

Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Granholt, DeVos: Just Shadow Boxing Now

BEULAH – At this early stage of what could be a 2006 election match up, Governor Jennifer Granholt and wealthy Republican businessman Dick DeVos are doing little more than shadow boxing.

"I'm totally not focused on Dick DeVos," Granholt said in an interview after a speech here Thursday at the Cherry Hut, where she proclaimed, "Our enemy is our global competition," and lamented Michigan jobs lost to outsourcing.

I asked Granholt about DeVos and outsourcing because hours after the ex-president of Amway and its parent Alticor announced June 2 his intention to run, Democratic State Chairman Mark Brewer declared him "wrong on outsourcing to China," and asserted, "he supports free trade which has devastated the Michigan economy, costing us hundreds of thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs."

In my interview before his announcement at the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce meeting on Mackinac Island, DeVos, president of a private investment company he founded in 1989, did not go beyond saying "things are not going as they should in Michigan" under Granholt, and he can provide "the entrepreneurial spirit that the state needs."

Well after Brewer's attack, DeVos declined comment. He then had consultant John Truscott, press secretary for ex-Gov. John Engler, assert he would not respond every time Brewer "does Graholt's bidding." He said DeVos "did not outsource jobs to China."

Although Alticor has so far provided only a half-baked statement on the subject, there's plenty of time to pin down what happened on DeVos' watch at Amway/Alticor, where he once was vice-president responsible for operations in 19 countries.

While Granholt declined to comment on DeVos and outsourcing, she said, "Outsourcing has hurt Michigan. We

have just seen the loss of those jobs. It's like gravity. They're gone. I think it is an issue."

Granholt, about to go to Japan to promote Michigan investment and products such as cherries, wisely does not go so far as Brewer in condemning free trade, which has pluses and minuses for Michigan. She said North and Central American trade agreements have a "negative impact" on Michigan's economy, but are "not for a governor to decide."

Given his extensive business background, and Michigan's economic woes, jobs and trade issues clearly will be at the forefront of debate if DeVos is Granholt's opponent. Inside Michigan Politics newsletter cites current odds on his "chances to win next year's GOP primary no matter who else might be on the ballot: 1-5 (83.3 %); general election odds on Granholt's chances to beat him in November: 2-3 (60%)."

On Friday, Ed Sarpolus of Lansing-based EPIC/MRA released a June 29-July 7 poll of 934 likely 2006 voters who gave Granholt a 51-33 edge over DeVos (Margin of error: plus or minus 3.1 percentage points).

Sarpolus said DeVos is a "polarizing figure" among respondents but Granholt "has work to do in such places as Macomb County and among women under 40 years of age."

Granholt's Northern Numbers

Of five major media markets sampled, Granholt's worst showing was in the Traverse City market, which includes the northern Lower Peninsula and the eastern U.P. She trailed DeVos, 40-43. Her job approval rating in the market was 46 percent positive, 53 percent negative, the only area where her negatives were in the 50s.

Sarpolus said her worst showing in the market was "between Gaylord and the bridge."

It should be noted that such sub-samples (in this case, 71 respondents out of the statewide sample of 934) have a higher margin of error. Imperfect as they are as predictors of outcome, such public polls, and those conducted by

candidates themselves, help them decide where to devote time and resources.

In EPIC/MRA's sampling grouped by map regions, Granholt's worst showing was 39 percent to DeVos' 44 percent in the northern Lower Peninsula – essentially all counties north of Clare, including counties to the east out of the Traverse City media market.

Granholt led 54-29 percent in all of the Upper Peninsula, where Sarpolus said she has "made impressive gains."

Three Ladies; Five Fish

After her Beulah speech, and before going to Traverse City for a Friday night fundraiser at the home of attorney Mike Dettmer and Saturday's National Cherry Festival parade, Granholt camped out in Benzie County with her daughters, Kate, 15, and Cece, 14. It was a repeat of their outing at the same place last year. Friday, according to Granholt Press Secretary Liz Boyd, on an inland lake within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, they caught two perch, two sunfish, and a large mouth bass. Boyd declined to disclose "their secret place" but passed on that Granholt said "we had a ball."

Granholt vs. Cox

During a Lansing press conference Thursday, Granholt criticized Attorney General Mike Cox, who replaced her in the job, for "not doing what historically the attorney general's office has done" on item pricing – pursuing retailers who don't tag prices on products.

"She's talking utter nonsense, for lack of a better term," Cox told me. He said Granholt had "a pretty good thing going" on item pricing. "We improved on it."

Cox said that in "Granholt's best year as attorney general," she collected about \$3.8 million on consumer complaints. He said he collected about \$5.1 million "just last year."

George Weeks is the political columnist for The Detroit News and is syndicated by Superior Features.

Yachts Race to Mackinac Sat.

**Continued from page 1*

reef. The crew was rescued without injury, but the boat was reduced to fragments. All 142 sailors that participated that year survived the storm and safely made it to Mackinac.

The 1912 and 1913 races where shortened to end in Harbor Springs because crews wanted to avoid the rocky Gray's Reef passage sailors needed to clear on their way to Mackinac.

Not all races have been besieged with high winds. Last year, the regatta was clocked as one of the slowest in history with sailors fighting off boredom when the breeze suddenly disappeared around midnight on the first day of competition. The calm made for exhausting, intensive sailing as the race dragged on for four days. Only 226 boats

finished, while 96 withdrew. This was the slowest race in 30 years with *Genuine Risk* finishing in 32 hours, 56 minutes, compared to the fastest time set in 2002 of 23 hours, 30 minutes, 34 seconds by Roy Disney's boat *Pyewacket*.

This year is the 97th running of the Chicago Yacht Club's Race to Mackinac, but this year actually marks the 107th anniversary of the race's founding in 1898. Several years passed between the first and second race and, in other years, the event was suspended for a period during World War I and World War II. In two other years, the race ended at Harbor Springs.

The race is organized by the Chicago Yacht Club and is the world's longest annual freshwater yacht race.

News About People on Mackinac

By Jeannette Doud

Chance Rushing, a fourth grader at Harrington Elementary School in Plano, Texas, and grandson of Gracie Francis of Mackinac, has received the President's Educational Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence from First Lady Laura Bush. In addition, Chance received the Principal's Award for Outstanding Citizenship and received an honor roll certificate for all A's in all subjects all year. Chance loves Mackinac and comes to visit every year. Nana Gracie is very proud of him.

The Reverend Ron Smith and his wife, Kay, of Austin, Texas, are vacationing at their East

Bluff cottage. Nice to see them back on Mackinac.

Rita Sue and Elliot Cohen are on the Island enjoying all of their many friends. Rita Sue always has a winning smile and it's wonderful to have them back on Mackinac.

Best get well wishes to Jay Stingel, who suffered injuries in an accident and was transported to Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey Sunday, July 10.

Warmest get well wishes to Jill Sawatzki, who is in Lansing with her parents. Everyone misses you, Jill. Hurry back to Mackinac.

***More Jeannette Doud News, page 18.**



Town Crier

34 Market St., P.O. Box 532, Mackinac Island, MI 49757
Telephone: (906) 847-3788

www.MackinacIslandTownCrier.com

For business and subscription matters, phone (906) 643-9150

**Volume 52, Number 12
July 16 to July 22, 2005**

Published 22 times a year, weekly from May through September, once in October, December, February, and April.

Subscription: 22 issues a year Mail: \$22 Web: \$20

Periodical postage paid at Mackinac Island, Michigan.
Additional postage paid at St. Ignace, MI and Gaylord, MI
USPS Periodical Publication Number - 324-060

Postmaster: Send address change notices to
Mackinac Island Town Crier, P.O. Box 532, Mackinac Island, MI 49757

Publisher Emeritus - Wesley H. Maurer (1897-1995)

Publisher and Editor Wesley Maurer, Jr.
Associate Publisher/Business Manager Mary Maurer
Associate Editor Karen Gould
Writers Jessica Delaney, Leslie Rott
Advertising Marty Wolski
Subscriptions Wendy Colegrove

Letter to the Editor

'Thumbs Up' for Island Soccer Camp

To the Editor:
I would like to thank Mr. Plude and the Mackinac Island Recreation Department for organizing the soccer camp, which took place June 27-29. Coach Drago Dumbovic was very enthusiastic and taught us many great skills. All of the participants had a great time and enjoyed working with the Saginaw Valley State team members. We hope to see them all again next summer.

Zola Murray
British Landing

Capture Mackinac Island



with a subscription to the



Town Crier

To receive a one year subscription please enclose a check or money order.

Subscription: 22 issues a year Mail: \$22 Web: \$20

Mail to:

Mackinac Island Town Crier

c/o The St. Ignace News

P.O. Box 277

St. Ignace, MI 49781

www.MackinacIslandTownCrier.com

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____