar, Roy said, the legislation allows businesses to claim only 85 percent of the new credit, compared to 100 under the old deduction.

Roy said that means the tax liability of many businesses will actually increase initially under the phase out plan.

House Taxation Committee Chair Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, said the increase was unintentional. "We are beginning to realize that some adjustments will be needed. It was not the intention of the Legislature in eliminating the SBT to increase it for some and make them wait for 15 years for tax relief," she said.

In fact, Perricone said he believes the Legislature will speed up the process of getting rid of the SBT.

"Many of you would like to see the phase-out accelerated," Perricone said in his address to the crowd. "I can assure you we will accelerate it, but not this year. We've had two tax cuts already and another is coming. But I can assure you it will happen and in the next few years."

That should come as good news to Eaton Rapids resident Nicole Clark, owner of the Lansing office equipment distributor Hasselbring-Clark. She complained the tax is so complicated that she can't check her accountant's work.

"We have our ups and downs and our down years. I always pay this Single Business Tax at the same rate no matter what my profits are. In the past five years, my SBT has been larger, and in many cases double, what my federal income taxes are," she said.

"Think about it on a personal level. 4-4? Clark continued. "In the marginal tax rate to the federal government, it's 39-40 percent. If you were earning \$100,000 and you paid the federal government \$40,000 of that, you would only pay \$4,000 to the state of Michigan. Then you turn into a business and you pay \$20,000 to the federal government and you pay \$40,000 - double it - to the State of Michigan."

Clark said that because the SBT is calculated in part on payroll and the benefits paid to employees, it penalizes companies that are generous, that is companies which try to avoid layoffs during economic recessions.

"Back in 1976, when this tax was first passed, I was invited to the Rotary to explain the new Single Business Tax. Northville CPA Lee Holland said, 'I looked at it and I said, this is the most complicated thing I have ever seen. Even though you are operating at a loss, you have to add back your compensation, add back your depreciation, I didn't understand it then and I don't understand it now.'"

Holland did point out a few things about the SBT he found humorous. The gross receipts reduction in the SBT, for instance, applies if a company's gross receipts are more than \$9 million, and less than \$10 million.

There must be one company somewhere in Michigan with gross receipts somewhere between \$9 and \$10 million," he said.

I read back in 1976 that the auditors for the state of Michigan were really concerned about this law because it was so complicated. They had to make it honest. One of the supervisors was quoted as saying, 'Just because you don't understand this, and I cannot explain it, does not mean we should not enforce it.' Holland said.

When the SBT was first adopted, it replaced seven other business taxes. Although a variety of formulas are used to calculate it, its purpose is to tax the value a business adds to its product.

Perricone said he specifically targeted small businesses because they provide 78 percent of jobs in the state. And while the economy may be good for now, there will certainly be a down turn at some point in the future, he said.

Actually, the strength of state's economy even at present may be a bit deceptive. According to the Small Business Association of Michigan, in a study released at the summit, when states were ranked on a series of 17 economic indicators - including number of knowledge jobs, globalization, competition, transformation to a digital economy and technological innovation - Michigan was well behind leaders Massachusetts and California. In fact, it fell below the national average, landing in position 34.

The association pointed to what it calls "four crucial barriers" to business in the state. The first is excessive phone rates. Second is high electric rates. Third, Michigan health care costs are among the highest in the country. Fourth is the lack of research funding for small high technology firms.

OBITUARIES

Catherine M. Spannos

Catherine M. Spannos, age 73, passed away Monday, Oct. 4, at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia.

She was born on Sept. 6, 1926, to Art and Magdalene Planos, in Chicago, Ill. Catherine was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Northville and moved to the Novi community over 40 years ago. Catherine was married to John for over 55 years.

Her loving husband, John Spannos, of Novi survives her. She was the mother of David Spannos, of Novi; John Spannos, of Miami; George Spannos, of California; and Magdalene (Richard) Pietila, of South Lyon. Two sisters, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren also survive Catherine. She was preceded in death by one sister.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, Oct. 6. A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 7, at 11 a.m., at Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. Interment will follow at the South Lyon Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by Phillips Funeral Home.

Edward, James and Robert; and two sisters: Veronika Tykoski and Sharon Serman. His brother, Terrence, preceded him in death.

Visitation was held on Oct. 2 and 3, at Phillips Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass was held on Monday, Oct. 4, at 11 a.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Interment followed at the South Lyon Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by Phillips Funeral Home.

Michael R. Serman, age 49, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 29. He was the beloved husband of Suzanne, and loving father of Chad and Michael. He is survived by his four brothers: Randolph,

John Pudyk

John Pudyk, age 85, of Salem Township, passed away Saturday, Oct. 2, at his home.

John was born in Korczyn, Ukraine, to Wasyli and Tekla (Schulhan) Pudyk on March 27, 1914. He married Christine Hnatycyn in August 1945. He and his family came to the United States on a ship called the Mary Maryland in late 1948. He moved to Salem Township in 1975, and was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Ukrainian Catholic Church in Dearborn Heights, where he was a Cantor. John retired from Ford Motor Co. after 31 years, where he worked at the Northville Valve Plant as a machine repairman. John was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He took great pride in his family and was always interested in anything they said or did. He was an avid Red Wings fan and especially liked having company while watching the games when they were televised. John was a friendly man who was always eager to talk with family and friends. When asked his age he would never tell. He was young at heart.

John is survived by his beloved wife, Christine; his loving daughter, Zenia Bahorski, of South Lyon; three grandchildren; and one niece. He was preceded in death by his son, Walter Pudyk, in 1989; and two brothers: and one sister.

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Donna Jean Wood

Donna Jean Wood, age 59, of Plymouth, passed away Friday, Oct. 1, in Salem Township. She was born Sept. 7, 1940, in Detroit.

Donna is survived by her husband, Marvin J. Wood; daughter, Lenore Ramsey; son, Steven Wood; mother, Lenore Elliott; brothers, Norman and Gerald Elliott; sisters, Sharon Robinson, Karen Duka, Judy Barkley, and Delores Stuart; and grandchildren, Matthew, Daniel, Jimmy and Colleen. She was preceded in death by one son, Marvin J. Wood, Jr., and one sister, Evelyn.

Funeral services were Monday, Oct. 4, at Santeu Chapel, in Garden City, with the Rev. David W. Martin, of Risen Christ Lutheran Church, officiating. Visitation is Oct. 2-9, at John N. Santeu and Son Funeral Home, in Garden City. Interment will be at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, in Livonia.

Memorials are suggested to the American Diabetes Association or Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Arrangements were by John N. Santeu and Son Funeral Home, in Garden City.



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