



ADOBE OPENS UP WASHINGTON

Find out all the ways Adobe is working in open government.

[Learn more ▶](#)



[E-Edition](#) | [Mobile](#) | [iPhone](#) | [E-mail Newsletters](#) | [RSS](#) | [Twitter](#)

[Contact The Detroit News](#) | [Cu](#)

Archive: [Tue](#) | [Wed](#) | [Thu](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Local](#) [Sports](#) [Autos](#) [Business](#) [Entertainment](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Opinion](#) [Classifieds](#)
[Editorial](#) [Columnists](#) [Editorial Cartoons](#) [Blogs](#) [Fc](#)

Editorials

[Editorials RSS Feed](#) [e-mail headlin](#)

[Print](#) [Email](#) [Comment](#) [Read Comments](#) Text Size: [◀ A](#) [A](#) [A ▶](#) [Share](#)

Last Updated: October 24, 2009 1:00AM

Editorial Quick Hits: Silencing criticism doesn't pay

The Detroit News

An American Civil Liberties Union settlement with Salem Township officials may help restore free speech and vigorous dissent at public meetings in the Washtenaw County community. At a 2008 public meeting, a resident criticized then Township Supervisor Fred Roperti for lacking "openness and transparency" and was removed by law enforcement officials. When another resident objected to the ejection, he also was escorted out. This is a representative democracy, not a banana republic. Residents have a right to critique the performance of public officials to ensure their tax dollars are used wisely. We're glad the township has settled the suit, paid damages and belatedly recognized by resolution "the rights of the members of the public to criticize ... officials based on their performance without fear of any adverse consequences." It's a lesson the officials should have learned in school, not at the courthouse. It would saved the township from public shame and the taxpayers \$27,500 in restitution.

More school districts open checkbooks

More and more Michigan school districts are correctly opening their financial practices to the public. Four school districts -- Gladwin, Clare, Frankenmuth and Coleman -- have joined 54 other districts and two intermediate (county) school districts in publishing their checkbooks online at the behest of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. While half of the 20 largest school districts in the state are now transparent about their finances, more need to join the trend. Taxpayers need to see for themselves that school officials are prudently managing their money and making sure the great majority of it ends up in the classroom.


Not all bad driving habits should be banned

The Michigan House Transportation Committee has decided to complicate law enforcement by approving legislation to make texting while driving a civil infraction. Of course, texting is a distraction and an unsafe


practice on the road. But there are many ways that drivers get distracted. By making texting a secondary offense, the House panel ensures that violators can only be ticketed if they are pulled over for another offense. Police officers already can charge a drive with careless or reckless driving if distracted by a cell phone. Educating drivers against the practice may pay better safety dividends than adding another law to the books that may be infrequently enforced.

Advertisement


Ads by **Adblade™**




Hang With Jerome Bettis!
Win a chance to invite 15 friends over to play football and hang out with Jerome Bettis... [Learn more](#)




Scholarships For Moms
Register for the chance to win \$10k scholarship. Schools will contact you with the info you provide. [Learn more](#)



HR Certification 100% Online
HR master certification program from Villanova University. 100% online. Enroll today! [Learn more](#)



Secret Snoring Solution!
Snoring can cause a stroke or even worse. Find out how to stop your snoring tonight... [Learn more](#)



"Six Sigma" Certification
Enroll in Villanova University's prestigious six sigma certification program - 100% online... [Learn more](#)

Article Tools: [Print](#) [Email](#) [Comment](#)
[Read Comments](#) [Share](#)

In the blogs ...

Politics Blog



John R. LaPlante: Sorry to be blunt about this, but when Libby Spencer writes "Today's GOP folks. Truly the party of no. No ideas of their own. No solutions. And no compassion for ...

[Continued](#)

MORE IN: EDITORIALS

[Editorial Quick Hits: Silencing criticism doesn't pay - 10/24/2009](#)

[Editorial Quick Hits: Theirs - 10/24/2009](#)

[Don't double down on wrong housing policy - 10/24/2009](#)

MichMoms Blog

Beth Reeber Valone: Boy, there's been a lot of bad news this week, so thinking about clowns and acrobats sure cheers me up. Yes, it's that time of year again - the circus is coming to town! ... [Continued](#)



Geek Watch



Eric Henrickson: "Beasts of Burden" by Evan Dorkin and Jill Thompson (Dark Horse Comics) -- Something evil is lurking around the seemingly idyllic town of Burden Hill, and it's ... [Continued](#)

[More blogs](#)

- [Health plan fuels price hike battle - 10/24/2009](#)
- [Try a third Middle East option - 10/24/2009](#)
- [Allow casinos at horse racetracks? - 10/24/2009](#)
- [Editorial: Educators confronted with new cuts due to Lansing's incompetence - 10/23/2009](#)
- [Editorial: Macomb ballot issues - 10/23/2009](#)
- [Naeyaert: Reforms should leverage more funding for schools - 10/23/2009](#)
- [Keep paroled inmates out of prison - 10/23/2009](#)
- [Make school technology a budget priority - 10/23/2009](#)
- [Letters - 10/23/2009](#)

Site Index

Essentials:	News:	Autos:	Sports: Sports	Entertainment:	Forums:	Life
Home	Nation/World	Autos Insider	Lions/NFL	Entertainment	Forums Index	Life
Page One PDF	Politics/Govt.	DriveJoyrides	Pistons/NBA	MusicCalendar	Lions Talk	Ho
Sports PDF	Religion	Auto Shows	Red Wings/NHL	Movies	Wings Talk	Re
Weather	Data Center	Auto Reviews	Tigers/MLB	Movie Finder	Pistons Talk	He:
Horoscope	Local/State:	Auto Photos	Shock/WNBA	TV Listings	Tigers Talk	Fas
Lottery	Metro/State	Autos Talk	MSUU-M	TV/Radio	Ask John Niyo	Far
Crossword	WayneOakland	Test Drive blog	College Sports	Restaurants	Big Ten Talk	Tra
Sudoku	Macomb	Business:	High Schools	Wine Report	News Talk	Mic
Contact Us	Livingston	Business News	GolfMotor Sports	Celebs	Autos Talk	Mic
Multimedia:	Commuting	Personal	More Sports	Performing Arts	Faith Talk	Sp
Photos/Video	Schools	Finance	Scoreboards	Puzzles/Games	Opinions:	
News Photos	Michigan History	Stocks			Editorials	
Autos Photos	Charlie LeDuff	Technology			Letter to Editor	
Audio Galleries	Obituaries				BlogsColumnists	
Video	Death Notices				Cybersurveys	
Photo Store						



Free Night. Free Upgrade. Free Breakfast.
18 unique Hyatt resorts to make
you feel more than welcome.



© Copyright 2009 The Detroit News. All rights reserved.

[Terms of Service](#) | [Contact](#) | [Help](#)