Who are the “lucky” ones?
By Brian Fredline, President of UAW Local 602

Have you ever had someone approach you and say, “You are lucky to have this job?” Webster defines “lucky” as fortunate, or acquired by chance and good fortune. As a UAW President, my blood pressure goes off the charts, and I grit my teeth every time I hear the ill-informed statement, “You are lucky to have this job.”

Luck is a flip of the coin. Luck is winning the lottery. Luck is being a car number eleven in a ten-car pile-up. As UAW members, we are not “lucky” to have a decent job, we have earned the right to a decent job. “Luck is a dividend of sweat—the more you sweat, the luckier you get.” Well, it seems to me that despite all the recent concessions, pl line for a problem we did not create, workers who are able to maintain our world-class products. How lucky we are to drive for hours round trip, every day, so we can pay the bills. How lucky we are to have a job where every movement is engineered down to a tenth of a second with a grip, place, bend, walk, get, grasp, or bend. How lucky we are to have a job where we are confined to a footprint and must endure the invasion of our privacy, when we are forced to “pull a cord” just to go to the bathroom. How lucky we are, when we are threatened with discipline for a problem we did not create, nor can we control.

How lucky we are to have a job where at the end of every day, our muscles are tired, our backs are sore, and our feet can barely carry us home. I would submit that anyone who thinks we are lucky to have this job has never spent eight hours on an assembly line. Fact is, the more we sweat, the luckier we get.

So who are the lucky ones? The lucky ones are the managers who have the honor of working with the most skilled and dedicated workforce on the globe. The lucky one is the corporation that despite all the recent concessions, confusion, and upheaval, has a workforce who is able to maintain focus and build the highest quality cars and trucks on the planet.

And ultimately, the lucky ones are the customers who are the beneficiaries of our world-class products.

The next time someone tells you, “You are lucky to have this job,” take a moment for a dramatic pause, straighten your aching back, square your drooping shoulders, look them directly in the eye and say, “No, you are the lucky one, because I will be back tomorrow.”

Region 1-C Director Norwood Jewell’s annual fund-raiser donated $5,000 to each of two Lansing-area charities. A death in the family prevented Jewell from attending, but he was represented by 1-C Assistant Director Steve Dawes. Above, Dawes presents $5,000 to Al Ott, president of Old Newsboys. Right, a check for $5,000 goes to Betsy Rueckert of the Mid-Michigan Food Bank. Also shown here are Region 1-C staff.

CAP Council delegates welcomed U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, who spoke on the economy, jobs, and the future of Michigan. The importance of labor’s support in the upcoming November 2 election was stressed. Please support our CAP Council endorsed candidates listed below.

Capital Area CAP Council Endorsed Candidates

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<td>Governor</td>
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<td>David Leyton</td>
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<td>Secretary of State</td>
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<td>U.S. Congress</td>
<td>Mark Schauer - 7th District</td>
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<td>Michigan Senate</td>
<td>Gretchen Whitmer - 23rd District</td>
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<td>Michigan House</td>
<td>Barb Byrum - 67th District</td>
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<td>Joan Bauer - 68th District</td>
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<td>Mark Meadows - 69th District</td>
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<td>Theresa Abed - 71st District</td>
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<td>30th Circuit Court Judge</td>
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<td>Brian McGrain - 3rd District</td>
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<td>Carol Koener - 9th District</td>
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<td>Deb Nolan - 12th District</td>
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<td>Randy Schafer - 13th District</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Kranz - 14th District</td>
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<td>Eaton County Commissioners</td>
<td>Michael Hosay - 1st District</td>
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<td>Terrance Augustine - 3rd District</td>
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<td>Carol Strachan - 4th District</td>
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<td>Jeanne Pearl-Wright - 5th District</td>
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<td>Art Luna - 11th District</td>
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<td>David Fernald - 14th District</td>
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<td>Roger Harris - 15th District</td>
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<td>Eaton County Probate Judge</td>
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<td>Recommend the EATRAN millage increase</td>
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<td>Brian Fredline - 6th District</td>
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An award-winning, non-profit newspaper, established March 15, 1945, and dedicated to the interests of the community and to the interest of Labor here and elsewhere. Published January, May, September, and December. Periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI and at additional offices. Three percent per month from UAW Incorporator Locals’ monthly dues is for this publication. Subscription rates for nonmembers: 6 months $7.50; 1 year $13.00; 2 years $20.00. Member of the International Labor Press Association, the UAW LUPA, the Midwest Labor Press Association and the Michigan Labor Press. The opinions expressed by the columnists are not necessarily those of the affiliated Local Unions and the Lansing Labor News.
Our new leaders

I hope the summer was fun for you and your family.

We’ve been busy at the Local with our Constitutional Convention, which was held in Detroit. This convention was very special as we said goodbye to Ron Gettelfinger and elected Bob King as President of the UAW. Our congratulations to President King and his entire Executive Board, which includes:

Bob King, President
Dennis Williams, Secretary-Treasurer
Gerald Holiefied, Vice President
James Settles, Jr., Vice President
Joe Ashton, Vice President
Cindy Estrada, Vice President

At our Region 1-C meeting we elected Norwood Jewell as our new Regional Director. Norwood appointed Steve Dawes as his Assistant Director. They will do a great job for our Region and the UAW!

On July 28 I attended the community tribute to our retiring Regional Director Duane Zuckschwerdt. Duane was honored for his work in our community on behalf of working men and women in the UAW. Our best to Duane and our thanks to his entire family for sharing him with all of us!

Quality is important

I recently had a visitor in my office who stopped by to tell me the story of his 1991 Olds 88:

I bought my 1991 Olds on January 24, 1991 with 3,400 miles on it. As of today, July 20, 2010, it has 405,480.3 miles. This was bought through product by Marsh Brothers Dealership in Honor, Michigan.

I still have the original engine, exhaust, and ball joints. At 342,000 miles I had the transmission rebuilt. It has had various minor repairs, but nothing major done to it over the years. I still get 26-30 miles per gallon!

We've been busy during the dog days of summer. We've had the transmission rebuilt. It had the transmission rebuilt. It has had many repairs, and nothing major done to it over the years. I still get 26-30 miles per gallon!

We've been busy during the dog days of summer. We've driven it out of the dealership on July 29 at the 652 hall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Stop by for coffee and donuts and to see your old friends!

End of summer

As the dog days of summer are upon us, it is hard to believe that summer is drawing to a close. Although we extend our actual season till September, with the advent of back to school and football practices, we feel the time pass by.

In the realm of summer, we would like to comment on the annual Local 724 Golf Outing. Twenty teams of Local 724 members, retirees, family members and friends descended on Centennial Acres Golf Course for a day of golf. We had two UAW/GM and one UAW/IMG teams.

Over many years I have driven and purchased our cars, ... When I decided to buy a new car this year, I decided to buy myself an early birthday present. I still get 26-30 miles per gallon!

For all Head Assembly Retirees of Local 652, the Annual Retiree Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 25 at the Firestone restaurant, 730 Elmwood, Lansing, starting at 5:00 p.m. The meal is at your own cost. Come see all your old friends! Contact persons: Gordon Quinn (517) 882-6715 or Bonnie Degree (517) 394-3579.

Local 652 Millwrights will have their get-together on Wednesday, Sept. 29 at the 652 hall from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Stop by for coffee and donuts and to see your old friends!

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DEAN POGGIALI, LOCAL 724

Backpack aid

The UAW Region 1-C Women’s Council along with Regional Director Norwood Jewell, International Reps, and Lansing UAW presidents, passed out 447 backpacks, with Flint projected to pass out 600 more on August 18. The outreach to our community to help families get their children ready with the supplies needed to start the 2010-11 school year was a huge success.

With the donations from UAW Region 1-C, Lansing and Flint UAW locals, and Lansing and Flint businesses, the goal was reached.

Special thanks to the UAW Region 1-C Women’s Council for all their hard work. I was proud to work with Anita Dawson, Lena Wytch, Roberta Cannon, and our Flint sisters, who all gave so much time and effort to make the rally a success in the Lansing area.

Thanks to UAW Local 724 units, donations from Bharat Forge, Dakkota, Lear, RS&D and the Huntsman Unit. I would also like to send a special thanks to Pam Keesman. She did a wonderful job, as always, with her hard work.

Also, thanks to Local 652 for hosting the lunch at their hall, along with many of the picnic supplies. See page 3 for a photo of the event.

RANY FREEMAN, LOCAL 652

Highest praise for our Coupe

We received a letter from a union member in Wisconsin who is thrilled with her new Cadillac CTS Coupe. We know we build good cars, but it’s always great to get feedback like this. I have excerpted the letter here.

For the full text, see the Labor News website at lansinglabornews.org.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am a fellow UAW member, Secretary Treasurer of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. I am also the very proud owner of one of your first Cadillac CTS 2011 Coups, and I wanted to share some thoughts with you.

In the late 2008, I worked in the plant, and we made the electronic components for these cars, we always fought to do the best job we could to make the parts as important as those that controlled fuel emissions for cars and guidance systems for planes at the plants that finished the vehicle. We did quality work and we worked hard. We were UAW/GM and dammed if we didn’t do our job.

Over many years I have driven and purchased our cars, ... When I decided to buy a new car this year, I decided to buy myself an early birthday present. I still get 26-30 miles per gallon!

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Shown here are the winning team along with Women’s Committee members: Kathy McKenney, Chair Lena Wytch, and Cynthia (CJ) Johnson, and Recreation Chair Reggie Townsend.

Win big on those hole-in-one.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this outing possible and to the 652 Women’s and Recreation Committees, who made it happen. And special thanks to Sundance Chevrolet for sponsoring the hole-in-one prize!

Highway 1-C is sponsoring a bowling tournament on November 6 and 7 at Richfield Bowl in Flint. Men’s team first prize is $1,000, based on 100 entries. Women’s team first prize is $300, based on 40 entries. Men’s and women’s high single first prizes are $100 each. The closing date for entries is October 22. See lansinglabornews.org for forms or call 810-767-0910.
A vote about Local 1618

You won’t be able to say this edition of the Lansing Labor News is not hot off the presses. You see, the folks at the Lansing Labor News are really working hard to keep you informed about the latest happenings in the labor movement.

Nomination and Election Notice

UAW Local 2256 - Accident Fund Unit

Nominations

Nominations will be accepted Sept. 8 - Sept. 17, 2010 for the following positions:

- 1 Unit Chairperson
- 1 Unit Vice Chairperson
- 1 Recording Secretary
- 6 Stewards & 3 Alternate Stewards

The term of office will be three years. In the Steward race, alternate positions will go to the three (3) runners-up in the order in which they finish. In accordance with unit bylaws, the Unit Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and four (4) top vote-getting Stewards will also serve as members of the Unit Bargaining Committee. The Bargaining Committee Alternates will be the next four (4) highest vote getters in the Steward race. All members in good standing for one year are automatically nominated for all offices. Those who wish to accept the nomination should indicate their intentions in writing and give it to an Election Committee member (Mary Leys, Katie Ames, Karen Duffield, or Amelia Parker). Nomination forms must be received by the end of the business day Sept. 17, 2010 after which time no candidate will be allowed to add or remove his/her name from the ballot. Write-in candidates will not be allowed on election day.

Election

The election of Local 2256 Accident Fund Officers and Stewards will be conducted at the date, time, and place indicated below.

Date: November 23, 2010
Time: 11:30 am - 5:30 pm
Place: Accident Building, Lower Level Training Room
232 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933

All members in good standing are eligible to vote. Members will be asked to present a picture ID. Absentee ballots are available to members whose work site is greater than 30 miles from the Lansing office. Please contact an Election Committee member for details. If necessary, a runoff election will be held November 30, 2010 at the same time and location.

Right to work?

There is a lot of talk out there by politicians about making Michigan one of the “right-to-work” states. You better be careful what you ask for, because you really won’t like it. The politicians will paint a pretty picture that “right-to-work” will create jobs. What kind of jobs at what pay—do they tell you that? How are you going to like being out on strike and having non-union people cross your picket line and run the plant? Then, when the strike is over, those SOB’s are going to get everything you just walked the picket line for.

Tuesday, September 21

New Hours and meetings

UAW Local 602 will be open 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Meetings are at 4:30 (E-board) and 6:00 (general membership). Upcoming meetings: September 12 and October 10.

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The travel committee is running a trip to the Fire Keepers casino on September 22 for a price of $20. The bus will be at the Local 724 union hall at 9:30 a.m., with an additional pick-up in Charlotte by the VWH hall just off the highway. Return at 3:30 p.m. Call Connie Dunn at 517-323-2146 if you are interested in any of our trips.

Congratulations to Diana and Joe Sagy on their wedding. It was so great and everything went well. We danced and ate and laughed. I saw a lot of good friends that I didn’t see a long time. I hope you two will always be happy.

The area-wide picnic went well. We all worked hard to make it so. Thanks to LAFCU and Auto Body for the great gifts. And to Region 1-C for the $5 bills we gave out. My sidekick Russ Little didn’t make it, as he was under the weather. A big thank you to all the volunteers. We need more people like you.

Remember, we have a big election ahead of us in November. Dorothy Stevens will run a phone bank at Local 602 and she could use your help. Remember, we are fighting for the people that work for the working people.

What happened to respect on the highways? I guess that went out the window. Till we meet again, keep smiling. My phone is 517-543-5385.

To make it even more interesting, by them crossing your picket line and running the plant, they have hurt the bargaining team’s ability to negotiate. So they undercut collective labor agreements and further weakened the union. We do have people working in our union shop who don’t want to pay union dues, and yet they want the pay scale and benefits the union has negotiated for us. The things my grandmother and grandfather walked the picket line and did without for us to enjoy today.

I say if you don’t want to pay dues, go to work in a shop without union representation. If it wasn’t for the union holding management’s feet to the fire, how long do you think management would provide the pay and benefits you enjoy today? You can bet your sweet bottom things would be different.

Region 1-C Women’s Committees teamed up to give out backpacks in the Back-to-School celebration to help underprivileged youth. Special thanks to Region 1-C Director Norwood Jewell for their donations to the program. See Debra Mills’ article on page 2 for more information, and see our website for more photos - lansinglabornews.org.

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DOROTHY STEVENS, LOCAL 602

602 retirees

In less than 2 months, millions of voting seniors will have the chance to change Social Security and Medicare for the future. We all know that the Supreme Court decision that allowed Congress to spend more than $1 trillion without even a simple vote must be reversed. The Senate rejected COLA relief legislation that would have given Social Security beneficiaries a one-time payment of $250 to help offset the loss of the 2010 Cost-of-Living Adjustment.

Efforts are already underway to repeal important improvements under the health care overhaul, improvements that include phasing out the “doughnut hole” coverage gap in the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

These issues will be carried over to those we elect this November and a closely divided Congress puts benefits for retired Americans at risk. This coming Congressional election will have an enormous impact on the future of Social Security and Medicare.

There’s only one thing certain at this point: we must help our candidates win or be prepared to live with devastating losses in seniors’ benefits.

Now is the time to make a difference, whether it be phone calling, door-to-door, or be prepared to live with devastating losses in seniors’ benefits.

For all our sick and homebound, you are in our thoughts and prayers. For everyone who has lost a loved one or dear friend, we send our deep condolences.

MIKE BAUER, LOCAL 652

652 retirees

It has been a long hot summer. With fall just around the corner, we can look forward to cooler temperatures and the bright colors of autumn.

Our monthly schedule of events is:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. The games start at 6:00 p.m. Third Tuesday of the month is our Bohemian dinner and business meeting. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Dinner starts at noon. Fourth Tuesday of the month is card night starting at 6:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652, 602, and 1618.

On Labor Day (September 6) there will be a ceremony in the Sidetowners Memorial Park at the Region 1-C Office in Flint. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. Abruins Lobsteats at 659. Tickets are $12 and can be purchased at the door. The Region 1-C Office is at 1940 W. Atherton Rd., Flint, Local 659 is located at 5459 Van Slyke Rd, Flint. The annual Labor Day Picnic will also be held in Flint at Crossroads Village from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. October 12 will be our next social night, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The November 2 Bingo Night will be cancelled due to election activity at the hall. Please note this cancellation on your calendar.

Just a reminder, the November and December dinners will be our regular monthly potlucks. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

Bob Sheldon, who is 90 years young, recently completed his last year of working for the Ingham County Fair. Congratulations, Bob, on a job well done!

Finally, support UAW-endorsed candidates. Endorsements are based on candidates’ positions on issues and, where applicable, their voting records. Phone bank volunteers are needed. Phone banks will be open the following Mondays starting at 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. starting October 1 at Local 602.

There is a trip scheduled to Mesa, Arizona, February 13-24. It will include a visit to GM’s Mesa and stops in cities along the way such as Oklahoma City and San Antonio. Contact Marni for more information and to make your reservation. Phone 517-331-6871. Reservations must be made by October 15.

Condolences to Mansi Raymond on the loss of his brother Lawrence Raymond and his ex-wife Ennice Mylander. Condolences to the families of Nancy Barker and Rosemary Spitzley.

The Olds Outdoor Club has the following 2010 camping dates: Sept. 10, 11, & 12 at Rocky’s Campground. (517) 857-2200; Oct. 8, 9, & 10 at Mich. Trap Shooting Association. (517) 676-2295

Each individual camping unit must call the campground to make their individual reservations. For more details about the campground, you may contact “Wagon Master” Jay Courser at (517) 323-2331.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carter, Marvin Davis, Joyce Fernholtz, Joyce Kloekning, Wilfred and Millie Pullman, Al Schneider, Jean and Leonard Schneider, and any we may have missed.

The Lansing Labor News is online at lansinglabornews.org. If possible, please bring canned goods to donate to the area Food Bank when you attend retiree events.

LAURA CLARK, LOCAL 1753

1753 Retirees

We are having fun at the local and around town. Some of you got very involved with the Region 1-C eucharist tournament. I was very pleased with the turnout of the people and the few bowls in the local. The boys “hit it out of the park,” as they say. Everyone did well, had a fun time, and enjoyed the lunch sponsored by our friends at Optiview. Winners won and played the winners from Flint. Ta-da! The champ from Region 1-C is our own Doug Durrance. We are so proud. Keep up the good work. Girls, I hope for a better showing next year. I know you can play!

The June 14 picnic was a blast, good job by everyone. It was great to see so many turn out, the food was great. Thanks, guys, for the great grilling. Everyone brought a huge amount of dishes to pass—what a tough choice! The dessert contest was out of this world. Judges had a hard decision, but named Bill’s wife Joyce Dawson as the winner. We thank Jennifer Tissue and her committee for supplying gifts for prizes.

Thanks to our wonderful E-board for running July’s meeting and lunch. Thanks, Dennis, I appreciate your covering while I was away. I got back in time for a good lunch and meeting in August. It’s good to be back and see you all. Randy, we heard you broke or sprained your foot again, we are sorry and hope you heal real soon. Cards can be sent to Randy Jenetzke at 5661 N. Canal Rd, Dimondale, MI 48821.

It looks like you and Randy missed the Lansing area 1-C retirees’ picnic at Hawk Island. I was glad to see some of us enjoyed the new caterer. I was glad to see many brothers and sisters from around town, the new Region 1-C Director Norwood Jewell, Michigan Representative Barb Byrum and U.S. Representative Mark Schauer.

At our next meeting on September 9 at 12:00, we will be cooking outside, burgers and hot dogs. Bring a dish to pass—what a tough choice! The desserts were out of this world. Judges had a hard decision, but named Bill’s wife Joyce Dawson as the winner. We thank Jennifer Tissue and her committee for supplying gifts for prizes.

Thanks to our wonderful E-board for running July’s meeting and lunch. Thanks, Dennis, I appreciate your covering while I was away. I got back in time for a good lunch and meeting in August. It’s good to be back and see you all. Randy, we heard you broke or sprained your foot again, we are sorry and hope you heal real soon. Cards can be sent to Randy Jenetzke at 5661 N. Canal Rd, Dimondale, MI 48821.

From Joe Sagy

UAW members eligible for the Legal Services Plan pay imputed income. If both spouses worked for GM or Delphi, they may be charged for two imputed income amounts. To avoid this increased liability and if the above stated circumstance exists, one eligible participant of the Plan may declare coverage for both eligible parties for tax purposes. Both will have the same coverage, with only one member charged with imputed income. To provide notice of dual coverage or to delete or reinstate coverage, the member must call 1-800-521-7818, ext 517 and indicate they are calling regarding dual Plan coverage. Eligible participants’ names, Social Security numbers, locations of employment, and local union numbers should be available at the time of the call. This must be done no later than Friday September 24, 2010 and will become effective November 1.

602 Obituaries

Thomas A. Pizzo – Retired

Ernest May – Retired

Emory Newman – Retired

Lee Dobson – Retired

Helen R. Clark – Mother of Bonny Clark, General Assembly Director

Frank Hughke – Father of Jocelyn Perry, Material

Melba Barnice Przelewski – Mother of Linda Cusick, Quality (Paint Verification)

Connie V. Grosnicker – Mother of Brian Grosnicker, Sr.

Lillian Pappas – Mother of Stephen Pappas, Father

Dixie Anita Harmon – Mother of Aniesia Durance, Body

William Despain – Step-Father of Anita Reihl, Electrician (Body)

Ferits Dumas – Father of Teresa Mosley, Chassis

Wilho Kemppainen – Father of Paul Kemppainen

Paint Obituaries are continued on page 7

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