



Summer video game market heats up with big new releases. **D1**

FINAL

CELTICS UP 2-0



SPORTS

Boston holds off Laker rally, hold series lead going into L.A. **C1**

NATION | WORLD

TOMATOES MAY BE SOURCE OF ILLNESSES **A3**

REGION

WEATHER RADIOS BETTER THAN WARNING SIREN? **B1**

SPORTS

HASEK TO ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT **C1**

COMING UP

Tuesday: In Your Life, From belly dancing to cardio strip class, this isn't your grandmother's workout class.

mlive.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Get the goods, sell the goods in an expanded package of ads www.mlive.com/grpress

THE GAS GAUGE

Average price of regular unleaded gasoline in greater Grand Rapids

\$4.09

High: \$4.25 Low: \$3.92

GALLON OF DIESEL

High: \$4.89 Low: \$4.69

Prices reported this morning on grandrapidsgasprices.com

INDEX

Ada to Zeeland...	B3	Nation/World.....	A3
Advice.....	D2	Puzzles.....	D4
Business.....	B4	Region.....	B1
Classified Ads.....	B1	Sports.....	C1
Comics.....	D5	Television.....	D4
Deaths.....	B7	Weather.....	C8
Editorials.....	A8	World in 3 Min.....	C8
Lottery.....	A2, C8	Your Life.....	D1



©2008, The Grand Rapids Press

'NATURE CAN BE CRUEL'

WINDS, HIGH WATERS CAUSE FIVE AREA DEATHS; MORE RAIN COMING

BY BARTON DEITERS
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

One was enjoying an outing with his fiancée, a week before his 27th birthday.

Another was active in a Polish Heritage group and appeared in local theater productions.

Still another was a first-generation American, twice recovered from heart attacks and still working the farm started by his Yugoslavian parents.

Two more were a generation apart, separated by 34 years but working side by side, delivering newspapers one customer said arrived on time even in harsh winter weather.

All five people died Sunday in the wake of thunderstorms that battered West Michigan — flooding roads, knocking out power to thousands, and spilling sewage into lakes and rivers.

An Eaton County woman killed by an overturned RV was the state's sixth death.

"Mother Nature can be cruel sometimes," said Holly Johnson, a Spring Lake woman who saw the emotional aftermath of one of the accidents.

The victims:

■ Clarissa Green, 51, and her nephew Dean Taylor, 17, both of Grand Junction, were delivering The Grand Rapids Press early Sunday when their car plunged into a 50-foot ravine created by a flash flood that washed out Lakeshore Drive in Saugatuck Township.

■ Around 1 p.m., 76-year-old farmer John Pekich was found by the Ottawa County Sheriff's Dive Team near 112th Avenue, south of Lake Michigan Drive. Police believe Pekich was tending to an old-fashioned dam that was being overrun by rushing waters.

■ An hour later, 26-year-old Chad Dushane was driving with his fiancée near his family home in Spring Lake when a tree limb crashed atop his car.

■ Just 20 minutes later, Ursula Swidwinski, 53, was walking to the pole

SEE STORMS, **A2**



Moving in: Another thunderstorm rolls into Grand Rapids on Sunday afternoon. The photo was taken from Monroe Terrace in downtown Grand Rapids.

COURTESY PHOTO/J.C. CORDERO

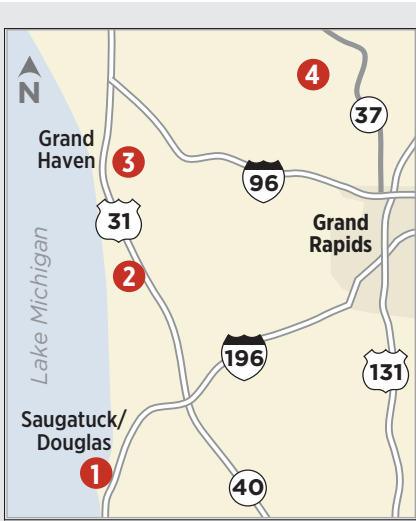


PRESS PHOTO/PAUL L. NEWBY II

Shocking sight: Crystal Cummins is comforted by her husband Jeremiah, right, while her brother, Jeff Williams, looks at the washed-out section of Lakeshore Drive south of Douglas that claimed the lives of her aunt and cousin. Clarissa Green, 51, and her nephew, 17 year-old Dean Taylor, both of Grand Junction, died early Sunday when their car fell into a ravine created by flash flooding.

MORE

- Family's warnings came too late, **A2**
- No relief for flooded Midwest, **B6**
- Festival interrupted, not stopped, **B1**



Five people were killed Sunday in four storm-related accidents in West Michigan.

1. **About 4 a.m.** Clarissa Green, 51, and Dean Taylor, 17, of Grand Junction: Car plummets into ravine after road washed out.
2. **Sometime before 1 p.m.** John Pekich, 76, West Olive: Drowned tending dam overtaken by rising water.
3. **Just after 2 p.m.** Chad Dushane, 26, of Spring Lake: Tree limb falls on car; fiancée escapes serious injury.
4. **2:20 p.m.** Ursula Swidwinski, 53, Conklin: Tree falls on her.



COURTESY PHOTO/GERT WALLIS

Another victim: Chad Dushane was driving in Spring Lake with his fiancée, Kathleen Tyer, when a tree limb fell on his car, killing him and injuring Tyer.

Democrats now party of mainline Protestants

Evangelicals still mostly Republican, according to Calvin study's national survey

BY PAT SHELLNBARGER
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS — For years, Republican candidates have counted on mainline Protestants for support, but a poll conducted for Calvin College shows that religious group shifting more toward the Democratic Party.

For the first time since the beginning of Franklin Roosevelt's administration, a larger percentage of mainline Protestants call themselves Democrats than Republicans, the national survey commissioned by the Paul B. Henry In-

stitute for the Study of Christianity and Politics at Calvin College found.

Evangelical Protestants still lean heavily toward the Republican Party and, despite initial misgivings, generally support Republican John McCain for president, although not as strongly as they did George W. Bush in 2004.

Part of the shift toward the Democrats may be because of President Bush's low approval ratings and concern about the war in Iraq, the price of gasoline and the economy, said Corwin Smidt, a political scientist at Calvin and director of the Henry Institute.

"Social issues have been pushed off the agenda the last eight years, in part, because other issues have come to the fore," he said.

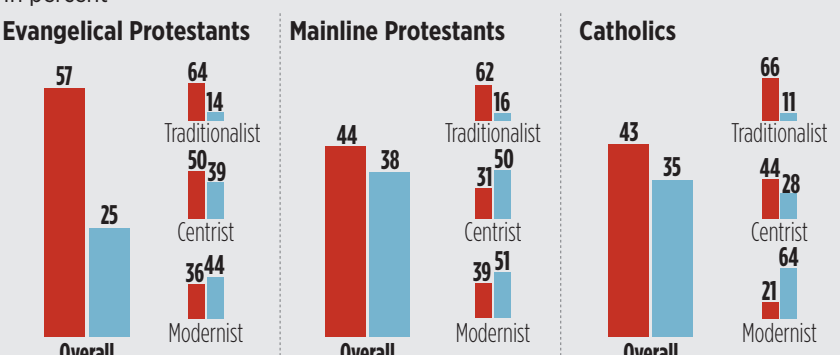
Still, for some Christians, social issues remain significant, although attitudes sometimes shift as new issues

SEE RELIGION, **A5**

Candidates' strengths with Christian voters

John McCain is strong with "traditionalist" Christian voters, while Barack Obama draws more support from "modernist" Christians.

Projected vote 2008
In percent



SOURCE: Calvin College

PRESS GRAPHIC