

STATE DIGEST

■ AT THE CAPITOL

Elderly day care program introduced

Two state lawmakers are introducing legislation to use unclaimed checks from Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield for day care for the elderly.

Sen. Fred Dillingham, R-Fowlerville, and Rep. William Runco, R-Dearborn, said Monday their bills would provide \$150,000 to \$500,000 a year for respite care for the elderly. The money would be divided each year among the state's 14 Area Agencies on Aging.

Blue Cross-Blue Shield recently went to court over the issue, but the Michigan Supreme Court ruled the unclaimed money must be forfeited to the state treasury.

The two lawmakers say the funds must be kept by the state for seven years, but then if still unclaimed they could go into the senior care fund.

Student receives state tuition check

Gov. James Blanchard has presented a check for \$1,505.63 for first-semester tuition to John Wolfe of Traverse City, the first student to attend college under the state's guaranteed tuition program.

"John is the first to take advantage of MET and meet the challenge of higher education with help from this nation-leading program," Blanchard said Monday about the Michigan Education Trust.

Wolfe is a 19-year-old University of Michigan freshman. His payment will cover tuition and fees for the past semester.

The Michigan Education Trust has enrolled 40,409

participants, creating a fund of \$265 million in the program's first year.

■ MICHIGAN

Utica quints in critical condition

ROYAL OAK — Premature quintuplets born to a suburban Detroit woman remained in critical condition Monday at William Beaumont Hospital, officials said.

The five girls, ranging in weight from 14½ to 16½ ounces, were born between 7:38 and 7:40 p.m. EDT Saturday to Nina Gambino, 26, of Utica, hospital spokeswoman Valerie Mahaczek said.

Marie, Michelle, Alyssa, Dana and Natalie Gambino were delivered 15 weeks early. Dr. Lenny Hutton said the infants were conceived while Gambino was taking the fertility drug Pergonal.

Nina and Frank Gambino, 27, have no other children, hospital officials said.

Drug users may get clean needles

DETROIT — Detroit may distribute free hypodermic needles to intravenous drug users in an effort to protect them from AIDS, a top city health official said Monday.

George Gaines, deputy director of the Detroit Health Department, said the idea has been discussed with Mayor Coleman Young.

"He has said he is not opposed to it," Gaines told members of a congressional subcommittee, which held a daylong public hearing on AIDS Monday in Detroit.

Researcher wants to unearth elephant

PONTIAC — A researcher wants to unearth a circus elephant buried near the shopping mall where it died in 1972. He hopes to help his students and colleagues bone up on excavation techniques.

Hezy Shoshani has offered to sweeten the deal by mounting and exhibiting the skeleton at Summit Place

mall in Oakland County's Waterford Township.

"It will bring visitors into the mall," said Shoshani, 46, an instructor at Oakland Community College. "It would be a very important community project."

The elephant in question is Jenny, who was 62 when she died July 21, 1972, while performing in a circus on mall property. According to news reports at the time, police threatened to close the circus if the corpse wasn't immediately buried.

Senate hopes to curb lamprey population

The U.S. Senate is exploring a new way to control the population of lampreys in the Great Lakes by sterilizing the males.

Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and 14 other members of the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition are seeking \$1.3 million so a Lake Huron research center can inject the parasitic fish with a sterilizing chemical.

In the House, a similar effort is being led by Rep. Frank Horton, R-N.Y., whose district borders Lake Ontario.

Two more in running for post

BIG RAPIDS — Two names have been added to the list of finalists for the presidency of Ferris State University, school officials said Monday.

Four candidates are now being considered for the job vacated when J. William Wenrich stepped down in September 1988.

The latest candidates recommended to the school's Board of Control are Ronald Applbaum, vice president for academic affairs at Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, and Helen Popovich, president of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla.

Also being considered are Clive Veri, president of Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vt., and Luther Burse, president of Fort Valley State College in Fort Valley, Ga.

Compiled from wire reports.