



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

School Board moves \$1.7 million in building funds to bond payments

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously at Monday's regular meeting to move an estimated \$1.7 million in money from 2009 bond proceeds left over from high school construction to the Debt Retirement Fund.

The money will be transferred to assist the district in making its debt service payments on its bonds, so it doesn't have to raise the millage paid by taxpayers.

Finance Director Karen Moffitt recommended the transfer explaining that the school district's 2009 School Building and Site Bonds, which were Unlimited Tax-General Obligation bonds, were issued in the principal amount not to exceed \$79,040,000 for the purpose of replacing Belleville High School, equipping it with technology and furnishing it, including athletic fields.

The bonds were issued by the school district on May 28, 2009 and designated as "Build America Bonds" in which the school district would receive a federal subsidy of 35% of the interest to assist it in repaying the debt service on the bonds.

But the subsidy has since been reduced to 32.48% by the federal government, which amounts to \$111,556.90 this year. Since the federal assistance is reduced, Moffitt said it is in the best interests of the district to use the remaining bond proceeds to pay a



After its reorganizational meeting on Monday, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education paused for a board picture. From left, in front, are Treasurer Sherry Frazier, Secretary Kevin English, President Brent Mikulski, and Vice President Martha Toth. In back, from left, are Trustees Kelly Owen, Scott Russell, and Kathy Kovach. The board will meet just once a month in regular session this year, on the second Monday at 7 p.m. The board also will meet for a work/study session at 7 p.m. usually on the third Monday.

portion of the debt service remaining on the bonds.

The decision needed to be made by Feb. 7, Moffitt said.

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel said the board could choose to spend the \$1.7 million, but, "We feel that we need to do

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

right by the community."

He said the federal government reneged on paying for interest on the bonds. He said the board has more than the right to spend the money, but since they have the facility completed they can stop the rising millage rate by using these funds.

He said the board has until May to spend the money.

Trustee Scott Russell said, "A few years ago, we entered into a contract with the community ... and we built a state-of-the-art facility ... I approve of a refund back to the taxpayers."

Treasurer Sherry Frazier agreed, saying by using the funds they can hold off on a tax increase for "a couple of years."

Secretary Kevin English said the board is being good stewards of the community's funds and their decisions during building the school have cut costs for the future.

Vice President Martha Toth said she has some disappointment in the federal government on the Build America Bonds, that is costing the district more than expected.

She said it was because of the sequester cuts that they are "reneging on this deal."

The 2009 bonds will be paid through 2039, with the interest amount being reduced every two years.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Reelected the board officers for the year: President Brent Mikulski, Vice President Martha Toth, Secretary Kevin English, and Treasurer Sherry Frazier. The board also agreed to hold just one regular board meeting a month, except for June

(continued on page 10)

Healthcare company to spend \$2.1 million, add 75 jobs in Van Buren

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

MedImpact Healthcare Systems Inc. plans to open a new pharmacy benefit manager back office support center in Van Buren Township investing up to \$2.1 million and creating 75 new jobs.

Job applicants can apply for open positions by going to <https://www.medimpact.com/careers>.

In a company news release Jan. 9,

MedImpact said it has signed an agreement for 24,500-square-feet of office space at the Grace Lake Corporate Center in VBT.

A spokesperson at Grace Lake Corporate Center said MedImpact has a sublease from November 2013 to February 2019 on office space in building 30 at 1 Village Center. There is additional space open for lease on the first, second, and third floors, she said.

The news release described the Grace Lake Corporate Center (the former Visteon

Village) as having "a unique campus setting with nature trails, lake frontage, and impeccable landscaping."

"Michigan's healthcare industry is growing and recognized across the country and MedImpact's decision to locate here underscores Michigan's business-friendly environment and talented workforce" said Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) President and CEO Michael A. Finney.

"MedImpact Healthcare Systems provides pharmacy services to more than 47 million lives and the company's investment here will provide good-paying jobs to Michigan residents for years to come," Finney said.

As a result, the project has been awarded a

\$150,000 Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant.

The township and/or Wayne County will support the project by providing meeting or event space, Finney said.

Arthur Mullen, Van Buren Township Director of Planning and Economic Development, said the state asked the township and Wayne County to provide local support to the project.

"As they do not currently have a facility in the area, we were asked to offer meeting space for them during the hiring and build-out phase of the project," Mullen said, adding, "Both entities agreed to this request."

(continued on page 15)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Jackson murder case delayed for competency exam

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Richard Jackson Jr., the Van Buren Township man accused of murdering his wife in their home on Dec. 17, has been ordered to undergo a competency evaluation to see if he is capable to go to trial.

Jackson, 39, is charged with first-degree, premeditated murder that could bring him a sentence of life in prison if he is found guilty.

On Jan. 2, Judge David Parrott's 34th District courtroom was packed with family and friends of the accused as they waited for the preliminary exam to begin. The exam would determine if there was enough evidence to bind him over to circuit court for trial.

After several hours, Jackson was brought into the courtroom after being transported from the old Wayne County Jail on Beaubien Street in Detroit where he is being held on a suicide watch. He was wearing unmarked, light-blue jail scrubs.

Mark Procida, Jackson's court-appointed attorney, said after speaking with his client and the family he felt it was appropriate to refer Jackson to the forensic center.

Judge Parrott ordered the preliminary exam be postponed until the result of the competency evaluation is available and that

Jackson continue to be held without bond. No date was set.

Procida also asked for a motion to remove Jackson's original retained attorney, Daniel Reid.

On Dec. 17, VBT police responded to concerned calls from Jackson's friends and relatives saying Jackson was suicidal. Upon arrival at his Greenwood Court home they were unable to get anyone to answer the door. Lt. Charles Bazy established telephone contact with a male at the residence and persuaded him to open the door.

Police said they noticed Jackson had some blood on him and was dressed inappropriately. They secured Jackson and entered the home to perform a welfare check on the other residents and found the body of Jackson's wife Travisteene on the floor covered with a blanket.

The couple has two children who were not at home at the time.

The Wayne County Medical Examiner ruled Travisteene's death a homicide from a stab wound to the right leg.

Police said Jackson had suicidal tendencies and had told police he had a couple of failed suicide attempts. Lt. Ken Floro said suicide certainly was in Jackson's initial thought process.

Michael Trusel

Also on Jan. 2 in Judge Parrott's courtroom, Michael Trusel, 57, of Van Buren Township waived his right to a preliminary exam on a charge of domestic violence and requested a jury trial.

Trusel's attorney Richard Mason said there had been no progress in negotiations with Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Carrie Butorac for a plea deal.

After a conference was held in Judge Parrott's chambers, dates were set for a Feb. 19 pretrial conference and a Feb. 21 jury trial. It was ordered that the complaining witness appear at both court dates.

Alaina Christine Fain

Also, on Jan. 2, Alaina Christine Fain, 27, was due to have her preliminary exam on charges of felony home invasion 3rd degree and assault and battery.

The incident was on Jan. 8, 2012. The warrant for her arrest was obtained by Belleville Police on March 20, 2012. Corporal Todd Schrencengost was the officer in charge. Fain's court-appointed attorney Procida asked that Fain's preliminary exam be adjourned for two weeks because no discovery had been tendered by the prosecution. The exam was rescheduled by Judge Parrott for Jan. 22 at 34th District Court.

Sumpter catches man after he steals pickup warming up

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Michael Leak, 47, of Detroit was arrested by Sumpter Township Police on Friday after driving off with an F-350 dually pickup that was warming up in a driveway.

Sumpter Police Detective John Toth said Leak was apprehended after high-speed chases up and down Rawsonville Road by Michigan State Police, Sumpter and Van Buren Township officers.



Leak

It all began at about 4:30 p.m. Friday when a man in the 11000 block of Rawsonville Road started up his truck to warm it up and left it running while he went back inside the house, Det. Toth said.

He told police he looked out the window and saw his truck backing out of his driveway. He called 911 and told police the truck was headed northbound. Sumpter put out a "Be on the Lookout" over the police radio and VBT Officer Scott Griggs identified the car at Rawsonville and Grove roads.

VBT Lt. Ken Floro said that the VBT officer attempted a traffic stop, but the

driver failed to stop and responded by driving in an erratic, reckless manner at speeds in excess of 80 mph and striking another vehicle.

"VBT Command Officers terminated the chase at the VBT jurisdictional boundary [Bemis Road] due to poor road conditions, heavy traffic, overly erratic/reckless driving by the suspect and the totality of the original Sumpter Township incident," Lt. Floro said.

Meanwhile, Michigan State Police and Sumpter Township Sgt. James Cayce saw the truck pull into the far eastern section of the parking lot of A2Mac1 business on Rawsonville, just south of Bemis. The trooper and Sgt. Cayce approached the truck and the driver accelerated, aiming at the two, and the officers had to take evasive action to avoid being hit, Det. Toth said.

Leak then lost control and crashed the truck into a snowbank. While he was trying to get the truck out, the officers rammed the truck deeper into the snow to keep him from getting away.

Leak was arrested and charged with: unlawful driving away of a motor vehicle, receiving and concealing stolen motor vehicle, third-degree fleeing a police officer, assault with a dangerous weapon (times 2) and fourth-degree fleeing a police

officer.

If he is convicted and given the maximum sentences, he would get 25 years in prison.

Leak's preliminary exam is set for 9 a.m., Jan. 22 at 34th District Court. Det. Toth said police are asking a \$50,000/10% bond.

Leak is listed as an absconder from parole as of Nov. 12. He has been in and out of prison since 1988 and uses a dozen aliases.

Man charged with assault and battery

Kenneth Clark, 45, of Ypsilanti was arrested for assault and battery following an incident at about 4:34 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Belleville Road Meijer store.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Ken Floro said a felonious assault incident occurred between a customer and two Meijer employees. Clark is said to have verbally threatened two employees and physically assaulted one.

Lt. Floro said Clark voluntarily came to the police department later that night where he provided a written statement and ultimately was taken into custody. Clark was charged with assault and battery the following day and is free on bond, Lt. Floro said.



Independent photo by James Oztman
On Monday, two workers were elevated to the top part of the radio tower behind Belleville City Hall. The contractors were upgrading to the latest technology the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's SCADA Radio Network communications system that relays water and sewer meter readings and control signals for remote DWSD facilities. The work took all day.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Sumpter Clerk refuses to apologize

Two recent fires that destroyed houses in Sumpter led to negative comments about the paid-per-call fire fighters. At Tuesday's meeting of the township board, Don LaPorte, president of the fire fighters' union local, gave a blow-by-blow account of the house fire on Wear Road that he said was full of flames when fire fighters arrived.

Fire called in to dispatch: 4:19 a.m.; fire fighters toned out, 4:21 a.m.; officer on scene, 4:26 a.m.; engine and crew on scene, 4:32 a.m. After three hours and 17 minutes: house a loss. LaPorte said there was negative public comment by Clerk Hoffman and he wanted an apology. But Hoffman did not apologize. He said information comes in from the street and word was that for the house on Rawsonville Road that burned, it took fire fighters 25 minutes to get there. "When it comes in to me, I repeat it," Hoffman said, reminding them he was board liaison to the fire department for "umpteens years" and he knows what it takes to fight fires.

"A bad word travels 10 times faster than a good word," LaPorte said. Trustee Peggy Morgan, present liaison to the fire dept., said she found out the house on Wear was gone before the fire dept. arrived and went to ask Hoffman what he said. She said it was: "You lost two in a row, now." She said he "almost insinuated" if Chief Powell was still there it wouldn't have happened. She slammed his door on her way out when he wouldn't apologize. Time for everyone to calm down and make the residents feel safe.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Deb Green took issue with my memory in last week's editorial of her not allowing the first issues of the *Belleville-Area Independent* to be placed in the Fred C. Fischer Library almost 20 years ago.

She insists a story about her was in the *Independent's* first issue and she wouldn't keep it from being in the library. She is featured in that issue (Jan. 5, 1995), but the paper wasn't allowed in the library.

We both agree that 20 years is a long time to remember something, but I definitely remembered how surprised I was that the library, a crossroads of information, wouldn't allow a new, free newspaper to be available for its readers.

As I recall the reason Deb wouldn't let the *Independent* be at the library was because Van Buren Township Supervisor David Jacokes was so against our paper that he was calling up our advertisers and threatening them. I remember the ones that stopped advertising because of his threats.

But that changed. Deb remembers defending our paper in subsequent years and she pointed out that all our issues are on microfilm at the library. That is true and we really appreciate that.

When the microfilming was starting, I remember providing some back issues to the library. Deb said that was because people used to steal their *Independents* and they didn't have any left.

To explain the situation in those days further: We did publish a weekly newsletter personally delivered to all the homes in Van Buren Township for 12 weeks before we started the paper.

The newsletter was first called "Dave's World" but that was a copyrighted title,



so we changed it to "Davey's Locker," both targeting VBT government and local events. That's what got Jacokes so riled up. When he resigned from office he blamed the *Independent* for ruining his health. He actually got a good job with Waste Management after single-handedly negotiating an expansion of the VBT landfill. He lives in Arizona now.

All this is to say I have my memories and Deb has hers and there's no outside source to say who's right.

Mickey Widener of Van Buren Township dropped off a copy of a recently published Associated Press story headlined: "Bookless library opens in Texas."

It's very interesting. The \$2.3 million library in San Antonio, TX, has no books. It's called the Bexar County BiblioTech and it's the only bookless public library in the nation, according to the American Library Association. People from as far away as Hong Kong have come to learn about the idea and possibly take it home.

"I told our people that you need to take a look at this. This is the future," said Mary Graham, vice president of South Carolina's Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce. "If you're going to be building a new library facility, this is what you need to be doing." Graham is pushing Charleston leaders to go out for a bond in 2014 to fund a similar concept.

The new library, which opened last fall

in San Antonio's low-income South side, offers a collection of 10,000 electronic titles. Library card holders have access to 100 e-readers that can be checked out loaded with up to five books each and 50 computer stations, as well as 25 laptops and 25 tablets that can be used on site.

The BiblioTech is accredited by the state as a library and so has access to electronic books throughout the state and nation.

ABC News reported that Bexar County's Judge Nelson Wolff got the idea for the bookless library from reading Walter Isaacson's bestselling biography of Steve Jobs.

We previously reported that 11 dogs and 27 cats were adopted out in December by Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, but there were a few hours left in the month when we got those numbers. FMAR went on adopting and the number actually turned out to be 12 dogs and 31 cats adopted in December. Want to be exact, here.

The week end's warm weather melted snow that fell last week, but then it froze again on the sidewalks and roads making conditions really slippery this week. One Belleville man fell on his own sidewalk, but landed in his own snow bank. Lucky.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

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**Letters****How many people really
have signed up?**

To the Editor:

Just curious:

1. How many people have ACTUALLY signed up for this Obamanation Healthcare fiasco?

2. Just what is the "power that be" counting as enrollments?

More than one person has complained about the loss of health care benefits via cancellations, changes, increases, and inequities. At last count the enrollment rate was over one million, but who are *they*? The extreme liberal newscasters, newspapers, and milquetoast reporters are so careful not to offend; they have completely forgotten their ethical obligation to report the facts without editorializing.

How many people have had their health insurance canceled, new policies issued at *higher rates*? These are counted in the so-called new enrollments! Some employers are forced to change, modify, or eliminate health benefits because of this "Nancy Pelosi -- I know this bill is very lengthy, but vote it in and read it later --" idiocy!

Don't get too comfortable or complacent with the smiling platitudes of our illustrious leader because this is only the beginning!

Jimmy Carter is taking great delight in the Obama enlightenments, for Mr. Carter will now go down in history as the "*Second-Worst President in United States History!*"

Sincerely

Cornell Anton, Jr.

Belleville

"I think a newspaper should be provocative, stir 'em up, but you can't do that on television. It's just not on."
— Rupert Murdoch

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**Loss of health care
insurance a warning**

To the Editor:

This is what was in my mailbox today. It is the official end of my Health Care Coverage -- that worked for me. It was affordable, it provided the kind of care that was right for me.

The alternative is too costly and does not even begin providing the coverage I need until after a huge deductible, and then it's still not all that great.

So, I signed up for nothing and my government wishes to punish me for that.

Folks, this should be a warning to us. If we don't insist on voting into office those who will protect our constitutional rights, we'll have no one to blame but ourselves.

"The pursuit of happiness" to me is not being chained to any person or persons' government entity.

I wish to provide for myself with the help of my God and to owe no one anything.

Lord help us all -- I hope we put an end to this and that "they" don't see it as just the beginning...

Daniel Martin

Ormond Beach, FL

Editor's Note: Daniel Martin wrote a column for the *Independent* for many years before moving to Florida to finish writing his book and continue his work as a pastor.

**There are angels
in Belleville!**

To the Editor:

There are angels in Belleville! I was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. With the chemo, I missed a lot of work. Darcel at Planet Hair made this beautiful basket and raffled it off and gave me the money! Darcel, you are an angel!

Bless you,

Karen Cooley

**Community Chorus
looking for new voices,
resumes rehearsals**

If you love to sing, the Belleville Community Chorus would love to have you join it.

Whether you sing soprano, alto, tenor, bass, or you're not really sure, the chorus needs you. This is the time to join the chorus for the second half of its 2013-2014 season.

A spring concert is scheduled for May.

Rehearsals are every Monday evening at 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 27 at the First United Methodist Church at 417 Charles Street, Belleville.

Those interested, are advised come to the first rehearsal by 6:30 p.m. so the director can place the singer's voice.

For more information call Lori Day at 734-660-0797 or log on to www.bellevillechorus.org.

Obituaries

MARLENE (WALLMAN) BROCKOWSKI
(September 1, 1913 - January 4, 2014)
Former Michigan resident, Marlene Brockowski (Wallman), 63, died Jan 4, 2014, at her home in Long Beach, California, with her husband Joe at her bedside.

Marlene was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Rose Mary Catherine and Robert Clarence Wallman who preceded her in death. She is survived by a son Jason Jablonski, his wife Heidi, and 2 grandchildren, Zachary and Jessica, who reside outside of Everett, Washington. Marlene also has 3 surviving sisters: Darlene Strasburg (her twin) who resides in Plymouth, Michigan, Diane Bentley who resides in Birmingham, Michigan and Geraldine Kemeter who resides in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee, plus many nieces and nephews.

Marlene was married to Joe Brockowski for 19 years and just absolutely loved living in Long Beach, California. She graduated from Belleville High School in 1968, and furthered her education by acquiring a cosmetology license. Early in her life she loved to paint and once in California, ocean fishing became her new hobby. Marlene's other passion was the Red Wing hockey team, and the many years of hockey enjoyment.

She grew up on a farm in Belleville with her 3 sisters, where memories of that life abound. Marlene fought the fight and will never be forgotten.

"Yesterday is a memory, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift, which is why it is called the present."
Author unknown

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Obituaries



Donald Walter Howell



DONALD WALTER HOWELL

(October 1, 1946 – January 9, 2014)

Donald Walter Howell was born on October 1, 1946 in Detroit, MI to Mildred and Lester Howell. To this union, two twin children (Donald & Ronald) were born. His father Lester and his sister Carol preceded him in death. Donald departed this life January 9, 2014 at John Dingle Medical Center.

Donald accepted Christ at an early age at Plymouth Congregational Church. He was educated in the Detroit Public School system. He graduated from Mumford High School in 1965.

He obtained an Associate's Degree in Business from Wayne County Community College. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for four years. He was a Vietnam Veteran and was honorably discharged. Donald was also a lifetime member of the VFW #4434. Donald was employed for the United States Postal Service, retiring with over 40 years of service in 2007.

Donald was an avid volunteer for multiple organizations which included: The Michigan State Fair, The Parade Company, Detroit Free Press Marathon Race, and The Detroit Jazz Fest. His hobbies included bowling, and watching classical and martial arts movies, and sports. He had a passion for music and he sang with the Belleville Chorus. Donald was also an avid traveler, visiting many countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, South America, as well as throughout the United States.

Donald's last act of kindness was to become a Corneal Transplant donor.

Donald was married on September 3, 1972 to the lovely Vera Lewis. From this union two children were born, Donald Jr. and Torya.

Donald leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Vera, mother Mildred, son Donald (Shannon), daughter Torya (John), two brothers Ronald and Walter (Tamara). He has 7 grandchildren: Noah, Donovan, Donald III, Donte, Demetrius, Aaliyah, and Akevan. Sisters in law: Carolyn, Trudy (Kenneth), Deborah (Ronald), Celeste, Lisa. Nieces: Patrice (Damon Sr.), Kenitta, (Ryan Sr.), Natalie (Daniel), Debora. Nephews: Ronald, Stephen,

Eric, Damon, Kenneth (Keisha), Ronald II (Renee). Cousin: Janet; and a huge circle of relatives and friends.

Visitation will be at O.H. Pye Funeral Home, 17600 Plymouth Road, Detroit, Michigan on Thursday, January 16 from 3 to 8 p.m.

Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 17 at 12:30 p.m. Family time will be at 12 noon prior to the service. Any additional information: www.pyefuneralhome.com.



Alma Louise Kirchner

ALMA LOUISE KIRCHNER

(September 1, 1913 - January 8, 2014)

Alma Louise Kirchner, age 100, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at her daughter's home, surrounded by family. She was born September 1, 1913 in Portsmouth, Ohio, daughter of Charles Avery & Bessie Lee (Bramblett) Spratt.

Alma was the first female drafter hired by Henry Ford himself. She was an honorary Kentucky Colonel who was an avid reader and genealogist. She loved bird watching and gardening.

Alma is survived by her daughter Jacquelyn L. Renier of Belleville; two grandsons Kimber Lee Spahr and Andre Lee Renier, both of Belleville; two great-grandchildren Alea Brown and Gunnar Renier; also many other extended

family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband George J. Gorzelany in 1937, her second husband Paul Felix Kirchner on July 29, 1980, also two sisters Juanita and Vivian.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Saturday and 12-1 PM Sunday, January 12, 2014 at the David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with a 1:00 PM Funeral Sunday. Pastor Gordon Moore officiated. A private interment was in Northview Cemetery, Dearborn, MI on Monday.

Memorial contributions made be made to the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Jean Deloris Sizemore

JEAN DELORIS SIZEMORE

(January 15, 1937 - January 8, 2014)

Jean Deloris Sizemore, age 73, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn, MI. She was born January 15, 1937 in Pineville, Kentucky, daughter of Cossie Dean & Hazel (Messer) Potter.

She was a member of the Belleville Church of God. She enjoyed quilting, cooking, reading, yard sales and spring planting and working with flowers. She loved working in her home and collecting dolls, old jewelry and books. Most of all, she loved shopping with her daughters, spending time with her grandchildren and family, and talking to her sister and best friend, Carolyn.

Jean is survived by her husband of nearly 60 years, Wiley Sizemore, Jr.; four children Deborah (Ron) Duncan of Romulus, MI, Darrell Wayne Sizemore, Wiley Jr. Sizemore and Teresa Sizemore, all of Belleville; 8 grandchildren: Kim (Jeff) Garrett, Tracy Duncan, Darren Duncan, Eric (Kristen) Sizemore, David Sizemore, Rachael Sizemore, Dustin (Andera) Roeser and Crystal (Michael Challenger) Roeser; 13 great-grandchildren; her beloved dog Brie; also Jean's special friend and sister, Carolyn Jane (David) Roop of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter Sherry Sizemore in 1955, grandson Shawn Sizemore on October 25, 1998, also two brothers Rex Potter and James A. Potter. Visitation was 5-8 PM Sunday, and 10-11 AM Monday, January 13, 2014 with an 11:00 AM Funeral Monday at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice and would be appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

VIVYAN RENEE LUNDGREN

(February 24, 1960 - January 7, 2014)

Age 53, of Detroit. Survived by husband Tim, mother Barbara Brown, 7 brothers and sisters, and children Shawn, Danielle, and Ronnie Lynn. Services were Jan. 14 at David C. Brown Temporary Funeral Chapel, Belleville.

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Friday January 24th 2014

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Obituaries



CHARLES R. WAYNE, SR.

(April 11, 1934 - January 11, 2014)

Charles Ralph Wayne, Sr., age 79, of Belleville, MI, passed away Saturday, January 11, 2014 at Bortz Heath Care Center, Ypsilanti, Michigan. He was born April 11, 1934 in East St. Louis, IL, son of the late Ralph & Edna Fae (Downs) Wayne.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He loved history and collected many things, including: stamps, trains, antique books and gold mining trinkets. Mr. Wayne attended Calvary Bible Church.

Mr. Wayne is survived by his wife of over ten years, Sandra Jean (Kaylor) Rowlett; three children Cherrol McGinnis of Denver, Colorado, David Wayne of Atlanta, Georgia and Gail (Steve) Dickson of Atlanta, Georgia; ten grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; a sister Judith (Ron) Admik of Spirit Lake, Idaho; a brother Dallas (Carole) Wayne of Riverside,

California; also numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife Joyce (Talbot) Wayne, son Charles R. Wayne, Jr., a sister Glenda, also a sister in childhood, Karen.

Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Cremation rites have been accorded. Interment will be in Riverside National Cemetery, California.

Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Alzheimer's Association, and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure.

Conley, Vawters, Combs to address Chamber Jan. 22

Leaders of the Tri-Community will address the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce at its Member Business Luncheon Jan. 22 at Wayne County Community College District, 9555 Haggerty Road. Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley, Sumpter Township Supervisor Johnny Vawters, and Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs will provide a Tri-Community Update during the noon luncheon. 697-7151



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School Board

(continued from page 1)

when there will be two meetings, and one workshop a month;

- Heard two songs by the Belleville High School Choir to honor the school board during School Board Recognition month. The board members also received carrying cases for their iPads, which carry the school district's name on the side. Supt. Van Tassel praised the board members for doing their thankless jobs, making hard decisions, and caring for the students;

- Heard a presentation on McBride Middle School by administrators, led by Principal John Leroy, who pointed out the school has a 50% decrease in discipline problems from last year. He also noted the recent honor roll was 344 students long, which was half the school population. The presentation included a six-minute video of students thanking teachers for their work;

- Held the first reading of 20 Board Policy updates, which includes a new policy of not entering into or renewing contracts with any Iran-linked business while Iran is a state sponsor of terror as defined by state law. Another underscored the state law that does not allow the district to deduct union dues from employees' paychecks;

- Approved hiring a non-union, Fringe Benefit Accountant at a wage of \$40,000 plus benefits to deal with the huge amount of paperwork needed to comply with the Affordable Care Act. The district has 12 different insurance carriers to deal with. The federal government has significant penalties for not complying, including \$2,000-\$3,000 per employee. "We have to be in compliance," Supt. Van Tassel said. This new hire also will do some secretarial work for the finance director who lost her secretary last year during cuts. It now has been determined the administration building employees are "spread too thin," according to Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources;

- Approved the Best Practices Incentive Resolution which will qualify the district to receive \$52 per pupil in a one-time grant of best practices funds from the state, about \$267,460;

- Approved the hiring of Shannon Curne as a counselor at BHS as of Jan. 6;

- Approved the termination of Marcus Leon, a bookkeeper in the Administration Building for two years, for other employment in Holland, MI;

- Approved hiring of Carlton Fields as a paraprofessional as of Dec. 16;

- Approved a field trip of Special Ed Services to Imagination Station in Toledo, Ohio. The Van Buren school has been adopted by the Imagination Station and is given free admission; and

- Heard Supt. Van Tassel say that the Affordable Care Act has five significant taxes coming up that will cost the district from \$200,000 to \$400,000. "We have to figure out how to comply ... We just got out of deficit," he said. He said a problem with MESSA insurance is on the horizon, as well as contracts with Priority One and Blue Cross. Treasurer Frasier said all the

ramifications coming down the line from the Affordable Care Act need to be looked at by those who put it into effect.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is 7 p.m., Feb. 10, at the Commons at BHS.

Bruders question café in plans for new library on DNR/Spencer site

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Keith and Ginger Bruder, who have been working on the genealogy of their family and now their community's Civil War soldiers, are a little skeptical about having a café in the new library being designed for Belleville.

At a meeting of the Building Committee of the Belleville Area District Library on Dec. 30, the Bruders gave their opinion about the library's café, based on their experience.

The 500-square-foot café being planned for inside the proposed library, would have 12 seats at small tables with two chairs per table.

"It would be a Starbucks-kind of tended café," said library architect Dan Whisler. "Libraries that have this don't want their librarians to become baristas, so they have leased tenants and share the profits."

He said the café would be just outside of the youth area and would have a family-friendly kind of arrangement.

Ginger Bruder said she has been to many libraries in her travels to get information for her genealogical studies and many of the areas in those libraries that started out as cafes, ended up as storage areas because they were not profitable to the tenants. They weren't used enough.

Keith Bruder said Belleville has had six coffee shops in the recent past and all of them are gone.

Committee members said there are cafes in libraries in Redford, Rochester, St. Clair, St. Clair Shores and other areas. They plan to have one in Belleville, too.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On Wednesday, January 29th, 2014, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1999	LEXUS	4D	JT8BD68S8X0076063	13-25015
2003	KIA	4D	KNADC125036225640	13-26025
1998	FORD	2D	1FAFP4046WF205446	13-26524
1996	PONTIAC	4D	1G2NE52T5TC782072	13-27057
1991	FORD	SW	1FMDA31U2MZA76205	13-27611
1990	FORD	PU	1FTCR10A4LPB42252	13-27770
2000	PONTIAC	4D	1G2HY54K4Y4293690	13-27907
2001	GMC	PU	2GTEK19T411239821	13-28036
1998	MERC BENZ	4D	WDBGA33G3WA389448	13-28410
2000	CHEVROLET	VN	1GNDX03E9YD115969	13-28461
1993	FORD	4D	2FAPP36X4PB126411	13-28679

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2004	LINCOLN	SW	5LMEU88H84ZJ02126	13-24245
1997	PLYMOUTH	4D	1P3EJ46C6VN615013	13-24367
2002	FORD	4D	1FAFP53U72G269629	13-24460
2000	VOLVO	SW	YV1LS61J8Y2635639	13-24865
1997	FORD	4D	1FALP52U9VA253167	13-25102
1994	FORD	PU	1FTCR10A0RTA48515	13-25607
1999	CADILLAC	4D	1G6KD54Y5XU773174	13-25688
2006	FORD	2D	1FAFP31N06W158271	13-25754
1988	FORD	PU	1FTDF15YXJLA44897	13-26839
2006	FORD	PU	1FTYR14U66PA02668	13-28352
1998	FORD	SW	1FMRE11L0WHB01407	13-28377
2005	FORD	SW	1FMYU03195KD87828	13-28560
1995	HONDA	4D	JHMCD5531SC038497	13-29151

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC
Van Buren Township Clerk
Published: January 16, 2014

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Rollers Skate Park on Sumpter Road at Willis Road will be hosting some fun family events this month, starting with **Parents Skate Free** on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. Children's admission is \$5 and adults must be accompanied by a child. Skate Rental is \$3.

It's **New Activity Night on Skates** on Friday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 11 p.m. where there will be skating games, prizes and other surprises every 30 minutes. Admission is

\$7. The month will close out with Late Skate Night on Jan. 25, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. with admission \$12, which includes a slice of pizza, beverage and skate rental. Call (734) 699-0023.

Trimco-Co. inside **Enrica's Golden Needle** at **436 Main Street** in Downtown Belleville is an expert when it comes to handcrafted leather products and repairs. Special orders are welcome. Trimco also specializes in commercial and industrial sewing and boat cover repairs. They're open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. See their ad in today's paper for details and call Dan at (734) 697-2229.

The folks over at **Romulus Athletic**

Center want to make 2014 the year you commit by taking the **RAC's Commitment Resolution** to lose weight. See its ad in today's paper and visit the athletic center's website at www.romulusathleticcenter.com. Call (734) 942-2223.

The **Belleville Area Museum** presents **Third Thursday Lecture Series** kick-off tonight, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m. with **Lost Detroit Photographer Sean Doerr**, who will present historical and current photographs of Detroit's grand architecture. RSVP is encouraged. Call **697-1944**.

Welcome to our Church Directory **Pastor Bernie Travis** and **Liberty Gospel Church** on Liberty Street. For just \$75, you can have your church listed in the directory for 13 weeks. That comes to \$5.76 per week. The ad size is a 1 column by 1 inch tall box and we can put a lot of info in it, like worship times, special events, etc. To

learn more, call me at (734) 699 9020.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, located in Sumpter Township, will be holding their monthly pet adoption event at the Petco of Westland on Jan. 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Petco is located on Warren Road across from Westland Mall. Call (734) 461-9458.

Winter Storytime for children, teens, and families at the Belleville Area District Library will be starting up the week of Jan. 27 and will run through April. To reserve a spot or for program information call (734) 699-3291 or visit www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

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.

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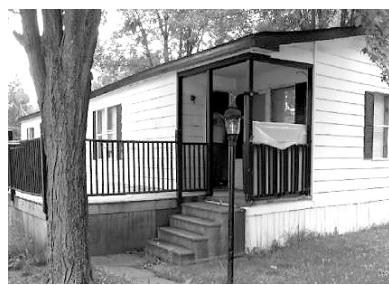


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Ask Angela
By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela," c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Suite 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions in this column.

Question from Tina in Sumpter Township: Since it is the New Year and I bought a home last year, I will be doing my first income taxes this year with allowable deductions. What forms or paperwork should I expect the bank to send me regarding my home purchase and what paperwork from my closing should I have to have to do my income taxes?

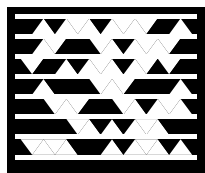
Answer: Tina, buying a home should hopefully allow you to itemize deductions. At closing, you should have received a legal size, 4-5 page document called the HUD/Settlement. It will provide all of the closing costs, interest, and tax pro-rations associated with the sale. Also, by Feb. 1 of this year your bank should send you a year-end statement with all the interest you paid on your mortgage last year, as well as any property taxes and homeowner's insurance that you paid into your escrow account. To claim any property tax homestead credit on your State of Michigan filing be sure to have your SEV and taxable figure amounts of your home to see if you qualify for the 2013 Tax Year. Also, it is a good idea to start a home improvement file on all repairs, remodeling and maintenance costs on your home for the years that you own it, in the case that you may ever be in a situation to have to pay a capital gain tax when you sell the home. Most important, KEEP records of each year's tax filing and preferably hire a good accountant, who does your taxes each year and is familiar with your tax filing history. Good Luck on receiving a tax credit! --Angela

Angela Nettro/Real Estate Broker
(734) 697-6655
Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

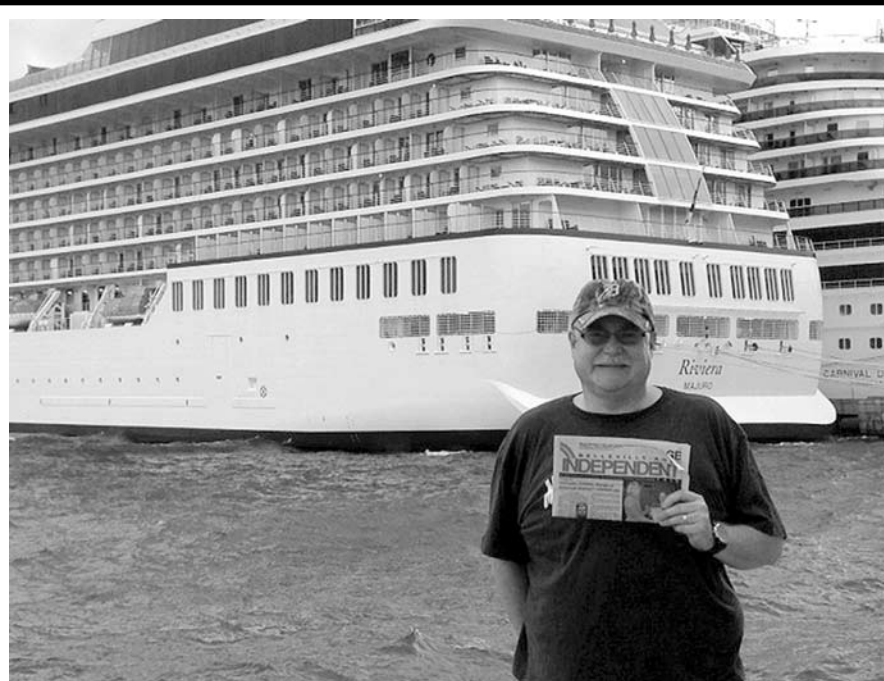
Birthdays

Jan. 24 – Leah Hoogterp
Jan. 28 – Wendy Comis
Jan. 29 – Gary Avery

Do you have a birthday in January? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know.



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They're reading the Independent everywhere

Jeff and Sue Kotlarek of Romulus read their *Independent* on their January cruise to Cozumel. Jeff's in the picture, Sue's on the camera.

You are invited to submit a photo of someone 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.

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HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Jan. 5:
0302 – assault & battery, Estates
1201 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1352 – missing person, Ventura Dr.
1400 – assault & battery, S. Woodbury Dr.
1503 – personal injury accident, Michigan Ave. / Rawsonville Rd.
1528 – harassment call, Price Rd.
1531 – harassment call, Hamilton St.
1556 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1710 – property damage accident, Bog Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
1811 – property damage accident, Belleville
1827 – domestic violence, Denton Rd.
1845 – parking complaint, Van Buren Park
2048 – harassment call, Maple Dr.
2103 – agency assist, Glass Ranch
2111 – suicide or attempt, Ash Dr.
2341 – motorist assist, Roulo St./Montague Ave.
2341 – wires down, Chaney Ave.

Monday, Jan. 6:
0815 – private property accident, N. Woodbury Dr.
0916 – fraud, Republic Dr.
0945 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
1233 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty
1328 – intimidation threat, Kirkridge
1356 – malicious destruction of property, Haggerty
1402 – property damage accident, Michigan Service Dr./Gilmore St.
1420 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Martz Rd.
1659 – property damage accident, Belleville / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1844 – agency assist, WB I-94/Haggerty
1816 – intimidation threat, Belleville
2102 – shots fired, Estates Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 7:
0019 – private property accident, Haggerty Rd.
0637 – property damage accident, EB bypass/E. of Ecorse
0707 – assault & battery, Western St.
1133 – private property accident, Sumpter
1222 – property damage accident, Van Buren St.
1236 – property damage accident, Beck Rd./Ecorse
1413 – assist fire dept., Burtrig St.
1419 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1434 – larceny, Van Born Rd.
1623 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2003 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2048 – suicide or attempt, Ponderosa Trl.
2221 – private property accident, Van Born
2238 – assault & battery, E. Archwood Dr.

Wednesday, Jan. 8:
0237 – private property accident, N. I-94 Service
0544 – water leak found, Parkwood Dr.
0627 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville
0932 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Van Born
0938 – property damage accident, Belleville / WB I-94 exit ramp
0948 – property damage accident, Belleville BP
0939 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1118 – property damage accident, Belleville
1151 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
1152 – property damage accident, Culver’s
1207 – property damage accident, Beck/Ecorse
1215 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1318 – property damage accident, Haggerty/tracks
1320 – property damage accident, Belleville / Burger King
1603 – fraud, Belleville
1634 – felony assault, Belleville Rd.
1640 – water leak found, Belmont Dr.
1801 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Textile
1944 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
Thursday, Jan. 9:
0733 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
0815 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1029 – private property accident, Denton Rd.
1045 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty

1044 – property damage accident, Michigan/Beck
1048 – property damage accident, Michigan / Denton
1119 – property damage accident, Belle Square
1140 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
1143 – assault & battery, Lake Villa Dr.
1148 – malicious destruction of property, Wheatgrass Ln.
1225 – larceny from auto, Village Green Ln.
1252 – breaking & entering, Rose
1459 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Quirk Rd.
1509 – private property accident, Rose Blvd.
1620 – PPO violation, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1642 – malicious destruction of property, Westlake Circle
1657 – water leak found, Revere Dr.
1753 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1837 – larceny, Peachtree
1841 – harassment call, Peachtree
1906 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1918 – water leak found, Freedom Way
2042 – assault & battery, Lohr Rd./Oak Blvd.
2048 – assault & battery, Martinsville Rd.

Friday, Jan. 10:
0135 – assault & battery, Revere Dr.
0340 – water leak found, Lacy Dr.
0733 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.
0807 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.
0907 – assault & battery, Village Green Lane
0924 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
1001 – private property accident, Belleville
1328 – intimidation threat, Town & Country
1641 – vehicle pursuit, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1705 – malicious destruction of property, Bemis
1730 – larceny, Marina Dr.
1821 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1823 – water leak found, Robson Rd.
2000 – noise complaint, Sumpter
2015 – malicious destruction of property, Meadows
2217 – harassment call, Kirkridge Park Dr.

Saturday, Jan. 11:
0440 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1048 – domestic violence, Oak Ln.
1723 – domestic violence, Van Buren St.
1733 – property damage accident, Jackson St.
1944 – agency assist, Belleville/I-94
2030 – fraud, Rawsonville
2209 – assault & battery, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2338 – property damage accident, Laguna Dr.
Also on this week’s log are 46 traffic stops, 5 of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 5:
0040 – warrant arrest, Main St.
0533 – suspicious situation, E. Huron River Dr. / Potter Dr.
0905 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
0928 – water leak found, Sumpter Rd.
1422 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.
1613 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
2101 – suspicious situation, South St.
Monday, Jan. 6:
0058 – vehicle lockout, Main St.
0703 – assist fire dept., Roland St.
0940 – property damage accident, Main St.
0952 – panic alarm, N. Liberty St.
1034 – assist fire dept., Harbour Pointe Dr.
1403 – assist fire dept., S. Edgemont Ave.
1453 – fraud, N. Edgemont Ave.
1516 – vehicle lockout, Loza Lane
1535 – background investigation, Main St.
2034 – assist fire dept., Church St.
2315 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
Tuesday, Jan. 7:
1436 – all other traffic, 5 Points
1810 – motorist assist, Main St./Liberty St.
Wednesday, Jan. 8:
0042 – intimidation threat, Carmell St.
0224 – property check, Owen

0912 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
0915 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1021 – property damage accident, Main St. / Second St.
1118 – suspicious person, Victorian Ln.
1154 – private property accident, Main St.
1335 – narcotics crime, Owen
1507 – property damage accident, Main/Denton
1848 – background investigation, Main St.
1937 – domestic assault, Main St.
1939 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Main St.

Thursday, Jan. 9:
0908 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. Liberty St.
0923 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. Liberty St.
1035 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1114 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1450 – trespassing, Tuscan Manor
1505 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1711 – all other traffic, Main St./Third St.
1743 – suspicious person, Carmell St.
1744 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

Friday, Jan. 10:
0017 – Pb.t. alcohol, Main St.
0346 – E-911 hang up/investigation, S. Edgemont
0423 – E-911 hang up/investigation, S. Edgemont
0857 – suspicious vehicle, Owen Intermediate
1024 – miscellaneous complaint, Sumpter
1306 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1359 – background investigation, Main St.
1828 – vehicle lockout, Owen

Saturday, Jan. 11:
0020 – missing person, Estrada
0030 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
0234 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1049 – suspicious situation, no location given
1100 – animal complaint, Henry St.
1301 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1858 – intrusion alarm, Third St./Charles St.
2105 – suspicious vehicle, Belle Plaza
2108 – property check, no location given
Also on this week’s log are 24 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 5:
0234 – suspicious person, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1256 – ordinance violation, Martha/Bemis
1443 – ORV complaint, 5500 bl. Oakville Waltz
1458 – property damage accident, Willow/Elwell
1501 – 911 hang up, Nevada
1641 – 911 hang up, Nevada
2043 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Monday, Jan. 6:
1056 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1257 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1437 – well-being check, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1810 – alarm, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
2028 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
2037 – traffic hazard, Haggerty/Willow
2251 – alarm, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.
Tuesday, Jan. 7:
0325 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0412 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
0657 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Carleton West rd.

0809 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1323 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Timber Park Ct.
1405 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1525 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1630 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1812 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
2003 – suspicious incident, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
Wednesday, Jan. 8:
0230 – civil dispute, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0625 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0632 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0809 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
0839 – neighbor dispute, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1522 – animal complaint, Second

Thursday, Jan. 9:
0259 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
0631 – traffic hazard, Willis/Karr
1010 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Arkona
1152 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1213 – animal complaint, Sherwood/Willis
1317 – suspicious incident, 42000 bl. Willis
1649 – animal complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1817 – animal complaint, Wear/Elwell
1937 – suspicious incident, Washington
1944 – fire dept. assist, Utah
2000 – alarm, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
2202 – alarm, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.

Friday, Jan. 10:
0224 – property damage accident, Martinsville / Judd
0842 – harassment complaint, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1147 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1240 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1245 – citizen assist, California
1325 – suspicious incident, 49000 bl. Sherwood ct.
1443 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1526 – animal complaint, 12000 bl. Rawsonville
0000 – larceny, Utah (no time given)
1630 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1756 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
Saturday, Jan. 11:
0018 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0218 – warrant arrest, Bemis/Sully
0510 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0947 – suspicious incident, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1038 – malicious destruction of property, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.

1247 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1324 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.
1603 – shots fired, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1805 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 8 follow-up investigations, 17 miscellaneous details, 71 patrol checks, and 10 traffic stops.

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Sumpter, VBT PDs charge Antonio Lopez with B&Es into garages

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Antonio Lopez of Sumpter Township, who turned 21 on Jan. 14, was bound over to circuit court by 34th District Court on Jan. 8 on charges he had broken into garages in Sumpter and Van Buren townships and made off with a motorcycle, quad, and minibikes.

Sumpter Township Detective John Toth said the break-ins detected in Sumpter and VBT are "the bare minimum" of what he may have done.

In Sumpter he is charged with stealing a motorcycle on Oct. 10 from a garage in the 45000 block of Harris Road and a quad on Oct. 6 from a garage in the 39000 block of Wear Road.

Sumpter's charges are: breaking &

entering a building with intent (10-year felony) and larceny in a building (4-year felony).

The Van Buren Township charges are from the Nov. 1 mini-bike thefts and are: breaking & entering – entry without breaking with intent; and two charges of receiving and concealing a motor vehicle.

Det. Toth said as the case was developing, Lopez turned himself in to Sumpter, who released him to VBT which had a break-in he was tied to. Then he was released pending issuance of warrants and later turned himself into VBT.

Another person involved with Lopez in the thefts, Marcus Shaffer, 18, of Ypsilanti, was charged Oct. 6 for receiving and concealing a stolen motor vehicle and bound over to circuit court.

Det. Toth said Sumpter thought its rash of breaking and enterings of garages was over, but then there was another theft and so they put out an electronic Nixle alert to the community. Then, the thefts stopped completely, he said.

Judge Denise Page Hood at 2 p.m., March 4, postponed from the Dec. 19 previous sentencing date.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles Bazy said that Ellis refused a plea agreement and demanded a trial in federal court. A jury trial began on Aug. 19, before Judge Hood in Detroit.

On Aug. 22, the case went to the jury. The jury deliberated for about 1½ hours before returning with a guilty verdict on all counts: felon in possession of a firearm, armed career criminal, and possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

Ellis was the person who was accused of buying a Colt .45 with laser sight after it was stolen in Van Buren Township Jan. 27, 2012.

Ellis was in the company of two other felons when he was arrested July 2, 2012 by Eastern Michigan University Police on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of the stolen handgun.

The felons with Ellis were Thomas Johnson and Sheldon Brummette, who accepted felony plea agreements for possession of a firearm and faced 10-year minimum sentences in federal prison.

The handgun Ellis had was stolen during the series of break-ins in the Denton neighborhood of Van Buren Township during the winter of 2011-12.

Healthcare Co.

(continued from page 1)

Greg Watanabe, president of San Diego-based MedImpact, said, "We are excited to grow the MedImpact family in the Midwest. This facility provides us the opportunity to capitalize on Michigan's status as a rising healthcare leader and will enable us to more effectively support our clients nationwide."

"Through their professionalism and hard work our new Michigan team is already setting a high standard for service excellence."

Mullen said during the MEDC courting process the township did offer to review a P.A. 198 tax abatement application on their behalf, but the MedImpact group chose not to pursue the abatement because they deemed it too small of a benefit to be worth the administrative costs to gain its approval.

"The township board did not see an application from them because the abatement portion of their project never got that far," Mullen said.

Mullen explained that P.A. 198 is geared to grant larger benefits to manufacturing companies with larger equipment costs and MedImpact, as an office user, would have received a very modest benefit.

Mullen also noted that the taxes that go to the VBT Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) would have a modest increase.

"The real property tax rate won't change because Grace Lake is already paying taxes on the square-foot space that is already built there," Mullen said.

"A modest boost will take place on the personal property taxes that the company has. This portion is also in jeopardy depending upon if it falls below the \$40,000 tax rate break the governor signed into law last year for personal property and how the personal property phase-out goes," Mullen said.

MedImpact Healthcare Systems Inc. (<http://www.medimpact.com>) founded in 1989 and headquartered in San Diego, CA, is a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) that combines subject matter expertise with innovative technology and services to deliver better healthcare outcomes and improve its clients' positions in the market.

MedImpact provides PBM services to 47 million members of health plans hospitals and employers in the U.S. and abroad.

According to the news release, MedImpact's model is unique: avoiding conflict of interest by not owning mail order or specialty pharmacies and instead earning money by effectively managing client pharmacy benefits. MedImpact's results are quantified through detailed peer analysis demonstrating how the company can help its clients be market leaders rather than followers, the news release said.

Court Watching:

Javon Ellis set for sentencing March 4 in U.S. District Court

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Javon Ellis is expected to be sentenced to from 20 years to life in federal prison when he goes before U.S. District Court

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