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Local In Brief

Hammond Residents invited to continue learning through adult classes

**HAMMOND** - The Hammond Adult Education Department offers a comprehensive schedule of adult, community and continuing education courses for the spring semester.

Family history club meets at Hayward library branch

**HAMMOND** - A family history club will hold its first meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday at the L.H. Hayward Branch, 1212 17th St.

Recovering drug addicts, alcoholics invited to talk

**GARY** - Recovering alcoholics and drug addicts are invited to avoid emotional entanglements in the first year, said Sue Cook, director of the Center for Addiction Treatment at St. Mary Medical Center.

Eggers safety patrol honored for 13 accident-free years

**HAMMOND** - Eggers Elementary School recently earned an awards certificate from the A.A.A. Chicago Motor Club for 13 accident-free years in interventions guided by members of the school's safety patrol.

Lincoln library branch offers cholesterol awareness program

**HAMMOND** - A free program on cholesterol awareness will be offered at 1 p.m. March 13 at the Lincoln branch of the Hammond Public Library, 8335 Holmes Ave.

Region

Lake County AIDS group meets for talk at United Way

**GRIFFITH** - The Lake County AIDS Taskforce will meet at 7 tonight at Lake Area United Way, 221 W. Ridge Road.

Cancer patients, families join Reaching Out meeting

**MERRILLVILLE** - An "open rap session" for cancer patients and their families will be offered at today's meeting of the Reaching Out support group.

CAMEO support group talk features nutrition for elderly

**HIGHLAND** - Children of the Aging, Managing, Expressing, Overcoming will discuss nutrition for people's older years at its meeting from 7:30 to 9:30 tonight at the library of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3711 Ridge Road.

Lake County panel will pick finalists today for judgeship

**CROWN POINT** - The Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission will induct its final eight applicants today to replace retired Lake Superior Court Judge Conrad Pankratz.

The eight, chosen Monday from a field of 22, are Richard Fleming, Andrea Kulis, Inis Rivers, Glenn Commons, Rogelio Dominguez, Jeff Dwyer, Cordeil Park, Joseph Reed, and Donald Levinson, the commission's secretary.

The list will be pared again to three names, which will be sent to Gov. Evan Bush for the final choice.

# Group to debate incinerator plan

Protest parade follows April 19 forum

**By REBECCA WICK**  
*Times Staff Writer*

**HAMMOND** - Environmentalists, citing frustration over the little progress made on the Rhono-Paulsen Basic Chemicals Co. incinerator debate, have announced they plan to hold their own forum in April.

A 10-group coalition of environmentalists and residents has scheduled a public forum April 19 on Rhono-Paulsen's request in December to run its industrial waste as a commercial hazardous waste incinerator, and has invited company officials to attend.

The forum is to be followed the next day with a protest parade that will start at Columbia Park in Hammond and end at the plant at 2000 Michigan St., Terry McKinstry of the Iraq Walton League said at a recent press conference.

Rhono-Paulsen Plant Manager John Mayes said he is disappointed the coalition opted out and has asked that message on local radio spots and in newspaper ads. The coalition objected to a letter Feb. 15 from Mayes in which he proposed a 60-member audience and satellite dishes set up at two other auditoriums so hundreds of others could watch.



View of the Rhono-Paulsen plant in Hammond, Ind., where a commercial hazardous waste incinerator is being built. Photo by John Sorenson.



Nobody, not even man's best friend, can resist the warmer weather outside after being cooped up inside all winter. One dog sniffs the spring air as its owners cruise north on Calumet Avenue near Ridge Road in Munster. The other dog takes advantage of an ice-free roof to guard his home at 7300 Van Buren in Merrillville. Photos by John Sorenson.

## E.C. curbside recycling close to being reality

By ANDREA HOLECEK

**EAST CHICAGO** - The city will start a pilot curbside recycling program within the next few months, said Louis Harding, the city's recycle coordinator.

The pilot program probably will hold the Romanus, Prairie Park and Sunnyside areas of the city. The 875 homes in those areas were chosen because residential refuse is picked up in front of the homes rather than in alleyways, making recycling easier, Harding said.

Each of the homes will be given an 18-gallon, bright orange container to collect plastic milk jugs, lighter and two-liter pop bottles and other plastics, plus aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars and newspapers.

Homeowners won't be asked to separate their recyclable items, Harding said.

"The recycling truck will have bins on it, and the collectors will separate the items in the containers into bins for each material."

"In other areas they've found out it's easier to have the workers do it at the truck than to have them try to get the stuff out of bins that have compartments for each material," Harding said.

City residents are using the drop-off recycling bins placed at first locations in the city in December. Each of the 1000-shaped containers has four compartments.

They are at Fire Station No. 1, 1903 Indianapolis Blvd., Fire Station No. 2, 3428 Golden St., Krocinski Park, 1514 and Sophia streets, the police station at 2301 E. Columbus Drive, and at Veterans Park, 4527 Indianapolis Blvd.

"We've had an excellent response," Harding said. "I'm confident the pilot program will be just as much, or more, of a success."

There will be a public meeting on recycling at 6 tonight at the Robert A. Patrick branch of the East Chicago Public Library, 240 E. Columbus Drive. Harding said he expects 30 to 45 people to attend, including representatives of city organizations.

## Hammond board OKs schools' library material removal policy

By SHARON BOHLING

**HAMMOND** - A new procedure has been established for dealing with requests to remove materials from the collections of Hammond schools' libraries.

The Hammond School Board Monday night approved the new policy governing the selection of resource media as part of an annual review of board policies.

"It's an area that can be very controversial," said Gary Jones, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

Around the country there has been an increasing vocal push for censorship in schools, with parents and community members calling for removing such

## Similar E.C. candidates' names had election officials suspecting trickery

By PETRA LUKE

**CROWN POINT** - For a while, some Lake County Election Board members thought they had all the makings of an East Chicago election scandal.

The signature on a form withdrawing a candidate Friday from an East Chicago race didn't appear to match even remotely the signature on the form he had supposedly used when he filed to run for the office.

The discrepancy first was noticed by Paula Bartock, supervisor of elections in the county election board office (and she was promoted this year to first chief deputy in the county clerk's office).

She also noticed it appeared the man had made a mistake when he listed the office for which he had filed, and then which he now wanted to withdraw. The form said "city clerk," not "city judge," so that meant the city judge candidate would still be in the race, Bartock said.

For a couple of minutes, election board employees wondered aloud about the identity of the man - his last one in the office when the noon deadline hit Friday - who had turned in what appeared to be a fraudulent candidacy withdrawal form. Who was he?

The mystery was solved by Michelle Cox, elections supervisor. The similar names foisted their which in just what some candidates count on happening on election day. Cox remembered that an Alex Lopez

had filed as a candidate for East Chicago city clerk. Democrat Alex Lopez filed Feb. 6 to run for city clerk. He withdrew from that race Friday.

Alexander Lopez filed Friday as a Democratic candidate for East Chicago city judge. He stayed in that race.

When Alexander Lopez heard about the man, he laughed. He said he's not related to Alex Lopez, but he knows him. "When he (Alex Lopez) filed for clerk, everybody thought it was me," said Alexander Lopez. "I've never run for political office."

After they concluded that mystery, they were left with another: How did they end up with a candidacy withdrawal form for a man who hadn't filed

## E. Chicago water intake valve videotape missing

By ANDREA HOLECEK

**EAST CHICAGO** - The city may have to make another videotape of its water intake valves and address missed population because made by a diver last summer can't be found.

Deep-water diver Ronald Clark, who was paid \$4,000 for diving into Lake Michigan and videotaping the valves, had the videotape, that Clark, of Ron Clark Commercial Diving, Zions, Ill., died during a dive in December in Portia, Ill. Since then his family hasn't been able to find the tape, said Ed Kowal, water department superintendent.

The videotape, taken in September or October, showed zebra mussels in the water department's pump house and on the intake valves, but it

also showed that some of the intake valve levers are missing.

The levers - wooden slats that open and close with the force of the water - are used to keep debris from entering the intake pipes. Plans to repair and replace deteriorated and missing levers were to be based on information in the videotape.

Clark kept the tape because he was going to do more work for the city, Kowal said.

"We're not really sure what we're going to do," he said. "We may have to send another diver down there to do another tape. We have to start all over again."

Clark had reported that the zebra mussel population wasn't large and wouldn't present a problem until the next reproductive season. Kowal

## Police release composite of Days Inn murder suspect

By LORRIE HICKS

**MERRILLVILLE** - Police investigating the Days Inn murders have released a composite of a suspect in the case.

Merrillville Police Chief Jerry McCarty declined to discuss the case Monday other than to say the case composite is based on a description given by a witness police developed during the course of their two-year-old murder investigation.

The suspect is being sought in connection with the March 1, 1989 murders of Mary Margaret Gill, 24, of Boone Township, at the Days Inn motel at U.S. 30 and Interstate 65 in Merrillville, and Janice Marie Gilbert, 34, at the Days Inn motel in Remington.

The suspect is described as a male white in his late 30s to mid-40s, about 6 feet tall and 180 pounds with "salt and pepper" hair. Investigators are asking anyone with in-

formation about the suspect to contact the Merrillville Police Department at 769-3531, Jasper County Sheriff's Police at 866-7534 or the Indiana State Police at (800) 382-7537 or (317) 663-1515.

Gill was robbed, taken to a vacant wing of the motel, sexually assaulted and murdered some time after 2:30 a.m. March 3, 1989.

Police believe the killer then drove south on I-65 to the Days Inn motel in Remington, where at about 6:30 a.m. he robbed and abducted Gilbert. A short time later, Gilbert's bullet-riddled body was found along a rural road in White County. She also had been sexually assaulted.

Officers from all three agencies have been meeting four or five times a year to resolve information, but the case has proceeded slowly, complicated by very little physical evidence, the lack of a motive and, until now, no witnesses to the murders.

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