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Sports



**Cavaliers strike back to end sweep dreams**

LeBron James leads Cleveland to 86-77 victory over Pistons to draw within 2-1 in best-of-seven series.

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Sunday, May 14, 2006



KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

Gary Nelson ■ Special to the Times

## The Little Bird That Could

Resurgent species is a success

Tourist season takes flight

### Almont principal wins battle for top Bangor Schools job

By CORINNE DEVRIES

TIMES WRITER

Bangor Township Schools has its new superintendent Tina A. Kerr was appointed to the post by a unanimous vote at a special meeting of the Bangor School Board of Education on Saturday morning.

Kerr, who currently works as middle school principal and curriculum director for Almont Community School in Lapeer County, said she will start around July 1.

Bangor Township is a good school district and I hope is to continue to help them grow and prosper," Kerr said. "I've just been extremely impressed with the people and I'm looking forward to having an enjoyable working relationship with the school community, as well as the community of Bay City."

Her initial goals are to get acclimated to the district, and develop the curriculum, she said. Kerr, 38, is one of two finalists the Bangor Township school board selected from a pool of 22 applicants. The other finalist, Kod Rock, is an elementary school principal for Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools.

"Everyone felt they could go with either candidate,

**TINA A. KERR**

AGE: 38

**PROFESSIONAL:**

Curriculum director for Almont Community Schools, 2001-present; principal at Almont Middle School, 2005-present; principal at Orchard Primary School, 1998-2005. Also was an associate professor at Oliver College from 1997-98; a head women's basketball and softball and

By JERRY MUINN

TIMES WRITER

**ROSCOMMON** - Perched in the uppermost branch of the jack pine tree, the little yellow-breasted bird sings for all it is worth. It's starting to sound like a come-back song.

The endangered Kirtland's warbler - a bird that numbered 167 pairs in 1974 - is a sight more common than ever these days, thanks to a multi-agency recovery team that worked to save it.

Guided tours through the bird's Northern Michigan home turf allow birders, ecotourists and others the chance to catch a glimpse of the rare bird.

About 90 percent of those who take the tour report Kirtland's sightings, according to Phil Huber, wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Mio.

Credit the tiny bird's brazen behavior as it marks its exclusive territory, Huber said. And credit the state and federally

See **WARBLERS, 2A**

**It's a bird:** Jerry Weinrich, a retired biologist, points out a Kirtland's warbler to Bev McBride of Ottawa, Ontario.



By JERRY MUINN

TIMES WRITER

Spending tax money on a bird that few people will ever see doesn't sit well with some folks, acknowledges Dean Smith. "These that don't have a vested interest don't always see it the same way," says Smith, manager of the Holiday Inn-Oxford.

"The bird is the Kirtland's warbler, and to Smith and other business people it means tourist dollars during a slow time of year.

"We do know it's one of those home markets that's hard to identify," said Tom Ferguson, executive director of Michigan's Statewide Travel Association.

"The headlines about people that travel here all the way from Australia to put a check mark in their Audubon book, that's what's their impact? That's hard to identify."

See **TOURISTS, 2A**

# As factories close, workers need new survival skills

By RICK HAALUND

TIMES DETROIT BUREAU

**DETROIT** - Michigan's old manufacturing economy is dying, "slowly but surely," and the faster the state moves to a knowledge economy, the better, says former University of Michigan President James Duderstadt.

Many other smart folks, most of them holding advanced degrees and earning six-figure paychecks that don't come from manufacturers, agree.

"The future of Michigan is not in manufacturing employment," Dana Johnson, chief economist of Detroit-based Comerica Bank,

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See tips from experts on modern-day skills for landing and keeping a job. **Page 6A**

See tips from experts on modern-day skills for landing and keeping a job. **Page 6A**

said at a recent conference. "The future is employment in knowledge sectors." A number of influential groups, Duderstadt's Millennium Project at U-M among them, have recently produced papers urging state policy-makers to largely forget about manufacturing and pursue a new economic agenda that promotes jobs in knowledge sectors such as finan-

cial services, computer technologies, biotechnology and health care. But beyond the ivory towers and the penthouses of economic power, average Michigan citizens are voicing a deep skepticism about the promise of the knowledge economy. They're seeing hundreds of high-paying manufacturing jobs destroyed. And they wonder if Michigan can ever again prosper if its workers no longer earn good pay and decent benefits by making things, as generations of workers here have done.

See **WORKERS, 6A**

said Richard Kowalski, Bangor school board president. "She was a better fit for the district."

The search for a new superintendent began when the contract for current superintendent Michael Andruss was not renewed in February. Andruss will teach third grade at Bangor West Elementary, 3175 E. Wilder Road, in the fall and plans to retire in 2007. Andruss is paid \$100,000

See **BANGOR, 2A**

# No foolin', states rush to rocket tourists into space

By ALICIA CHANG

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES** - The promise of blasting thrill-seeking tourists into space is fueling an unprecedented rush to build snazzy commercial spaceports.

The Federal Aviation Administration is reviewing proposals from New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas to gateways for private space travel. Depending on the environmental reviews and other requirements, approval could come as early as this year and the site could be ferrying space tourists soon after.

The current spaceport boom recalls the mid-1990s when the first spaceport fad generated hype but no construction. Finally, technology may have caught up with starry-eyed plans.

Aerospace designer Burt Rutan, who is building commercial spacecraft fleet for British space tourism at the flurry of proposals. "It's almost humorous to watch the worldwide bat of the spaceports," Rutan mused earlier this month at the International Space Development Conference. For decades, spaceports have been used mostly

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TODAY'S WEATHER  
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**Thought for the day:**  
"There is nothing deep down inside except what we have put there ourselves."  
-Richard Rorty  
American philosopher and writer

WORLD

