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Editorial Quick Hits: Ours

Put school expenses on the Web

The Detroit News

One way to celebrate Sunshine Week this coming week is to encourage public school districts and city governments to open their check registers to the public. This practice of putting check statements and expenses online is starting slowly to catch on in Michigan. Since more than 40 percent of state dollars are spent on public education and revenue is tight, public scrutiny is more important than ever. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy identifies Montrose Community Schools and the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency, an intermediate school district, as having two of the best school Web sites that lay out precisely how taxpayer money is spent -- right down to the \$45.50 Montrose dedicated to a bus radiator repair. More districts should follow suit.

Detroit scores with Red Bull air race

One of Michigan's new bright spots is the Red Bull Air Race World Series, which will soar over the Detroit River in May. The race is a coup for the city -- a new sport. Detroit is one of only two American cities chosen for the event, which also holds heats in Australia, Sweden, Hungary and other countries. Detroit was chosen, in part, for its international flavor. It shares a river with Canada. Spectators from both countries will line the river shores to watch the event. This attracted Red Bull, an energy drink maker. Detroit and Windsor should exploit these assets for other events.

Why favor rebates, but not tax cuts?

The same Democratic-controlled Congress that passed tax rebates to stimulate the economy passed resolutions this past week to allow the Bush tax cuts to expire. The move, if finalized, would raise taxes \$683 billion between 2011 and 2013. If Congress agrees that lower taxes boost the economy -- as their rebates vote suggests -- then what do they think will happen if they effectively approve a massive tax increase? The recession they are fighting to avoid now would be nothing compared with the one the tax increases would trigger.

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