



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 23.3 Thursday, January 19, 2017

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

Court Watching:

Thomas Cahill bound over for homicide, co-defendant freed

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Thomas Charles Cahill, 22, a Sumpter Township resident who is charged with the bludgeoning murder of his grandfather, has been bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court for trial.

At a 90-minute preliminary exam on the afternoon of Jan. 11, 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley found there was enough evidence to bind Cahill over on charges of homicide, torture, attempted arson, larceny in a building, and stealing a credit card, all on Dec. 2 in Sumpter Township.

The defendant's grandfather, Charles James Cahill, 82, died of his injuries on Dec. 23 and so the previous first charge of "assault with intent to murder" against Thomas Cahill was upgraded to homicide.

His co-defendant Chanice Khadish Letang, 20, was charged with accessory after the fact to a felony, but Judge Oakley found there was not enough evidence to bind her over for trial, so that charge was dismissed. She was defended by retained attorney Jill Schinske.

Letang was free after posting bond of \$10,000/10%, but Thomas Cahill has been in the Wayne County Jail without bond since his arrest Dec. 4. Thomas Cahill's court-appointed attorney is Luther Glenn.

The preliminary exam before Judge Oakley began with the first witness, Sumpter Township Officer Colleen Carefelle, telling how she was dispatched to 25 E. Arizona in Holiday West mobile home park with her partner Officer Christopher Herrick at 8:43 p.m., Dec. 2. She testified that dispatch said a male was having a possible stroke and bleeding from the head.

When she knocked on the door, Angela Morris told her to come in and she smelled a strong odor of gasoline, she said. Charles Cahill was sitting in a chair, slumped over,

(continued on page 3)



Photo courtesy of William Loesel

On Saturday night, Van Buren Township Fire Department, with the help of Belleville Fire Department, fought a house fire on Cumberland Drive, just off Martinsville Road in Country Walk subdivision. The roof collapsed about 7:25 p.m. VBT Fire Marshal David McNally said the fire started in the garage and the homeowners didn't know it was burning until they opened the door to the attached garage and saw the flames. They got out of the house with their dogs. Two cats were found after the fire was out – one under the deck and one in the house, both fine. A third cat was found Sunday morning and seems to be all right, said Fire Chief Dan Besson. Sumpter Township Fire Department staged at VBT Fire Station #1 at Hull/Sumpter roads to handle calls for VBT and the city while they were fighting the fire. As the *Independent* went to press there was no report on what started the fire.

Sumpter Twp. Police issue warning on possible cougar sighting

The Sumpter Township Police Department was recently contacted by a property owner in the area of Sumpter and Kozma roads regarding a large feline that he had observed on his property three times since Nov. 1, 2016. Police issued a Nixel alert with the following information:

The property owner took a video of the feline during the November sighting and had a relatively close contact with it again just three days ago. He explained that he contacted the DNR about it possibly being a cougar, but was not satisfied with their response and decided to contact Sumpter

Township Police.

Officers went to the property and were able to confirm that the layout of the land appears to positively match that in the video. Officers also measured the tall grass shown directly behind the cat as 7-8 feet tall (note: video was taken on Nov. 1, measurement taken on Jan. 14).

Sumpter Township Police reached out to a local exotic animal expert, who after viewing the video has confirmed the animal as a large feline; definitely not a house cat and possibly a cougar. He also believes that it's probably illegally owned by a private individual and has escaped.

Based on the video and subsequent scene measurements the expert gives an approximate height of the feline at 2 ½ to 3 feet at the shoulder. He stresses that wild cougars have a range of 100 miles or more

and could possibly be a threat, especially to other animals.

We note however that Sumpter Township has had no other reported sightings of the cat or any unexplained attacks on domestic or wild animals. We have reached out to the DNR and will post any new information to our Facebook page (Sumpter Township Police Department) as it becomes available.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Sumpter Township Police at (734) 461-6898 (24-hour dispatch) or (734) 461-4833 (office - Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. only).

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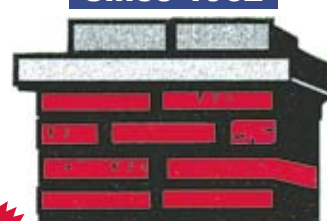
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Court watching

(continued from page 1)

with dry blood all over his face and a large gash on his head, Carefelle testified. She said blood was dripping from his head and brain matter was on the coffee table and floor.

She said he was alert and talking when she arrived. She said she asked him if he had fallen and she couldn't understand his reply. Then he yelled out "Tommy" twice.

That's when Officer Herrick started to look for Thomas Cahill, who lived in the home with his grandfather and Morris. Carefelle said Morris stayed in a bedroom with a lock on the door.

Carefelle said she saw a hammer submerged in water in the sink in the kitchen. Michigan State Police were called to the scene to collect evidence and they collected the hammer, bagged it, and gave it to Carefelle. A gas can from the enclosed porch also was collected by MSP and bagged as evidence. Carefelle testified about a charred welcome mat and a battery charger that was knocked over on the porch. MSP also took pictures.

Carefelle said a fire fighter pointed out a cigarette butt on Cahill's lap. She said Morris' room was closed and locked.

Charles Cahill was transported to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital by Huron Valley Ambulance, Carefelle said.

The second witness was Sumpter Police Sgt. Christopher McGlynn who was sent to the hospital to pick up the belongings of the victim at 7 a.m., Dec. 3. He testified he could smell gasoline from the several paper bags he was given. He said the bags were secured in Lt. Patrick Gannon's office and later the items were put into 11 different bags, processed and tabulated, and put into the evidence room. Gannon is the evidence officer, he said.

The third witness was Sumpter Officer Joseph Balowski who was called in on Dec. 3. He said he and Sumpter Detective John Toth put out a BOL (be on the lookout) for the Kia driven by Letang, Thomas Cahill's girlfriend. They had already talked to Letang's adoptive mother who lives in Van Buren Township. Balowski testified that a VBT police unit found the car at the Red Roof Inn.

Det. Toth got the ledger from the motel and located Letang in room 239, Balowski testified. He said he did a loud "police knock" on the door and after about two minutes Thomas Cahill opened the door. Balowski said he asked him to step out of the room and for permission to pat him down and he complied. He had no weapon and there was no blood on him, Balowski said.

He testified Letang was there and he searched the room with Letang's consent, since she had booked the room, and

recovered a green towel from a rack by the bathroom door with a 3-4" smeared circle stain believed to be blood. It was not a hotel towel. He said he also found clothing in the northwest corner of the room behind a chair. It was male work clothing from Salisbury Landscaping, where Thomas Cahill had worked and in later questioning said he had quit. Multiple small stains appearing to be blood were on the jeans.

Balowski also testified he went inside the Kia in the parking lot with the permission of Letang and found what appeared to be blood on the passenger seat, between the size of a quarter and a dime.

Letang drove her car behind police cars to the Sumpter station to voluntarily discuss the situation and Thomas Cahill asked for a ride with police to come in for questioning, and Officer Beth Egerer gave him a ride, Balowski said.

Det. Toth was the fourth witness, testifying he was at home that night and came to 25 E. Arizona 30 minutes into the incident. He said he saw the ambulance drive off with the victim.

Toth testified he observed "brain blood" all over the coffee table next to the La-Z-Boy chair and on the floor. He said he saw what he believed to be skull fragments on the floor. He explained brain blood is more raised than regular blood. He also saw the charred black welcome mat and noticed the strong smell of the gas. He said he went to look at the hammer in the dirty dish water in the sink and almost fell down because the linoleum on the entire kitchen floor was slippery.

Toth said they tried to find Thomas Cahill to see what he was up to during this time and they were looking for him and his girlfriend. He said they were given information by Letang's adoptive mother that the couple was at the Westland Motel 6, but they found there is no Motel 6 in Westland. That's when VBT police located them at the Red Roof Inn.

Toth said neither Thomas Cahill nor his girlfriend were suspects at the time. Toth said he advised Letang of her rights and she said she gave Thomas Cahill a ride, leaving work early at 2:45 p.m. and picking him up at his home at 3 p.m. She said they went to Taco Bell, Walmart, Red Roof Inn, Walmart, and Red Roof Inn. Toth said she paid for the room with her cash.

Toth said at a later time she said Thomas Cahill came out of his home with a clear trash bag over his shoulder with clothing that belonged to somebody else. They drove to his biological brother's home on Rawsonville Road and put the bag in the passenger side of a red truck his brother was going to buy. Toth said he took out a backpack.

Toth said Letang indicated Thomas was moving out and she had visited with Charles Cahill for a time.

(continued on page 19)

2016 Salaries for Keystone Academy Administrators and Employees

Administration		Substitute Teacher	
Godfrey, Keturah M.	\$90,697.78	Corbin, Jena	\$90 per day
Davies, Stephanie	\$12.61 per hour	Hook, Roxane M.	\$90 per day
Bradley, Diann M.	\$50,000.08	Jeng, Amy	\$90 per day
Dean		Laborde, Tina L.	\$90 per day
Henry, Paula D.	\$69,999.70	Ledeboer, Rebecca A.	\$90 per day
Steeb, Jamie M.	\$63,999.94	Losen, Jacob	\$90 per day
Pepper, Rachel L.	\$57,801.12	Patton, Diane E.	\$90 per day
Instructors		Prentiss, Nicol L.	\$90 per day
Jackson, Chelsea R.	\$40,821.46	Robinson, Amy	\$90 per day
Lumbardo, Andria K.	\$42,465.28	Schafer, Michelle A.	\$90 per day
Mallari, Robyn S.	\$54,259.50	Washington, Regina	\$90 per day
Letts, Renee L.	\$38,689.25	Social Worker	
Williams, Amy K.	\$42,988.19	Rivera, Marilyn	\$17,478.24
Wood, Carolyn S.	\$49,796.24	Gomez, Ashley N.	\$23,738.00
Carpenter, Jared A.	\$45,585.70	Rivera, Marilyn	\$27.33 per hour
Cervantes, Lisa	\$40,745.12	Library	
Peters, Heather M.	\$46,877.58	Piotrowski, Christina	\$48,241.23
Carty, Elsbeth, M.	\$46,407.30	Henderson, Melissa M.	\$14.18 per hour
Lauren, Mechelle	\$40,821.46	Paraprofessional	
Turner, Teri A.	\$37,245.10	Henderson, Melissa M.	\$14.18 per hour
Herman, Melanie	\$43,490.30	Bradley, Kimberly A.	\$13.05 per hour
McNulty, Michelle L.	\$50,883.66	Campbell, Sandra R.	\$12.75 per hour
Nalepa, Stacy L.	\$43,765.07	Dean, Laura W.	\$13.04 per hour
Johnson, Nicolle	\$41,638.27	Demolen, Jennifer L.	\$11.25 per hour
Chuang, Cindy	\$44,275.09	Jeng, Amy	\$12.73 per hour
Kaminski, Tracy M.	\$40,888.22	Losen, Jacob	\$11.25 per hour
Slavicek, Sheena L.	\$44,321.26	Patten, Diane E.	\$11.25 per hour
Burden, Sara J.	\$47,003.42	Prentiss, Nicol L.	\$11.25 per hour
Eifert, Michelle R.	\$63,447.07	Robinson, Amy	\$11.25 per hour
Cannon, Jill R.	\$40,821.46	Henderson, Melissa M.	\$14.18 per hour
Poole, Ellen	\$41,888.29	Demolen, Jennifer L.	\$13.33 per hour
Ball, Laura A.	\$48,312.58	Hampton, Francine	\$13.30 per hour
Todd, Kelly R.	\$40,255.07	Heringhausen, Lisa M.	\$9.00 per hour
Zeuty, Eric E.	\$22,439.25	Isaacs, Jeanne	\$11.25 per hour
Pope, Andrew	\$38,780.14	Horner, Jennifer L.	\$16.99 per hour
Kujala, Laurie	\$45,387.89	Recess Aide	
Layton, Amanda M.	\$55,687.63	Corbin, Jena	\$8.90 per hour
Montri, Sheila R.	\$61,057.98	Cortez, Serena	\$8.90 per hour
Reaume, Megan	\$37,245.10	Dziewit, Maria	\$8.90 per hour
Terrell, Monique	\$39,849.47	Etsel, Megan	\$8.90 per hour
Zajac, Sarah	\$45,670.14	Green, Cassia L.	\$8.90 per hour
Olson, Marie B.	\$31,374.72	Grimoldby, Jennifer L.	\$8.90 per hour
Academic Specialist		Hagerman, Jettie	\$10.20 per hour
Mushenheim, Jaclyn J.	\$15,369.12	Heringhausen, Lisa M.	\$8.90 per hour
Strecker, Rachael L.	\$46,876.34	Isaacs, Jeanne	\$8.90 per hour
Mushenheim, Jaclyn J.	\$17,503.72	Majer, Kristen M.	\$8.90 per hour
Reed, Stacey E.	\$57,958.58	Richardson, Tracy M.	\$8.90 per hour
		Walters, Johanne C.	\$8.90 per hour

Complied by Diane Madigan.

These are the teachers and administrators and their annual salaries for 2016 as reported by National Heritage Academies which operates Keystone Charter Academy located on Bemis Road in Sumpter Township.

Teachers and administrators in the State of Michigan are required to be named and their wages listed for the state registry.

These teachers and administrators working at Keystone Academy are hired and paid by National Heritage Academies in Grand Rapids. Under the law, NHA is not required to give out any more information than what is in the state registry listing.

Keystone is a free, public school academy serving 768 students in grades K-8 and operating under a charter contract

issued by an authorizing body – Bay Mills Community College.

The Keystone Academy Board has entered into a services agreement with NHA, an educational service provider.

Through this services agreement, NHA is responsible to provide for the day-to-day operations and staffing at the school including the school's leadership team and teachers. Consequently, Keystone does not have any employees.

Also, NHA, a private company, does not have to reveal individual benefits nor give any information on how much employees may or may not pay for benefits. NHA has provided 11 pages of listings of benefits.

Rosemary K. Oztman, Editor

OPINIONS

Editorial

It's time to begin review of taxpayer-paid employees

Each year the *Independent* requests pay records through the Freedom of Information Act from local public bodies and then we publish them so our readers can see how much – or how little – those paid by us taxpayers are getting.

Years ago, we started out with the Van Buren Township Police Department salaries and then it grew from there. Certainly, the money paid to certain police officers – specifically the cross-trained police/fire fighters – was the most eyebrow-raising of the salaries.

The printed salaries of specific VBT police officers are saved from year to year by some readers. They say they show them around to their friends and police officers in other communities.

This year, VBT has asked to have more time to put together the financial information requested, so we expect to be receiving that about Jan. 25. Give us a few days to get that ready for print, which means we should print that the first week of February, or so.

We have requested salaries and benefits from: City of Belleville, Township of Van Buren, Township of Sumpter, Van Buren Public Schools, Keystone Academy charter school, and Belleville Area District Library.

Diane Madigan is putting the information into printable form and we appreciate her efforts very much. We're starting today with Keystone. Hope you find it interesting.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

On Tuesday morning, the Van Buren Public Schools were abruptly closed for the day after a school bus slid into the ditch because of icy conditions on Fret Road. Another bus was sent out to pick up those students and take them home.

Pam Johnson, assistant to the superintendent, said the superintendent had gone out early and thought the roads were all right. But after the bus went into the ditch, about 6:45 a.m., Supt. Kudlak decided to call school because it had started to rain and the roads were worse than they had thought.

They did not pick up the elementary students and took all those who were already at school back home. Pam said she sent out the alert to parents but no one received the alert, so she sent it out as an emergency and they got it and then the notice got changed on the website.

Earlier in the morning they had noted on the website that the buses would be later than usual because of road conditions. At about 7:25 a.m. they changed the notice on the website to reflect the closing.

Pam said the VBT police officer she spoke to said the gravel roads were OK to travel if you stayed in the middle of the road, but if a bus got off to the side and put on the brakes it slid right into the ditch. It wasn't possible for two vehicles to pass safely on the gravel roads the way they were.

Over the week end there was a lot of talk about the tap water in Downriver communities, and then also in Van Buren Township, smelling like Sulphur and tasting and looking bad.

When an alert was sent out on Monday



morning about a water problem in Belleville and VBT, people assumed it had to do with the water quality problem.

Instead, it was an alert that the water pressure would be down to a trickle for up to 12 hours because of a water main break on Savage Road, near Lenmoore Road. That's the area of the Wolverine pipeline work. VBT Field Supervisor Marty said a joint in the water main started to leak and they had to replace it. Nothing to do with the water quality issue.

I was talking with a man waiting to appear before Judge Green at 34th District Court last week. He was cited for feeding deer a whole bag of carrots. He said the DNR officer who cited him said he should only have fed half a bag because one deer can eat that, but if other deer join in eating, a disease that's affecting deer in the state can be passed. Nobody in the courtroom around us had ever heard of such a crime.

He said he gets his carrots at the gas station and that's the size bag they sell. He never considered taking half of it back to the garage to store. He dumps it all out.

He said he and his son go out on their property to hunt deer and that's how they bait them. He thinks his next-door neighbor turned him in because of a dispute they had. He had criticized the neighbor for smoking pot outside in front of the man's son.

Whatever. He was told the charge was dismissed and he left a happy man. Maybe

the gas station should sell smaller bags of carrots.

On Saturday, I heard a report on the police scanner of someone who had spotted a large cat, possibly a cougar, in the bushes next to his mailbox. When he went out again, the cat was gone. A police officer, with a sigh, said he would check it out.

An unsigned note was sent to us on our website: "Missing Bike Racks: I recently married and moved to Belleville from Ann Arbor. I ride my bike three days a week from Sumpter and Bemis to shop uptown, Meijer's, Walmart etc. Where are the bike racks? Oh, there's one at the local library! Thanks!"

Michigan State Police Sgt. C. Green said that it was James Tuttle, Jr., 48, of Canton who died in the accident on I-275 in Van Buren Township at about 10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12. Sgt. Green said his car ran out of gas and Tuttle left a passenger in the car and ran across the freeway to get some gas, but was hit and killed by a pickup truck. The accident is still under investigation, but there was no alcohol involved, the trooper said.



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**BELLEVILLE - AREA
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Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home phone (no ads, please!): 697-8290

Advertising Manager: Bob Mytych

Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Janet Millard

Business Manager: Gerald McKelvey

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

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-- Terri McMillan



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Letters

Board members have concerns about DeVos

To the Editor:

At the time this letter was read at Monday's [Jan. 9] board meeting, the hearing regarding Betsy DeVos' nomination as the secretary of education was still scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 11. Later that evening, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions postponed the hearing until Jan. 17 at 5 p.m.

During the past few board meetings, Mr. English has expressed concerns publicly about Mrs. DeVos' appointment to the top education post, and we reiterate those same concerns here. Mr. English has contacted Senator Stabenow and Peters' offices, and they both have now expressed their concerns regarding this appointment and have vowed to vote against her nomination. We commend this move from our senators on behalf of the students in Michigan's public schools.

In Michigan, DeVos has been an outspoken advocate for charter schools. As Stephen Henderson of the *Detroit Free Press* has written, she and other family members have given over \$2 million to GLEP, the Great Lakes Education Project, a political action committee that promotes "school choice." She is a member of the American Federation for Children as well as other organizations that encourage "choice" and "parental empowerment." While these phrases sound good, they all operate under the guise of improving academic outcomes, but are supported by incredibly troublesome records of achievement.

We encourage anyone wishing to learn more about Michigan's lackluster results with charter schools to read "Michigan spends \$1B on charter schools but fails to hold them accountable" from the *Free Press*.

We are deeply troubled over the possibility of her appointment to this post for a myriad of reasons, including: her utter lack of experience in public schools, as she did not attend a public school, did not send her children to public schools, and has never worked in a public school; the DeVos family's contributions to undermine increased charter school oversight, including lifting the cap on the number of charter schools in Michigan; and her involvement in the 2000 campaign to amend Michigan's constitution to allow school vouchers, which is currently prevented by the Blaine amendment.

At the time this letter was submitted, the Office of Government Ethics, the department responsible for vetting cabinet nominees, has expressed concerns about

DeVos' hearing and the seemingly rushed nomination process, as well, noting that her ethics review was still incomplete.

We believe that the secretary of education should put research first, and he or she should represent the best interests of our public schools and not work to undermine them.

Sincerely,

Alison Bennett, Kevin English, Keith Johnston, Kelly Owen, Simone Pinter

Editor's Note: The above signers are all members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, but the letter was not voted on by the board.

Sumpter Seniors thank all supporters

To the Editor:

Sumpter Seniors would like to thank the following individuals, organizations, and businesses for their generosity throughout the year especially during the holiday season.

Sumpter Township Board -- Supervisor John Morgan, Clerk Clarence Hoffman, Treasurer Alan Bates, Trustee Don Laporte, Trustee Don Swinson, Trustee Peggy Morgan and Mr. Richard Morgan, Trustee Matt Oddy, Attorney Rob Young, Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis, Judge Dave Parrott, Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous, Keller's Bakery, Pinter's Flowerland, Martin and Son, David C. Brown Funeral Home, Sumpter Parks and Rec, Benito's Pizza, Sumpter Quilters, Esther Hurst, Swift Trucking, Express Tire, Sumpter Police Dept., Higgerson and Neal Funeral Home, Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Leonard, Sumpter Collison, Deb's Catering.

Honorable seniors that contribute their time to make the community center festive for the children's and senior Christmas events: Roy Dunford, Lettie Sanders, Beverly Powell, Margaret Rochon, Dee Patterson, Barbara Hubbard, Juanita Johnson-Owens, Jackie Sargent, Ken Stewart, Karen Mickens, and Leona Mixon with the most-original Christmas tree.

We also share in the sorrow of Treasurer Alan Bates' family, especially Mr. and Mrs. Posegay and Mr. and Mrs. Demond with the sudden loss of a dedicated township resident and gracious patron to the Sumpter Senior Center.

Sumpter Seniors

Swift Transportation, Huron Township Rotary set blood drive Jan. 27

Swift Transportation and Huron Township Rotary Club are hosting their third American Red Cross Blood Drive at Swift's New Boston terminal from 1 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27.

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Jan. 21 – Kathy Kovach
Jan. 22 – Scott Russell
Jan. 24 – Angie Burke
Jan. 27 – Dan Besson
Jan. 29 – Jason Richards



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Obituaries



Louis Parker Murray

LOUIS PARKER MURRAY

(December 4, 1926 - January 12, 2017)

Louis Parker Murray, age 90, of Romulus, died peacefully at Veteran's Hospital of Ann Arbor. He was born December 4, 1926 in Milan, Michigan. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1944 and joined the U.S. Navy where he served as a medical corpsman during World War II. He married Alta Linebaugh in 1949, and they had two children: Paul and Bob. He worked at the Peninsular Paper Mill for 42 years, completing his last years before retirement as the Maintenance Supervisor.

After Alta died in an automobile accident in 1979, he began serving as a volunteer cook on weekends at Camp Barakel in Fairview, MI, where he met his second wife, May Heddon. They were married in 1981. As a result, he gained seven more children: Ken, Jackie, Jerry, Keith, Jeannie, Julie and Judy whom he loved as his own.

He and May served as volunteer cooks at Rio Grande Bible Institute (Edinburgh, Texas) during school years from 1991 through 1998 until May was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. He faithfully cared for her in their home until 2005 when he could no longer do so safely, and then visited her daily in the care facility where she died in 2011.

He continued to volunteer at that facility until 2015. He was a strong believer in Jesus Christ as His Savior. His faith was very important to him. He enjoyed reading Scripture and praying for his family. He loved to talk about his family and his work experiences. He was deeply loved and will be sorely missed by his children, his 16 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. A memorial service honoring Mr. Murray's life was held at 11 a.m., Monday, January 16, 2017 at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville

Louie helped to support several missionaries until his death. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be given to: Enid Sanford, Steve & Martha Murray, Bill & Karyn Kurz, or Bob & Gayle Murray. If given to the family, gifts will be evenly divided among these missionaries.

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Rickey Gene Duncan

RICKEY GENE DUNCAN

(March 2, 1952 - January 10, 2017)

Rickey Gene Duncan, born March 2, 1952, passed January 10 at age 64.

He was born in Detroit, MI. He grew up in Belleville since 1960 and graduated from Belleville High School. He is a member of Belleville Assembly of God Church, but was attending the Church of God of Belleville.

He worked for Ford Motor Company for 29 years. He loved going bowling and hunting with his dad Gene and brother Tony. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially with his children and grandchildren.

Rickey is survived by his father Eugene Duncan and mother is Vicky Duncan. Also survived by two brothers Ronnie (Debbie) Duncan of Romulus, MI and Tony Duncan of Belleville, MI.

He was married to Shelley Ann Erhart for 20 years and has a son Ricky (Jennifer) Duncan, Jr. and daughter Serena, and three grandchildren Noah, Anesia and Chloe Duncan. He is now in Heaven resting in peace with Jesus. He is loved so much by his family, including many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation was 10-11 a.m. Monday, January 16, 2017 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2674 (734)697-4500. Funeral service began at 11 a.m. Pastor Jonathan Fuson officiated. Interment followed in Union-Udell Cemetery, Ypsilanti Township, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Belleville Church of God and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure at

www.davidecbrownfh.com.



Randy L. Barker

RANDY L. BARKER

(July 12, 1954 - January 4, 2017)

Randy L. Barker, 62, of Corydon, Indiana passed away January 4, 2017 surrounded by family. Born July 12, 1954 in Romulus, Michigan. He was the son of Woodrow (Cabbage) Barker and Jackie Barker (Webb).

Randy leaves behind his brother Mike (Issy) Barker, Beaver Dam, Kentucky. Sister Lonna Orr (Barker), Belleville, Michigan. Ronnie Barker, Gay City, West Virginia. Several nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, mother, and brother Greg Barker.

Cremation has been chosen. Remains will be laid to rest in Barker Family Cemetery in Costa, West Virginia.

**More Obituaries
on page 8**

Obituaries



David James Wilson

DAVID JAMES WILSON

(June 25, 1930 - January 12, 2017)

David James Wilson, 86, of Van Buren Township, died peacefully in his bed the morning of January 12, 2017, after a three-year bout with melanoma.

He was born in Ames, Iowa, son of James Calmar Wilson and Alice Winona Olmsted Wilson. As a teenager he became an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Fort Collins High School in Colorado. He went off to Stanford University to major in chemistry (had known from the seventh grade that he wanted to be a chemist).

In his junior year at Stanford he took engineering physics and there met Marty, a biology student taking the same class. They married on September 6, 1952, the summer after graduation.

The next five years were pretty hectic: 1 year at grad school, 2 years in the army (first baby was born then), and 2 more years at grad school. He earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Caltech in 1957.

He spent most of his working life teaching: 12 years at the University of Rochester (NY) and 26 years at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN).

He (and Marty) had an interesting sabbatical year abroad from each of the universities. 1964-65 at the University of Ife at Ibadan, Nigeria, with their four young boys; 1993-94 at the University of Malaga in southern Spain - no children with them that year. By the time he had retired, he had written two books and about 300 journal articles; he had 75 graduate students earn their Ph.D. while working for him.

In Nashville, in addition to teaching chemistry, he worked with young people as a Scoutmaster and later as an Explorer Post Advisor; and he mentored many students in science fair projects.

After he retired from Vanderbilt in 1995, he consulted at Brown and Caldwell, an environmental engineering firm, for a few more years. By this time his five children were scattered, none were close to Nashville.

In 2003 he and Marty moved to Belleville to be

close to son Bill (and Gloria and three school-age children). It was good move and a great family to be close to.

Dave's environmental interest started way back. In Rochester in the 1960s he was involved in getting lead paint out of old housing (to reduce lead poisoning of young children) and was also involved in cleaning up the beaches on Lake Ontario (contaminated by an outdated sewage treatment plant). In Tennessee he was deeply involved in identifying a large hazardous waste site in west Tennessee.

In Michigan, fully retired, he contacted the Huron River Watershed Council and learned how to assess the water quality of streams through the prevalence of different insects at the bottoms of streams. He regarded it a privilege to work with the Van Buren Township Environmental Commission. His final environmental fight, in conjunction with both the HR Watershed Council and the Environmental Commission, resulted in the banning of coal tar driveway sealants in Van Buren Township.

Dave leaves behind his wife, Marty (64 years of marriage); four sons John (Megumi) Wilson in Sagamiara, Japan; Chuck (Stephanie) Wilson in Gainesville, FL; Bill (Gloria) Wilson, now in Ann Arbor; and Andy (Stephanie) Wilson in Pescadero, CA; daughter Joyce Wilson (and husband Ken Johnson) in Maplewood, MO; and 10 grandchildren.

Dave donated his body to the University of Michigan and there will be no funeral service now. The family is planning a Celebration of Dave's Life on April 2 at the Pittsfield Union Grange.

If you wish, donations may be made in Dave's honor to the Huron River Watershed Council or to any other organization of your choice.

SHANE MICHAEL BRANNON

(January 18, 1970 - January 9, 2017)

Age 46, of Van Buren Township, BHS Class of 1988. Survived by daughter Ciara, granddaughter Jayden, parents and grandmother, all of Belleville. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

DARRELL GLEN RICKS

(February 26, 1962 - January 12, 2017)

Age 54, a longtime Belleville resident. Survived by wife Rhonda, children Cassidy, Michael, Kyle, and Rachel; 3 grandchildren; siblings Tammy and Geno. Memorial service in future. David C. Brown Funeral Home.



Antonio Garcia Jr.

ANTONIO GARCIA, JR.

(August 10, 1952 - January 12, 2017)

Antonio Garcia, Jr., age 64, of Riverview, died, Thursday, January 12, 2017.

Antonio is the loving father of Vanessa (Isidro) Reyes of Pennsylvania; dear brother of Rosa Garcia of Riverview, Ramon (Margaret) Garcia of Texas, and Juanita (Gerome) Ramirez of Texas. Antonio is also survived by many loving family and friends.

A longtime resident of the Belleville area, Antonio enjoyed watching Western and cowboy movies and was fond of spending time with his family.

The Garcia family greeted guests from 4 until 8 p.m. Saturday, January 14, 2017 at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville (734) 697-4500.



MARTIN BRYANT BEHRENDT

(January 17, 1954 - January 11, 2017)

Age 62 of Ypsilanti Township. Served in U.S. Army in Vietnam War. Survived by children David of Belleville and Danielle of Ypsilanti Township, 5 grandchildren, and siblings Mike and JoAnn. Janowiak Funeral Home.

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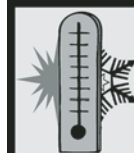
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GoFundMe page set up to help Jason Basham with third brain surgery

Two years ago while helping coach his daughter's softball team, Jason Basham, Belleville High School class of 1996, was accidentally hit in the head with a ball, and a CT scan discovered a large brain tumor that had been undetected before.

Basham had a brain surgery in June of 2015, but they were unable to remove the entire tumor. He also had complications and bleeding into the brain which required a second emergency surgery the next morning.

After the surgery, he suffered from loss of vision and memory problems. A month ago, during a follow up MRI, it was determined that the remaining section of the tumor had begun to grow.

He has a new neurosurgeon and will have to have a third brain surgery in March to remove the rest of the tumor. It is still pressing on his optic nerve and is quite large.

Basham has been on active duty as a Seabee in the Navy for almost 17 years. His medical expenses are all covered by his military insurance, however, the new surgeon is in a different state and there will be hotel costs and gas for his wife to travel with him during the surgery and to visit him while he is still in the hospital for recovery.

He has 4 children ages 10 months to

16, and the added expense of hotel stays as well as his wife's income loss for time taken off for his surgery and recovery will take a toll on the family financially.

The family said anyone who is able to donate even something small to the GoFundMe account that has been set up would be a great help.

Basham was born in Ypsilanti where both his parents, Donald and Cindy Basham, worked at the Willow Run GM plant. They moved to Belleville in 1984 and he went to school at Elwell Elementary, South Middle School, and graduated from Belleville High School in 1996. He joined the U.S. Navy in April 1999.

His parents reside at their residence on Willis Road. He is still active duty and serving as an Instructor stationed at Naval Construction Training Center, Gulfport MS. He has served almost 18 years as a Construction Mechanic, currently the rank of E6, Petty Officer First Class.

<https://www.gofundme.com/repeat-brain-surgery-recovery-fund>.



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Community invited to 101st birthday party for Virginia Harrington

The community is invited to help Virginia Harrington celebrate her 101st birthday at 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 20, at Cedar Woods Assisted Living at 44401 South I-94 Service Drive in Van Buren Township.

She was born on Jan. 20, 1916 in Paw Paw, MI, and married John Mackie Harrington when they were both 19 years old. They had two children, Tom and Virginia Harrington Leslie.

After they married, together with Mack's parents, Virginia and Mack ran a successful greenhouse and truck farm operation in Flat Rock. Virginia drove a big truck filled with plants and produce to the Eastern Market in Detroit, where she bargained with retailers. During World War II, while Mack was away serving his country, Virginia became a Rosie, the Riveter, building bombers at Willow Run Airport.

After the war, Virginia and Mack returned to the family farm and greenhouse business for many years. When the farm became part

of Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Virginia took a position with E.J. Korvette in Southfield, managing the book and music department while Mack continued his work with Ford Motor Company.

When they retired, Virginia and Mack enjoyed their golden years riding bicycles in Huron-Clinton Park, taking drives, going to Bar Harbor, Maine, and most of

all, going out dancing.

In April 2016 Virginia moved into Cedar Woods Assisted Living.

Besides her two children, Virginia has four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

For more information on the party, call Whitney Wooden or Sunni Peterson at (734) 699-2900.



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- Tuesday, Jan. 24 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting at 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. VBT Water and Sewer Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 25 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 1 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 6 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m.

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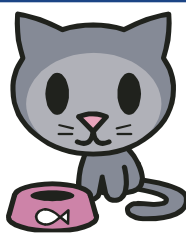
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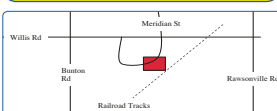


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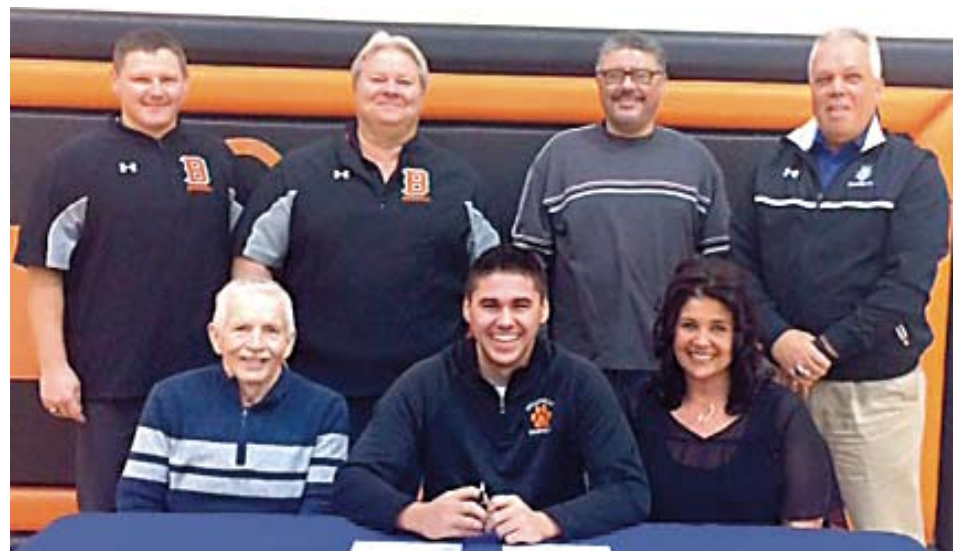


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Glenn Vicary, left, grandson of Mildred Baker of Belleville and son of Joan (Baker) Vicary and Tom Vicary, recently earned his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Louisville, Kentucky. His dissertation focused on developing a deeper understanding of the mechanism by which tobacco promotes pulmonary fibrosis. While he was working on his degree, Vicary published in numerous journals and presented at several conferences. He is shown with his mentor, Dr. Jesse Roman.



Belleville High School senior Jacob Hill will play baseball at Lawrence Technological University for the 2017-18 school year. He signed his letter of intent on Dec. 23. Jacob plans to study civil engineering. From left, sitting, are Jacob's grandfather Jerry Moran, Jacob Hill, and his mother Penny Hill. Standing from left are BHS assistant baseball coach Matt Davenport, BHS head baseball coach Dave Stamper, Jacob's father Dan Hill, and Lawrence Tech head baseball coach Stan Eldridge.

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Welcome, Carson Brantley Dzurka

Holly Schalk and Jordan Dzurka of Midland announce the birth of their son Carson Brantley Dzurka. He was born at 6:04 a.m. on Jan. 1 at Mid-Michigan Medical Center in Midland -- the second baby born in that hospital after the New Year. He weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Grandparents are Paul Schalk of Belleville and JoAnn Sutter of Shelby, Ohio.



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71% of Michigan citizens polled said that they trust a local newspaper/newspaper website.	19% of those polled would allow for Government-site ONLY posting.
72% of Michigan citizens polled said they found their local newspaper/newspaper website to be more effective than posting on a government website.	Only 19% feel that a Government-only website is effective.

Government websites put government in control of what we know. Citizens need an independent, trustworthy and effective check and balance on the government that's supposed to serve them. Public notices in newspapers provide that.

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More Letters

Thank you to all who helped wounded vet

To the Editor:

The Garcia family was presented to the Romulus VFW Post 9568 through the Plymouth VFW Post Auxiliary the second week of November. We immediately contacted the family to come in to our post to talk to us.

The day of the meeting we found out he was a wounded combat veteran from the Iraqi War. He was accompanied by his wife

and two small girls. We found out they have spent the last year in a local hotel at \$50 a day. They indicated that Mr. Garcia has been missing meals to support his family.

We also found out he was having issues with the Detroit VA, along with having a suspended license. As the meeting went on we found out he worked at a car wash for \$4 an hour plus tips for three hours a day. He also works at Amazon for \$9 an hour for three hours a day. They also indicated that his wife works at Amazon for the same wage for four hours a day.

At that moment the committee broke and donated \$100 from the post and another \$100 donated from the club room patrons. After the meeting the committee talked and decided to adjourn until the next day.

The following day a plan was formed to have a spaghetti dinner on Dec. 2 that was to be put on by the Romulus VFW Auxiliary. There was a lottery board, basket raffle, and 50/50. A task force was formed and through



Pausing for a picture are, at left, Bob Williams, Romulus VFW Post 9568 Quartermaster, and on the right Bob Koski, Romulus VFW Post 9568 Commander. The whole family is in the middle.

the efforts of numerous people (VFW, VFW Auxiliary, Romulus city officials, Romulus and Belleville citizens) we were able to raise over \$3,300.

The following week, committee members met with the family and they indicated where they would like to live. The search was on. Because both of their daughters were attending school in the Huron District, we were able to locate them a very nice-looking home in Huron Estates, where management was so helpful in placing this family. We were able to close on the home within two days on a Thursday. That following Saturday we moved them into the home. The committee also found out that a Romulus firm, Martin's Towing, donated a used vehicle to them. The vehicle was given a full safety inspection at no cost by local area mechanics. This whole process took six weeks from the time we met them.

A week before Christmas the family was presented with the van filled with gifts from the VFW, VFW Auxiliary, Romulus city officials, Romulus and Belleville citizens, and others. All total we were able to raise over \$5,000.

Notable members of the task force in no specific order are: Robert Koski, Robert Williams, Robert McCraight of the City

of Romulus and Rolling Thunder Chapter 5, 34th District Court, Toby Grudzinskas, Mike O'Brian, Lisa Koski, Jan Lemmon, the Romulus VFW Auxiliary, and City of Romulus officials.

Donations were made by so many wonderful people they are too numerous to name them all. To all of them I give a heart-felt thank you and you know who you are. Special Thank You goes out to Huron Estates, Extended Stay Hotel, Rolling Thunder, Roy Frank, Romulus Police, Fire & EMS Department, Romulus DPW, and Martins Towing.

Sincerely,
Robert Koski, Commander
Romulus VFW Post 9568

Editor's Note: Robert McCraight, City of Romulus Veterans Outreach Committee chairperson, said the committee was happy that the VFW reached out to collaborate on the assistance efforts for the family. Throughout the year, the Veterans Outreach Committee conducts clothing, blanket and food drives to support local veterans, as well as coordinates the annual "Roamin' Chrome" poker run fundraiser in August and the Wreaths Across America program at the Romulus Memorial Cemetery. Funds raised with the help of the community go to support local veterans in cases such as this, McCraight said.

You are invited to meeting of Friends

Dear Library Lovers:

You are all invited to the annual meeting of the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library on Saturday, Jan. 21: Meet, greet, and eat (light lunch provided) at 12:30 p.m., with a formal meeting starting at 1 p.m. The meeting includes election of officers and a short talk by Director Mary Jo Suchy on current progress on the new library. Hope to see you there. Marty Wilson, membership chair

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Publish: January 19, 2017

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T981, Chandler Cuts and Snow LLC; I403, Kimberly Boldin; T980, Jeff Burgess; J600, Kevin Beard; M557, Timothy Veres; Q905, Tasha Davis; P785, Jeremy Poe; P754, Bonnie Arnold; P753, Sally Bridges; P758, Susan Stanford; N818, Helena Weaks

Publish: January 19, 2017; January 26, 2017

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Mark Twain

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Smell, color, taste of tap water a concern in VBT, Downriver homes

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Last Thursday, residents in Downriver communities started complaining about a Sulphur smell to the water coming out of their taps, along with a color and taste that wasn't right.

Soon, residents in Van Buren Township also were complaining and worried that the water was not safe to drink.

On Sunday there was a television news report of puppies and dogs that drink tap water being hit with a bacterial disease that owners said could be attributed to bad water.

The Great Lakes Water Authority, now responsible for the water coming out of Detroit to Southeastern Michigan communities, issued a statement that it is working on the problem.

The Great Lakes Water Authority also said that the water is safe to drink based on tests performed after the smell had been detected.

But one Downriver community was getting a private test done on its water over the week end and now VBT also is performing testing.

A Nixel alert was sent out Monday morning from Van Buren Township Public Safety Department saying that VBT residents are continuing to notice a Sulphur smell in their water and the VBT government will continue to monitor this for residents.

A VBT resident said she called the Great Lakes Water Authority and Cheryl from the Authority said Lincoln Park and Allen Park were the first to report the problem, and now they don't have any complaints. And, the water that leaves the plant is clear of odors and bad tastes.

The resident reported Cheryl said, "We need to run a load of hot laundry, drain the hot water tank, and let the cold water run until it stops smelling. We did all that and the water smells worse."

She said, "Our problem is that darn water tower." VBT fills the water tower during off-peak hours in the night to save money in water costs.

"I called non-emergency police. Asked if Van Buren was going to drain the tower. They didn't know but told me to call on Tuesday because Martin Luther King Day is Monday."

On Tuesday, VBT sent out a four-page

fax with an update from James Taylor, VBT Director of Public Services, saying that he has been assured by GLWA that there are no harmful contaminants in the system but, "As a precaution, and in light of the heightened concern created by the Flint situation, Van Buren Township is performing sampling and testing to confirm the results of the GLWA and that there is no health risk..."

Last Friday, the Great Lakes Water Authority issued a notice to all its communities serviced by the Southwest Water Treatment plant that all the appropriate regulatory compliance checks indicate that they are meeting the regulatory standards.

"The taste and odor that your communities are experiencing is a water quality aesthetic problem. The GLWA is expanding its response and testing," the statement said.

"The GLWA estimates the T&O incident should resolve itself within the next 12 hours. Any questions please contact GLWA Water quality at 1-313-926-8102."

Cheryl Porter, Chief Operations Officer of GLWA, also offered a statement on Friday that included: "At this time, we are working with our local community partners to continue to assure water of unquestionable quality, and have put into operation at our treatment plant our activated carbon system, which will assist with the taste and odor issues. We expect the taste and odor issues to be resolved within the next 12 hours. In the meantime, we continue to expand testing to determine factors that might contribute to the detected odors."

The taste and odor issues in VBT were not resolved within 12 hours.

VBT Planners to hold Jan. 25 hearing on Lakeshore Amendments

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township has sent two series of letters to residents and taxpayers along the Belleville lakeshore to alert them to the 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 25, public hearing on the proposed shoreline districts amendments and general ordinance changes.

In December 2015 changes in shoreline rules were presented, followed by a great deal of public opposition and threats of law suits over the next few months.

The documents were pulled from the table and a committee of lakeshore residents was set up to work with the township staff on changes that could be supported.

What is being presented now has been approved by the committee whose members were so vehemently against it last year. Now, they are presenting it to the public.

The public hearing was discussed briefly at the Jan. 11 meeting of the VBT Planning Commission.

In other business at the two-hour Jan. 11 meeting, the commission:

- Heard planning consultant Patrick Sloan give a report on proposed changes to Articles 6 and 7 in the Zoning Ordinance which is being completely updated. The changes are being presented in multiple parts to the commission and will be ready for a recommendation after one or two more meetings explaining updates, Sloan said;

- Accepted the year-end report of the planning commission given by Ron Akers, director of planning and economic development, and sent it on to the township board; and

- Heard Commissioner Bryon Kelley give a presentation on what he learned from three days of classes from the Michigan Association of Planners. The presentation is necessary to earn his Master Planner certification. Kelley said, among other

things, he learned that it is very important to look at what your neighbors are doing and make a cohesive plan for you and your neighbors to plan for growth. He said the separate communities should be working together because, "We're really tied together." He listed other important ideas he learned from MAP. He said some planning commissions are requiring each member of the commission to at least earn a Citizen Planner certification. Kelley was very enthusiastic about the classes.

Van Buren Public Schools set online auction to sell surplus

The Van Buren Public Schools has contracted with Biddergy.com to sell surplus assets.

For sale are Ford tractors, woodshop equipment, metal shop equipment, school desks, professional lighting controls, kitchen equipment, sporting goods, electronics, maintenance equipment, pianos, and more.

Pre-auction inspection was set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Edgemont Elementary School. The online auction is from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, at www.biddergy.com.

Post-auction removal is Friday, Jan. 20, and Monday, Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Individuals who wish to participate, but do not have computer access may contact Biddergy.com at (866) 260-1611.

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it..."

— Ronald Reagan

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

HOME HEALTH CARE WORKERS needed. Willing to train. Our team is motivated to provide services to the elderly in their own home. Call Golden Care. (734) 697-0888 01/26

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS CDL-A: Home DAILY! \$3,000 Sign-on. Great Benefits. Paid Weekly! Co. & O/O's & New Grads Welcome. 888-300-9935 02/09

"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."
— George Orwell

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

MANUFACTURING PERSONNEL (BELLEVILLE)

Envelope Manufacturer operating 24 hours/day in Belleville looking to interview candidates for the following full-time positions:

• **Machine Mechanics/Adjuster** • **Machine Operator/Packer**
• **Cutting Department/Cutters**

Machine Mechanics/Adjusters should have a background with machinery and/or be mechanically inclined. Machine Operators/Packers should be able to stand for long periods of time, pay attention to details concerning quality, and be able to lift up to 35 lbs. Cutting Department/Cutters should have a back ground with machinery or be mechanically inclined and able to stand for extended periods of time lifting up to 30 lbs. Experience is preferred for all positions, but we are willing to train motivated people looking for long term employment. Starting pay varies on position and experience. We offer medical, dental, 401k, paid vacation days, paid personal days, and paid holidays. Compensation: **COMPETITIVE**. Please send resume to kclemence@envelopeprintery.com or apply in person at:

The Envelope Printery, Inc.
8979 Samuel Barton Drive, Belleville, MI 48111
Phone# 734-398-7700

Things to do in the Belleville area...

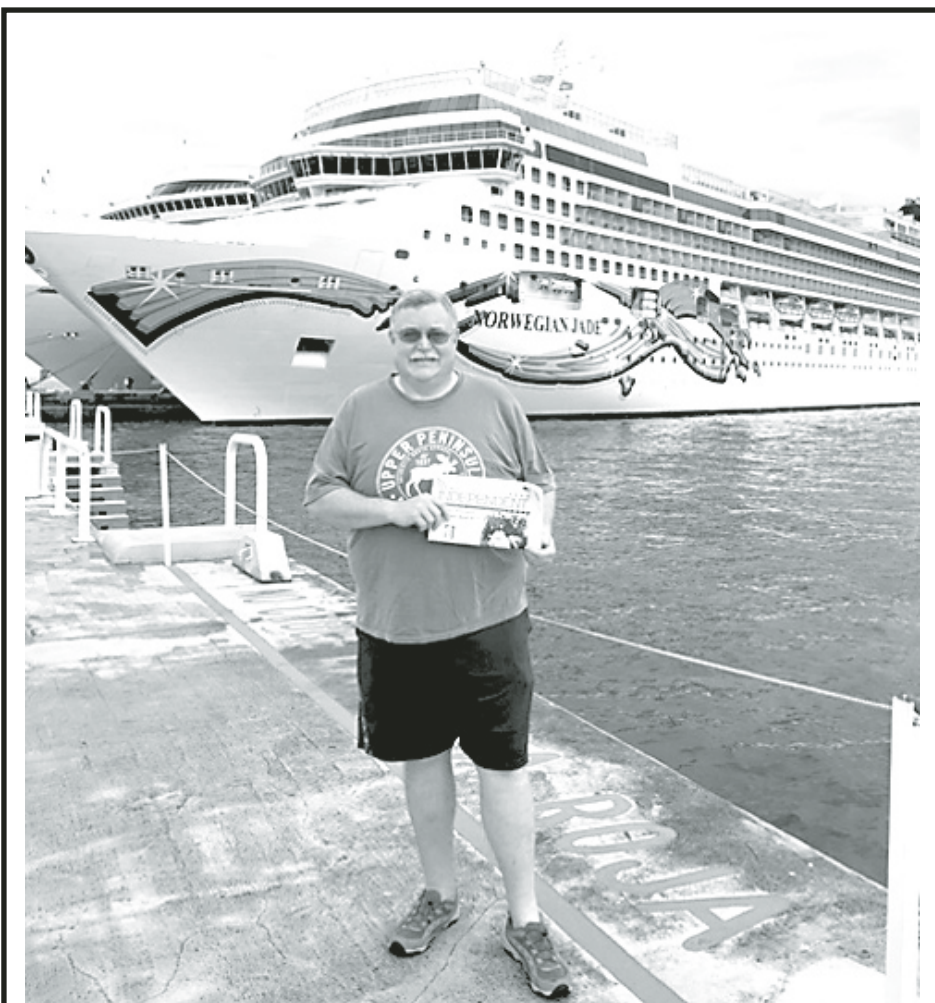
- **Saturday, Jan. 21** – The annual General Membership Meeting of the Belleville Area District Library begins with a meet and greet portion from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., with the business meeting at 1:15 p.m., Refreshments will be served.
- **Saturday, Jan. 21** – The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce is holding its Awards Dinner/Holiday Party / Silent Auction from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Belleville Yacht Club. Tickets are \$50 each. Call 697-7151 to reserve a place.
- **Sunday, Jan. 22** – The JF Group will perform music from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road in Van Buren Township. Free.
- **Monday, Jan. 23** – State Rep. Kristy Pagan invites constituents to have coffee with her at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Rd., Canton. Tell her your concerns on state matters.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 25** – Free Community Dinner from 6 to 7 p.m. at Belleville First

United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Come share a meal and enjoy a warm, friendly atmosphere. Get to know your neighbors. Everyone welcomed. Info: (734) 697-9288

• **Thursday, Jan. 26** – Free class on family history research begins at 6:30 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 941 South Grove Road, Ypsilanti. This is the first of six Thursdays for the class. Call Kathy Bailey to research a place in class, (734) 461-6133; text (734) 660-1971; or email kbailey@gmail.com.

• **Saturday, Jan. 28** – State Rep. Kristy Pagan invites constituents to have coffee with her at 10 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road. Tell her your concerns on state matters.

• **Saturday, Jan. 28** – From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 1000 Orleans Blvd. (exit 13 off I-69) in Coldwater, a sports card and collectibles show is set. Attendance is free; public is invited. Bring your items in for appraisal. For information contact Brian Mayne at 260-824-4867 or mcsccards@icloud.com or Facebook at mcs cards.



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Jeff and Sue Kotlarek of Romulus took a recent NCL cruise that stopped in Cozumel, Mexico, where Jeff read his *Independent*.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE Notice of Adoption Ordinance No. 17-001

AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE'S OFFICIAL ZONING ORDINANCE

The City of Belleville, Wayne County, Michigan hereby ordains that:

Article 3.1.7:B-2 Central Business District, D.2: Building Height along Primary and Secondary Streets of the City's Official Zoning Ordinance be amended as follows:

Add an additional category for one-story structures with 18 feet minimum height, 14 feet ceiling height, and 15 feet depth from the main entryway.

Ordinance No. 17-001 was adopted by the Belleville City Council on January 3, 2017 and will become effective on January 13, 2017. A complete and true copy of Ordinance No. 17-001 is available for inspection and may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: January 19, 2017



Sumpter Township Public Notice



Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m., showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk C. Hoffman, Trustees: Oddy, Swinson, LaPorte, P. Morgan. Excused absent: Treasurer Bates. Also showing present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk J. Hoffman and approximately 10 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Oddy to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only: 5. Minutes:

A. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Swinson to approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 22, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to accept Planning Commission Minutes of October 13, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by LaPorte to approve warrants totaling \$195,450.41 and to pay warrants from December 13, 2016 until January 10, 2017. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, C. Hoffman, Oddy, LaPorte, Swinson, P. Morgan. Nay: None. Excused absent: Bates. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer Report-Bates: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to Receive and File the Water & Sewer Report. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Police Report-Luke: Motion by LaPorte, supported by P. Morgan to approve the Police Report. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Building/Ordinance Report-LaPorte: Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Swinson to approve the Building/ Ordinance Report. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Fire Report-Januszyk: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the Fire Report. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Treasurer's Report-Bates: Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to Receive and File Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Supervisor's Report- J. Morgan:
A. Appreciation to Attorney Young for 28 years of service to Sumpter Township.

Motion by Oddy, supported by P. Morgan to approve Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Attorney's Report-Young: Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to approve Attorney's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Board Response:

- A.** All fire hydrants have been winterized
- B.** Recognition of two officers that went and shoveled snow for a senior citizen

C. Troop 973 Public Safety Awareness Night

D. Service Contracts

E. Parks & Rec completed bags for Children's Christmas Party

F. Christmas Party December 14, 2016

15. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve moving Jennifer Price and Yavetta Mills from Alternate Parks & Rec Members to full time members and Sharon Pokerevinski, Richard Pokerevinski, Jim Chudzinski from full time to alternate Parks & Rec members. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to **TABLE** Item B "Consider approval to extend land contract with Moose Lodge #934 for 5 years, through 2023" until January 10, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the recommendation by Planning Commission the Accessory Building Modifications for Portable Storage Containers. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by Swinson, supported by LaPorte to approve to purchase a copier for the Police Department at a cost of \$2,897.00. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve to allow Sergeant James Cayce to attend the 2017 Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff & Command to begin February 2017 through October 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Announcements:

A. Senior Christmas Party great success

B. Tax Bills have been mailed out as of December 1, 2016. If have not received it call the Treasurer's Department and they will send out a new one.

C. The Treasurer's Department will be open December 31, 2016 from 9 am until 5:00 pm for Taxes only.

17. Open Floor:

A. Mary Ban

Attorney Young

Senior Party a great job

Wishing a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to everyone

B. Ronald Barrington Robinson

Will any Board Members attend hearing?

C. Jay Bardell

Senior Snow Removal

D. Andrew Felder

Introduced himself as State Aid

18. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to adjourn at 7:17 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk
Sumpter Township
Publish: January 19, 2017

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



JNG Auctions at 879 Sumpter Road in Q Banquet Center in Belle Plaza will be holding a live auction this Saturday, Jan. 21, beginning with previews at 6:30 p.m. and auction at 7 p.m. There are lots of interesting items. Visit www.jngauctions.com to learn more.

Tucker Insurance Agency on Belleville Road is moving as of Feb. 1, to its new building at 48225 Michigan Avenue, west of Beck Road along the eastbound direction. All phone numbers and email addresses remain the same. Visit Tucker at www.tuckerins.com and call (734) 697-5544.

Sumpter Pet Care on Sumpter Road across from Sumpter Ace Hardware will be holding a going-out-of-business indoor yard sale this Saturday, Jan. 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items include benches, chairs, file cabinets, shelving, and other items. Cash only, please. Everything is priced to go. All the best to Dr. Yvonne Craiger.

Hayward's Liquor Store at 573 Main Street is celebrating 80 years of operating as a party store in the same location and to celebrate, the public is invited to attend a ribbon-cutting with the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Friday afternoon, Jan. 20, beginning at 1 p.m. Congratulations!

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue in Sumpter Township will be holding their monthly pet-adoption clinic this Saturday, Jan. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Petco Pet Store on West Warren Avenue across

from Westland Mall. Call (734) 461-9458.

The Wayne County Fairgrounds will be holding its ever-popular, annual Wild Game Benefit Dinner this Saturday, Jan. 21, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each and there will be door prizes and raffles held throughout the evening. Proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the fairgrounds. Call Mary Zellner at (734) 942-1684 or Tom Busenbark at (734) 799-3692.

Moving the Mitten Real Estate Group on Main Street is sponsoring a free shred day on Monday, Jan. 30, from noon until 3 p.m. at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce office building at 248 Main Street. The company Shred Legal will be onsite to shred documents. The event is open to all community members. Call (734) 697-7151.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

Belleville Mayor in Washington for National Conference of Mayors

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

Belleville Mayor Kereen Conley is in Washington, D.C. this week attending the National Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Conley was absent from Tuesday's meeting of the Belleville City Council and Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria presided at the meeting.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer explained Conley's plans.

She said it is her understanding Conley will attend the Presidential Inauguration and go to the Michigan Ball.

The agenda for Tuesday's 15-minute meeting had no General Business, but the council approved paying bills that included new flooring at city hall from RJ Perry Carpentry at a cost of \$4,810 to replace asbestos tiles required by MIOSHA officials, who noticed the flooring when they came in to investigate the fire department.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN JOB VACANCY

Position Title: Account Clerk

Department: Clerk's Office

Classification: Regular, Full-time

FLSA Status: Non-exempt

Union Affiliation: AFSCME

Opening Date: December 21, 2016

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Starting Hourly Wage: \$16.12

91 Day Hourly Wage: \$17.14

18 Month Hourly Wage: \$18.15

General Duty Statement:

Van Buren Charter Township is now accepting resumes for an Account Clerk in Elections.

Position Summary

Under the general supervision of the Township Clerk or their designee, the employee will be responsible for a variety of general office and clerical functions including those tasks relative to the voter registration and electoral process as defined by law. Preparing and maintaining records, files, purchasing duties, verbal communication and written correspondence within the Department and may assist the accounting staff in accomplishing accounting functions of the Township.

Detailed information can be found on the Van Buren Township website.

www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted

Please submit a cover letter, resume and application to:

nsumpter@vanburen-mi.org

Only Qualified Applicants Need Apply

The Charter Township of Van Buren is an equal opportunity employer

Publish: January 5, 2017; January 12, 2017; January 19, 2017; January 26, 2017

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2017

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Executive Assistant Selman, Public Services Director Taylor, Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Planning and Economic Development Director Akers and Deputy Director Best, and an audience of four (4).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Miller seconded to amend the consent agenda moving Consent Agenda item #7 [Approval of Resolution 2017-01 the Board of Review Poverty Exemption Guidelines] to New Business item #4. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Martin moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. [Work Study Session minutes of December 19, 2016, Board Meeting minutes of December 20, 2016, Prepaid List of December 22, 2016, Prepaid List of January 5, 2017, Voucher List of January 10, 2017 and approval of the extension of collection for the 2016 Winter Property Taxes without penalty through Tuesday February 28, 2017]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: White moved, Miller seconded to approve Resolution 2017-02 and the long term storm water maintenance agreement with Constellium. Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Budd seconded to approve Resolution 2017-03 Resolution 2017-03 and the long term storm water maintenance agreement with Belleville Petroleum. Motion Carried.

White moved, Miller seconded to approve Resolution 2017-04 and the long term storm

water maintenance agreement with Aldi Inc. Motion Carried.

Stormwater maintenance agreements in conjunction with property owners, Wayne County and the municipalities of Wayne County have been in effect for over a decade. Board members expressed concern over agreement language that requires the Township to assume responsibility over storm water maintenance in the event a property owner became insolvent. In addition, that agreements of this nature are not required in other counties throughout Michigan. However, Board members agreed that until such time agreements were modified to relinquish the Townships responsibilities it was necessary to enter into agreements to move forward with development of the community.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve Resolution 2017-01 the Board of Review Poverty Exemption Guidelines. Motion Carried. Income guidelines are set at 150% of the Federal guidelines which are less restrictive than the recommended federal poverty standards.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements included: the Township Administrative offices will be closed Monday January 16, 2017 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.; the next regularly scheduled Board of Trustee meetings will be the Work Study Session on February 6, 2017 and the Board of Trustees meeting on February 7, 2017; Canton Township is participating in the "Smart City" concept that may also be beneficial to the Township and Public Safety Deputy Director (Fire) Besson has accepted a position in Leland Township. His last day will be February 24, 2017. Board members thanked him for his service to the community and will begin the search process to fill the position.

NON-AGENDA: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Frazier seconded to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Publish: January 19, 2017

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 631 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Jan. 8:
0505 – agency assist, Henry/Church
0603 – vehicle repossession, N. Purple Sage Ct.
1029 – malicious destruction of property, Freedom Way
1603 – assault & battery, Maple Dr.
1621 – disturbance, Village Green Ln.
1732 – neighbor trouble, Oak Ln.
1922 – missing person, E. Sadie Ln.
2029 – juvenile complaint, Buchanan St.
2230 – assault & battery, Lighthouse Dr.
2254 – vehicle repossession, Rayna Ct.
2321 – fraud, Belleville Rd.

Monday, Jan. 9:
0006 – disturbance, Richard Run
0051 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville
0400 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
0435 – panic alarm, Briarcliff Dr.
0623 – breaking & entering, W. Huron River Dr.
0817 – abandoned auto, Van Born
1102 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1320 – larceny, Park Estates
1342 – suicide or attempt, Denton Rd.
1351 – neighbor trouble, Andover Dr.
1500 – larceny, S. Bellridge Dr.
1601 – harassment call, Locust Dr.
1658 – holdup alarm, Harmony Ln. (cancel)
1716 – abandoned auto, Haggerty Rd.
1958 – family trouble, Montague Ave.
2004 – E-911 cellular, Rose

Tuesday, Jan. 10:
0546 – property damage accident, Belleville/EB I-94
0620 – property damage accident, I-94 WB / Rawsonville
0708 – agency assist, WB I-94/Belleville
0717 – personal injury accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Lake Pointe Pass
0729 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
0810 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1127 – fraud, Lake Point Blvd.
1132 – disturbance, Belmont Dr.
1152 – property damage accident, Ayres/Quirk
1322 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Water’s Edge
1406 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rawsonville Rd.
1446 – harassment call, Reedgrass Ln.
1500 – private property incident, Industrial
1600 – holdup up alarm, Christina Ln., no report
1735 – breaking & entering, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1748 – abandoned auto, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Jackson St.
2034 – sexual assault, Westlake
2052 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2338 – noise complaint, N. Woodbury

Wednesday, Jan. 11:
0036 – hospice, Savage Rd.
0157 – vehicle repossession, Dewitt Rd.
0809 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.
1043 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1138 – malicious destruction of property, Van Buren St.
1149 – private property incident, Village Green Ln.
1325 – ordinance violation, Van Buren St.
1325 – ordinance violation, Arthur St.
1325 – ordinance violation, McBride Ave.
1457 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.
1511 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1709 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Hannan Rd.
1730 – water leak found, Hull Rd.
1940 – family trouble, Montague Ave.
2033 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. N. I-94 Service Dr.
2118 – suspicious situation, French Landing Park
2115 – abandoned auto, Rawsonville Rd.
2319 – family trouble, Park Estates Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 12:
0113 – disorderly conduct, Rawsonville Rd.
0327 – suspicious person, Arthur St.

0453 – vehicle repossession, Westlake
0946 – hospice, Quirk Rd.
0948 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.
1143 – intimidation threat, Alden Ave.
1158 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1207 – private property accident, Tyler Rd.
1349 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1359 – code enforcement, Sheldon Rd.
1426 – hit & run, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1642 – suspicious situation, Quirk Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1643 – motorcycle patrol, Hull Rd./Elwell Rd.
1653 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Old Haggerty
1848 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1857 – missing person, Venetian Ave.
1930 – suspicious situation, Bradley Dr.
2122 – property damage accident, Edgedale Dr.
2129 – personal injury accident, Tyler
2253 – assault & battery, E. Archwood Dr.

Friday, Jan. 13:
1355 – missing person, Robson Rd.
1515 – mental, Stonebridge Dr.
1620 – mental, Dellor St.
1715 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1917 – malicious destruction of property, Waters Edge Ln.
2004 – suspicious situation, McBride/Buchanan
2100 – suspicious person, Bemis
2208 – vehicle repossession, Lake Villa
2241 – missing person, Denton Rd.
2328 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2346 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis

Saturday, Jan. 14:
0400 – assault & battery, Colony Ln.
1043 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
1138 – agency assist, W. Columbia
1307 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1339 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1357 – assist fire dept., Hull Rd.
1356 – assault & battery, Richard Run
1429 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1500 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Vn Born
1613 – agency assist, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1614 – agency assist, W. Huron River Dr./Ormond
1816 – intimidation threat, Meadows Cir.
1823 – assist fire dept., N. Cumberland Dr.
2249 – property damage accident, Edgedale Dr. / W. Huron River Dr.

Also on this week’s log are 256 traffic stops, 87 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways, eight at Lakewood shopping center, five in the city of Belleville, and two on the Belleville Bridge.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 8:
0054 – domestic assault, N. Aberdeen Ct.
0459 – E-911 cellular, Henry St./Church St.
0756 – P.B.T. alcohol, Main St.
0914 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.
1158 – code enforcement, High St.
1540 – code enforcement, South St.
2057 – suspicious situation, Main St./Fourth St.

Monday, Jan. 9:
1130 – information, Main St.
1232 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, W. Columbia Ave.
1530 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
2033 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr./Clarence

Tuesday, Jan. 10:
1012 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1151 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, Owen St.
1158 – assist fire dept., Third St.
1242 – narcotics crime, McBride
1727 – warrant arrest, Tyler
2224 – intrusion alarm, W. Davis St.

Wednesday, Jan. 11:
0036 – parking complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
0910 – traffic hazard, Church St./W. Columbia
1026 – assist fire dept., Fourth St.
1355 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
1431 – assault & battery, Wabash Ave.
1803 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1816 – assist citizen, Light Tower Dr.

2129 – intrusion alarm, W. Davis/South St.

Thursday, Jan. 12:
0720 – disturbance, N. Liberty St.
0827 – disturbance, S. Liberty St.
1110 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1401 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
1441 – follow up, Davis/the alley
1541 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
1717 – civil matter, S. Liberty St.
2300 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.

Friday, Jan. 13:
0856 – property damage accident, Owen St.
0937 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1124 – warrant arrest, Tyler
1411 – assist fire dept., Estrada
1456 – private property accident, W. Columbia
1504 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1906 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.

Saturday, Jan. 14:
0158 – breaking & entering, Church St.
0352 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Carmell St.
0831 – assist fire dept., N. Biggs Ave.
1028 – miscellaneous complain, W. Columbia Ave
1136 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1437 – welfare check, Potter Dr./N. Biggs Ave.
1935 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
2002 – domestic assault, Carmell St.
2241 – E-911 hang up/investigation, W. Columbia
2315 – civil matter, Loza Ln.

Also on this week’s log are 37 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 8:
1049 – fire dept. assist, Washington
1332 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
2026 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2250 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Clay
2319 – suspicious person, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.

Monday, Jan. 9:
0044 – fire dept. assist, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0048 – suspicious person, California/Montana
0321 – alarm, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0741 – disorderly person, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1533 -- harassment complaint, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
2205 – civil dispute, Timberlane

Tuesday, Jan. 10:
0601 – suspicious vehicle, Rawsonville/Judd
0841 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
1059 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1143 – larceny, New Mexico
1150 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1206 – fire dept. assist, Redwood
1220 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1225 – property damage accident, 28000 bl. Elwell
1229 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1445 – warrant arrest pick up, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1514 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.
1519 – abandoned vehicle, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1550 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1636 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
1907 – traffic hazard, Bemis/Sumpter
2132 – shots fired, Creekside

Wednesday, Jan. 11:
0635 – juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
0848 – fire dept. assist, Timberlane
1006 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1039 – alarm, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1116 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1157 – property damage accident, 45000 bl. Bemis
1449 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Sherwood
1637 – civil dispute, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
2043 – fire dept. assist, Nevada
2248 – alarm, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 12:
0634 – alarm, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0904 – ordinance violation, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1117 – well-being check, 22000 bl. Martinsville
1140 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1229 – fraud complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1548 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2240 – suspicious person, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.

Friday, Jan. 13:
0917 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
0935 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
0959 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1126 – reckless driver, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1401 – malicious destruction of property, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1419 – warrant arrest pick up, 49000 bl. Arkona
1513 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1610 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1828 – property damage accident, Savage/Clark
2212 – property damage accident, Judd/Bohn

Saturday, Jan. 14:
0241 – family trouble, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0652 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0731 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1002 – civil dispute, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.
1042 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Fenster Rd.
1110 – malicious destruction of property, Creekside Dr.
1207 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1243 – property damage accident, Elwell/Arkona
1244 – assault, Second St.
1407 – harassment complaint, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1428 – harassment complaint, Brookview
1536 – found property, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1549 – malicious destruction of property, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1606 – flee & elude, 15000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1616 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1828 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
2110 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 14 follow-up investigations, 29 miscellaneous details, 165 patrol checks, and 54 traffic stops.

Court Watching:
Sentencing for driver in fatal accident reset to Jan. 24 in circuit court

The sentencing of Charles James Cahill, Jr., 49, of Sumpter Township in the death of a 12-year-old girl following a July 27 accident has been reset by a Wayne County Circuit Court judge to Jan. 24.

Cahill, who pled guilty to five charges in the drunk-driving accident at the corner of Martinsville and Willis roads, was originally scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 13 by Judge Bruce U. Morrow. Cahill could be sentenced to up to life in prison.

Cahill is the son of Charles James Cahill, 82, who died Dec. 23 after being beaten on the head with a hammer in his Holiday West home in Sumpter Township. Charles James Cahill, Jr. is the uncle of Thomas Charles Cahill, 22, the suspect accused of the crime.

Library schedules
Winter Storytimes
beginning Jan. 17

The Belleville Area District Library announces the schedule for the Library Storytime Winter Session.

Registration began Jan. 9 at the Circulation Desk at the library. The Library was closed on Monday, Jan. 16, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

- Winter Family Storytimes for preschoolers and elementary children aged 4-10 will be at 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 23 to Feb. 20.
- Winter Tuesday “Toddler Times” Storytimes for children ages 2 to 4 will be at 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 17 - Feb. 21.
- Winter Thursday “Toddler Times” Storytimes for children ages 2-4 will be at 11 a.m., Thursdays, Jan. 19 – Feb. 23.

Tara K. McCann
Youth/Teen Services Librarian
Belleville Area District Library
167 Fourth Street, Belleville

Court Watching

(continued from page 3)

Toth said, when she was arrested, she said it actually was a day or two prior when she had spent the night and visited with Charles.

Toth said he interviewed Thomas Cahill twice and the second time, on Dec. 4, he was arrested. That's when Thomas said he wanted to make a statement and, Toth said, "He appeared to be coming to terms with what he had done."

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Latoya Willis made a motion to show to the court the statement Thomas Cahill made via video and both defense attorneys agreed as long as it was just for this exam. Judge Oakley agreed and the video was shown to the court.

The video showed Toth reading Thomas Cahill his Miranda Rights, sentence by sentence, with Thomas saying he understood and then initialing each sentence. He is shown seated at a table on Dec. 4.

"I could go away for life," Thomas said to Toth on the video and Toth replied, "He's not dead."

"It doesn't matter," Thomas said.

"Felony murder is life in prison," Toth said. "I don't know your criminal history, anyway."

Thomas listed his offenses, adding, "There's no hope for me."

"Why did you do that?" Toth asked.

"I got tired of being touched," Thomas said. "He's a f---n sex offender, man." Thomas told of his grandfather watching when he showered. "I never saw it coming. He never tried to penetrate."

"I just lost control and I was doing drugs, too," he said. "I hit him in the head with a hammer." He said he hit him three times with a hammer.

He said he went to work and quit. "Nothing lined up."

Toth asked if words were exchanged and Thomas said there was no argument.

"I'm no good. Just like my father," Thomas said.

When that portion of the statement concluded, the video was turned off in the courtroom.

Prosecutor Willis said the Chase credit card owned by Charles Cahill has never been recovered.

Under cross-examination by Schinske, Toth said VBT Officer Chris Hayes located the Kia and Sgt. Michael Papin was there at the motel with a bunch of VBT officers -- about five -- he didn't know.

Toth also said they have no results from the MSP lab as yet on the stains or other evidence.

All officers testified they wore gloves for everything handled and Toth said they all had their body cameras rolling throughout.

Schinske pointed out Letang was cooperative and drove to the police station for questioning. Toth said Letang gave police her cell phone, but no one reviewed her phone or text messages.

In giving her argument to bind Letang over to circuit court, Willis said she picked Thomas up at the victim's home but there

is a question if she went inside. At the Red Roof Inn police found a towel with blood and clothing with blood, plus blood inside her vehicle.

"It shows she probably had an idea of what went on," Willis said.

Schinske said Letang picked him up and drove him around, but there is no evidence she was assisting him to avoid police.

"She gave consent to police to come into the hotel room, gave her phone to police, gave her car to search and went to the police department and talked to police," Schinske said.

Schinske said the prosecutor said she probably had an idea of what went on, but, "Nothing shows she had knowledge," noting even Thomas Cahill said on the videotape that Letang didn't know what had happened. "You can refile if there's more evidence," she said.

Judge Oakley bound Thomas Cahill over on five counts and said he agrees with Schinske that there was not probable cause on Letang and her charge was dismissed.

Thomas Cahill was scheduled for a Jan. 18 arraignment on the information at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.



Independent photo by Bob Mytych
There have been many reports from motorists of a small white animal out in the fields west of Sumpter Road and just south of the Citgo gas station at Hull Road in Van Buren Township. Some report it as an albino deer. Some say it is a calf. A lady in a Jeep said it's a sheep and she has fed it. These days the little animal seems to be feeding itself in a former cornfield far back from the road.

Bellefonte Community Chorus to start spring rehearsals

Bellefonte's award-winning Community Chorus under the direction of Susan Hiser is continuing its 11th season as members begin rehearsals for their spring concert season.

Rehearsals start at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 30, at the First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street, Bellefonte.

The chorus invites all singers to join them, whether new to the group or those who have sung with them in the past. Auditions are not required, but come early to this first rehearsal for voice placement.

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