



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 20.5 Thursday, January 30, 2014

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Kay Atkins, right, presents a 70"x87" quilt she made especially for Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor, left, to thank him for all he does for the community. The surprise presentation was made during the Jan. 21 meeting of the Belleville City Council. Atkins, a former Mayor Pro Tem, owns Threads 'n' Treasures quilt shop. She said she has been working on the secret project since August and, after she healed from a broken leg, completed the quilt in January.

Michael Lee accepts plea deal for armed robbery of pharmacy

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

Confessed armed robber Michael Earl-Chavis Lee, 28, of Lincoln Park, has accepted a plea deal that includes 8-10 years in prison plus a 2-year mandatory gun charge.

On Jan. 21 in Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Megan Brennan's courtroom, Lee accepted the plea deal that his attorney Ronald McDuffie and Assistant Wayne Prosecutor Frank Simone had worked out.

For pleading guilty to count 1, armed robbery, and count 5, felony firearm, two additional counts of armed robbery and one count of felonious assault with a dangerous weapon were dismissed.

A reference to Lee being named a Habitual Offender-4 was withdrawn. Lee's accomplice, 15-year-old Jessie James Hawkins from Inkster, accepted a guilty plea in December.

Judge Brennan asked Prosecutor Simone to establish a factual basis for the guilty plea.

Through Simone's questioning, Lee admitted that on Oct. 24 he entered Health Smart Pharmacy in Van Buren Township at 10824 Belleville Road with his accomplice and pointed a gun at a person.

He said he stole "a bag of pharmaceutical pills" and then left the store and threw a gun in a retention pond.

Lee's sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 5.

6th Annual Report to Taxpayers

Van Buren Township Public Safety Department
Employees Wages & Actual Cost to Township 1/1/13 - 12/31/13

| Employee Name | Police Wages | Fire Wages | Benefits | Total Compensation |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Floro, Kenneth | \$89,233.07 | \$59,624.23 | \$47,051.07 | \$195,908.37 |
| Champagne, David | \$70,872.27 | \$48,023.55 | \$41,993.20 | \$160,889.02 |
| Abdilla, Mark | \$77,408.55 | \$39,806.76 | \$42,001.42 | \$159,216.73 |
| Laurain, Gregory | \$117,022.85 | — | \$41,947.06 | \$158,969.91 |
| McCormick, Ryan | \$68,701.28 | \$46,141.07 | \$40,964.43 | \$155,806.78 |
| Keele, Louis | \$74,346.35 | \$34,156.36 | \$40,614.58 | \$149,117.29 |
| Moening, Michael | \$80,194.19 | \$24,811.75 | \$40,556.81 | \$145,562.75 |
| Buckberry, Mark Jr. | \$99,629.31 | — | \$41,016.11 | \$140,645.42 |
| Bazzy, Charles | \$88,286.62 | — | \$43,395.44 | \$131,682.06 |
| Thornsbury, Ernie | \$91,536.60 | — | \$36,845.79 | \$128,382.39 |
| Papin, Michael | \$86,263.17 | — | \$38,412.18 | \$124,675.35 |
| Brooks, Dennis | \$82,722.37 | — | \$37,752.20 | \$120,474.57 |
| Toney, Kenneth | \$82,652.21 | — | \$37,652.62 | \$120,304.83 |
| David Schuler* | \$45,259.04 | \$42,691.24 | \$30,482.55 | \$118,432.83 |
| Karver, Anthony | — | \$82,270.09 | \$36,043.06 | \$118,313.15 |
| McCarthy, Donovan | \$80,715.95 | — | \$37,272.13 | \$117,988.08 |
| Schulz, Alexander | \$80,336.33 | — | \$37,172.97 | \$117,509.30 |
| Buxton, Mark | \$78,779.66 | — | \$36,891.67 | \$115,671.33 |
| Stanton, Jeffrey | \$74,873.66 | — | \$40,693.13 | \$115,566.79 |
| Byrd, Adam | \$73,743.95 | — | \$40,471.06 | \$114,215.01 |
| Yono, Frederick | \$70,324.03 | — | \$42,622.22 | \$112,946.25 |
| Perez, Derek | \$75,771.88 | — | \$36,264.68 | \$112,036.56 |
| DeVos, Bart | \$85,848.46 | — | \$25,557.97 | \$111,406.43 |
| Sweet, Frederick | \$72,761.89 | — | \$35,709.20 | \$108,471.09 |
| Traster, Carrie | \$68,366.96 | — | \$39,414.52 | \$107,781.48 |
| Gueli, Jeffery | \$89,101.80 | — | \$18,596.90 | \$107,698.70 |
| Bidwell, Ryan | \$67,990.88 | — | \$39,340.61 | \$107,331.49 |
| Hayes, Christopher | \$69,829.65 | — | \$35,132.99 | \$104,962.64 |
| Smith, Amy | \$70,596.78 | — | \$34,225.59 | \$104,822.37 |
| Wehrman, Patrick | \$69,411.72 | — | \$35,050.88 | \$104,462.60 |
| Valinski, Christopher | \$68,826.67 | — | \$34,892.48 | \$103,719.15 |
| Rini, Michael | \$78,249.95 | — | \$23,978.70 | \$102,228.65 |
| Harrison, Dale | \$69,328.13 | — | \$32,547.33 | \$101,875.46 |
| Herrick, Christopher | \$66,926.30 | — | \$32,039.36 | \$98,965.66 |
| Raschke, Matthew | \$64,265.25 | — | \$34,018.35 | \$98,283.60 |
| Besson, Daniel | — | \$70,807.52 | \$22,425.68 | \$93,233.20 |
| Barry, Ryan | \$70,449.10 | — | \$22,445.82 | \$92,894.92 |
| Long, Michael | \$69,798.30 | — | \$22,914.77 | \$92,713.07 |
| Griggs, Scott | \$69,631.13 | — | \$22,321.13 | \$91,952.26 |
| Dandy, Kenneth | \$58,643.66 | — | \$32,411.48 | \$91,055.14 |
| Smyth, Keith | \$63,563.80 | — | \$19,567.00 | \$83,130.80 |
| Burgor, Michael | \$51,000.36 | — | \$29,694.87 | \$80,695.23 |
| Smith, Joseph | \$53,536.89 | — | \$25,116.92 | \$78,653.81 |
| Vettraino, Heather | \$56,894.72 | — | \$20,327.64 | \$77,222.36 |
| Fleming, Pamela | \$46,439.71 | — | \$29,225.98 | \$75,665.69 |
| Van Gemert, Bruce | — | \$31,948.88 | \$2,380.20 | \$34,329.08 |
| Folks, Ronald | — | \$29,437.73 | \$2,193.12 | \$31,630.85 |
| Brouillette, David | — | \$29,292.60 | \$2,182.30 | \$31,474.90 |
| Marcotte, Lacey | — | \$28,336.20 | \$2,111.06 | \$30,447.26 |
| Lunsford, Curtis | — | \$27,469.48 | \$2,046.44 | \$29,515.92 |
| Shores, Michael | — | \$27,159.20 | \$2,023.34 | \$29,182.54 |

(continued on page 3)

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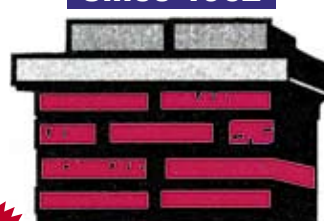
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| <p>3 LARGE PIZZAS with CHEESE & 2 TOPPINGS</p> <p>\$23⁹⁹</p> <p>DOUBLE CHEESE EXTRA w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p> | <p>2 LARGE PIZZAS with 2 TOPPINGS plus 8pc Bread Stix & Tossed Salad</p> <p>\$20⁹⁹</p> <p>DOUBLE CHEESE EXTRA w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p> | <p>1 MEDIUM SPECIALTY 1 MEDIUM CHEESE plus 8pc Bread Stix plus 10 WINGS</p> <p>\$19⁹⁹</p> <p>ADD TOPPINGS 75¢ w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p> |
| <p>SMALL GLUTEN FREE PIZZA DOUGH SPECIALTY PIZZA</p> <p>\$8⁹⁹</p> <p>DOUBLE CHEESE EXTRA w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p> | <p>\$3⁰⁰ OFF ANY LARGE CHICAGO STYLE PIZZA or \$2⁰⁰ OFF ANY SMALL CHICAGO STYLE PIZZA</p> <p>DOUBLE CHEESE EXTRA w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p> | <p>2 LARGE PIZZAS with CHEESE & 2 TOPPINGS plus 8pc Bread Stix</p> <p>\$16⁹⁹</p> <p>DOUBLE CHEESE EXTRA w/Coupon. Expires 3-31-14</p> |

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

6th Annual Report to Taxpayers

(continued from page 1)

| Employee Name | Police Wages | Fire Wages | Benefits | Total Compensation |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| Henderson, John | _____ | \$25,789.65 | \$1,921.30 | \$27,710.95 |
| Worth, Joshua | _____ | \$25,466.28 | \$1,897.25 | \$27,363.53 |
| Hayden, John | _____ | \$23,849.18 | \$1,776.76 | \$25,625.94 |
| Bettendorf, William | \$17,375.40 | | \$7,707.66 | \$25,083.06 |
| Schulz, Jeffrey | _____ | \$23,082.45 | \$1,719.61 | \$24,802.06 |
| Doty, Douglas | _____ | \$21,999.28 | \$1,638.95 | \$23,638.23 |
| Queen, Timothy | _____ | \$19,385.88 | \$1,444.25 | \$20,830.13 |
| Landstrom, Kenneth | _____ | \$18,734.00 | \$1,395.65 | \$20,129.65 |
| DeWitt, Charles | _____ | \$18,494.25 | \$1,377.83 | \$19,872.08 |
| McClanahan, Carl | \$17,156.87 | _____ | \$2,652.32 | \$19,809.19 |
| Hamill, Richard Jr. | _____ | \$17,599.08 | \$1,311.12 | \$18,910.20 |
| Wilson, Danny | _____ | \$17,311.68 | \$1,038.70 | \$18,350.38 |
| Walter, Danieal | _____ | \$16,909.14 | \$1,259.75 | \$18,168.89 |
| Laskaska, Patrick | _____ | \$16,730.93 | \$1,246.44 | \$17,977.37 |
| Skotak, Ian | _____ | \$16,083.17 | \$1,198.19 | \$17,281.36 |
| Roy, Christopher | _____ | \$14,686.52 | \$1,094.15 | \$15,780.67 |
| Hayes, Angela | _____ | \$14,635.88 | \$1,090.34 | \$15,726.22 |
| Rose, John | _____ | \$13,649.68 | \$1,016.86 | \$14,666.54 |
| McCormick, Elizabeth | _____ | \$13,607.08 | \$1,013.72 | \$14,620.80 |
| Ferris, James | _____ | \$13,369.80 | \$996.01 | \$14,365.81 |
| Sorrell, Todd | _____ | \$12,842.68 | \$956.79 | \$13,799.47 |
| Kennedy, Nolan | _____ | \$8,037.59 | \$598.80 | \$8,636.39 |
| Craiger, Timothy | _____ | \$7,288.22 | \$542.94 | \$7,831.16 |
| Vlademar, Michael | _____ | \$6,516.84 | \$485.51 | \$7,002.35 |
| Oleszkowicz, Dallas | _____ | \$5,927.01 | \$441.54 | \$6,368.55 |
| Smith, Ryan | _____ | \$4,815.56 | \$358.75 | \$5,174.31 |
| Jones, Stephen | _____ | \$4,605.15 | \$343.10 | \$4,948.25 |
| Campbell, Bronson | _____ | \$4,148.44 | \$309.07 | \$4,457.51 |
| Driscoll, Kurt | _____ | \$3,899.33 | \$290.47 | \$4,189.80 |
| Kail, David | _____ | \$3,173.20 | \$236.41 | \$3,409.61 |
| Cox, Dustin | _____ | \$3,164.43 | \$235.76 | \$3,400.19 |
| Mathis, Justin | _____ | \$3,109.77 | \$231.69 | \$3,341.46 |
| Spence, Rachel | _____ | \$2,491.50 | \$185.63 | \$2,677.13 |
| Walker, Herbert | _____ | \$2,438.45 | \$181.66 | \$2,620.11 |
| Kowalski, Greg | _____ | \$2,041.01 | \$152.04 | \$2,193.05 |
| Keeton, Jimmy | _____ | \$1,628.03 | \$121.28 | \$1,749.31 |
| Bush, Alexander | _____ | \$1,586.57 | \$118.20 | \$1,704.77 |
| Bojanic, Christina | _____ | \$1,408.88 | \$104.96 | \$1,513.84 |
| Willett, Dale | _____ | \$1,280.39 | \$95.39 | \$1,375.78 |
| Kleinglass, Seth | _____ | \$851.07 | \$63.41 | \$914.48 |
| Spoonamore, Scott | _____ | \$507.83 | \$37.83 | \$545.66 |

* Wages for David Schueler are from Building and Planning and Fire Department

Animal Control

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| Robert Queener** | \$52,060.76 | | \$34,952.79 | \$87,013.55 |
|------------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|

** Wages for Robert Queener are from Public Safety and Building and Planning

| Dispatch Employee | Dispatch Wages | Fire Wages | Benefits | Total Compensation |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| McInally, David | \$53,480.43 | \$48,320.98 | \$38,308.62 | \$140,110.03 |
| Lucas, Gretchen | \$55,018.12 | | \$32,142.23 | \$87,160.35 |
| Martin, Robert | \$54,369.08 | | \$31,983.50 | \$86,352.58 |
| Jones, Julie | \$58,398.04 | | \$20,002.81 | \$78,400.85 |
| Baker, Georgia | \$48,486.62 | | \$27,942.70 | \$76,429.32 |
| Donaldson, Sally | \$54,998.43 | | \$19,322.94 | \$74,321.37 |
| Rea, Teri | \$53,700.09 | | \$19,640.48 | \$73,340.57 |
| Brooks, Terri | \$58,426.59 | | \$12,134.22 | \$70,560.81 |
| DuFresne, Susan | \$21,767.27 | | \$4,318.66 | \$26,085.93 |
| Springer, Kathleen | \$4,073.88 | | \$9,247.94 | \$13,321.82 |
| Waldrop, Myra | \$649.08 | | \$127.54 | \$776.62 |
| Total Public Safety Compensation Costs to Township | | | | \$6,568,148.80 |

Van Buren Township Employees Wages & Actual Cost to Township 1/1/13 - 12/31/13

| | Wages | Longevity | Benefits | Total Compensation |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Elected Officials | | | | |
| Linda Combs | \$79,979.38 | _____ | \$31,107.40 | \$111,086.78 |
| Leon Wright | \$73,816.47 | \$1,483.69 | \$40,276.10 | \$114,092.57 |
| Sharry Budd | \$78,807.82 | \$6,475.04 | \$35,894.67 | \$114,702.49 |
| Phillip Hart | \$17,100.54 | \$2,239.58 | \$4,838.14 | \$21,938.68 |
| Jeffery Jahr | \$14,400.51 | \$1,739.55 | \$11,134.97 | \$25,535.48 |
| Brenda McClanahan | \$12,660.96 | _____ | \$2,545.32 | \$15,206.28 |
| Regina Miller | \$12,660.96 | _____ | \$2,545.32 | \$15,206.28 |
| Assessing Dept. | | | | |
| Linda Stevenson | \$65,402.81 | \$4,980.82 | \$35,537.77 | \$100,940.58 |
| William Guenther | \$26,982.00 | _____ | \$2,064.06 | \$29,046.06 |
| Patricia Veerkamp | \$15,161.25 | _____ | \$1,159.84 | \$16,321.09 |
| Angela Netro | \$600.00 | _____ | \$45.90 | \$645.90 |
| Juanita Jensen | \$600.00 | _____ | \$45.90 | \$645.90 |
| Loretta Speaks | \$600.00 | _____ | \$45.90 | \$645.90 |
| Harry Roesch III | \$600.00 | _____ | \$45.90 | \$645.90 |
| Building Dept. | | | | |
| Arthur Mullen | \$48,812.22 | _____ | \$13,967.48 | \$62,779.70 |
| Judy Fields | \$71,790.48 | _____ | \$36,493.15 | \$108,283.63 |
| Brenda Kurtz | \$45,642.01 | _____ | \$32,184.23 | \$77,826.24 |
| Tina Grishaber | \$45,100.03 | _____ | \$17,756.19 | \$62,856.22 |
| David Schuler* | \$45,259.04 | _____ | \$29,863.53 | \$75,122.57 |
| Terry Carroll | \$33,858.26 | _____ | \$19,668.17 | \$53,526.43 |
| Cable Dept. | | | | |
| Alwena McCracken | \$36,545.35 | _____ | \$8,104.97 | \$44,650.32 |
| Erik Beehler | \$653.52 | _____ | \$50.02 | \$703.54 |
| Eliza Chase | \$3,390.00 | _____ | \$259.37 | \$3,649.37 |
| Clerk Dept. | | | | |
| Kathleen Cline | \$70,982.75 | \$4,223.05 | \$34,998.25 | \$105,981.00 |
| Vernon Morse | \$64,574.23 | \$4,223.05 | \$28,478.85 | \$93,053.08 |
| Carol Towles | \$52,761.67 | _____ | \$6,651.74 | \$59,413.41 |
| Community Svs. | | | | |
| Jennifer Price | \$44,883.59 | _____ | \$29,952.36 | \$74,835.95 |
| Christina Harman | \$47,152.71 | _____ | \$27,818.88 | \$74,971.59 |
| DDA Director | | | | |
| Susan Ireland | \$74,179.24 | _____ | \$23,547.30 | \$97,726.54 |
| Election Dept. | | | | |
| Joanne Montgomery | \$47,288.80 | _____ | \$9,723.38 | \$57,012.18 |
| IT Dept. | | | | |
| Steve Rankin | \$68,277.00 | \$1,981.84 | \$22,257.53 | \$90,534.53 |
| Maintenance Dept. | | | | |
| Jeffery Fondaw | \$61,148.00 | _____ | \$32,378.38 | \$93,526.38 |
| Kirk Jenkins | \$53,223.40 | _____ | \$35,713.19 | \$88,936.59 |
| Gerald Taylor | \$30,361.35 | _____ | \$24,481.35 | \$54,842.70 |
| Patty Miller | \$29,678.25 | _____ | | |
| Museum Director | | | | |
| Kathryn Dallos | \$37,055.50 | _____ | \$13,570.31 | \$50,625.81 |
| Parks | | | | |
| Ryan Drotar | \$48,487.20 | _____ | \$19,313.77 | \$67,800.97 |
| David Ruff | \$10,692.50 | _____ | \$716.83 | \$11,409.33 |
| Freddie Campbell | \$10,060.43 | _____ | \$769.64 | \$10,830.07 |
| Tyler Wall | \$7,072.00 | _____ | \$541.02 | \$7,613.02 |
| Chelsea Russell | \$6,956.00 | _____ | \$532.09 | \$7,488.09 |

(continued on page 8)

OPINIONS

Editorial

'It's so cold the dogs are sticking to the sidewalks'

"It's so cold the dogs are sticking to the sidewalks."

That was a line from Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Skin of Our Teeth" presented by the students at Belleville High School in 1958. That line is hard to forget. And, now, it has come close to reality.

When driving into downtown Belleville at 9:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, Main Street was empty. Some drivers said it looked like a ghost town. Too cold.

The schools were closed again on Monday and Tuesday and maybe Wednesday (it was past our deadline to find out about Wednesday). No school buses rolling or teachers driving into classes. No students trudging to school. Too cold.

It appears the school district is past the six snow days on the schedule, so now it either has to be longer school days or more school days added.

The township halls were closed on Tuesday, but City Hall remained open. City Hall is always open, even if there are just a few workers on the job.

And, the dogs are sticking to the sidewalks — almost. They sure don't stay out long. Too cold.

Isn't it sad that we all are bundled up and hunkered down waiting for Groundhog Day on Feb. 2 to give us hope that spring could actually be coming?

About seven weeks of winter left on the calendar. Hang in there, everyone.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

VBT Officer Fred Yono came to see me last Thursday afternoon after our paper was on the streets with my comments about his retirement. He will finish off his 35-year career with VBT PD tomorrow, Jan. 31.

He told me he will then be working part time for Huron Township, working traffic. I had said I heard he was going to be a reserve. No. He'll be working as a paid officer and we'll probably see him over at 34th District Court in the future in a Huron uniform tending to traffic tickets.

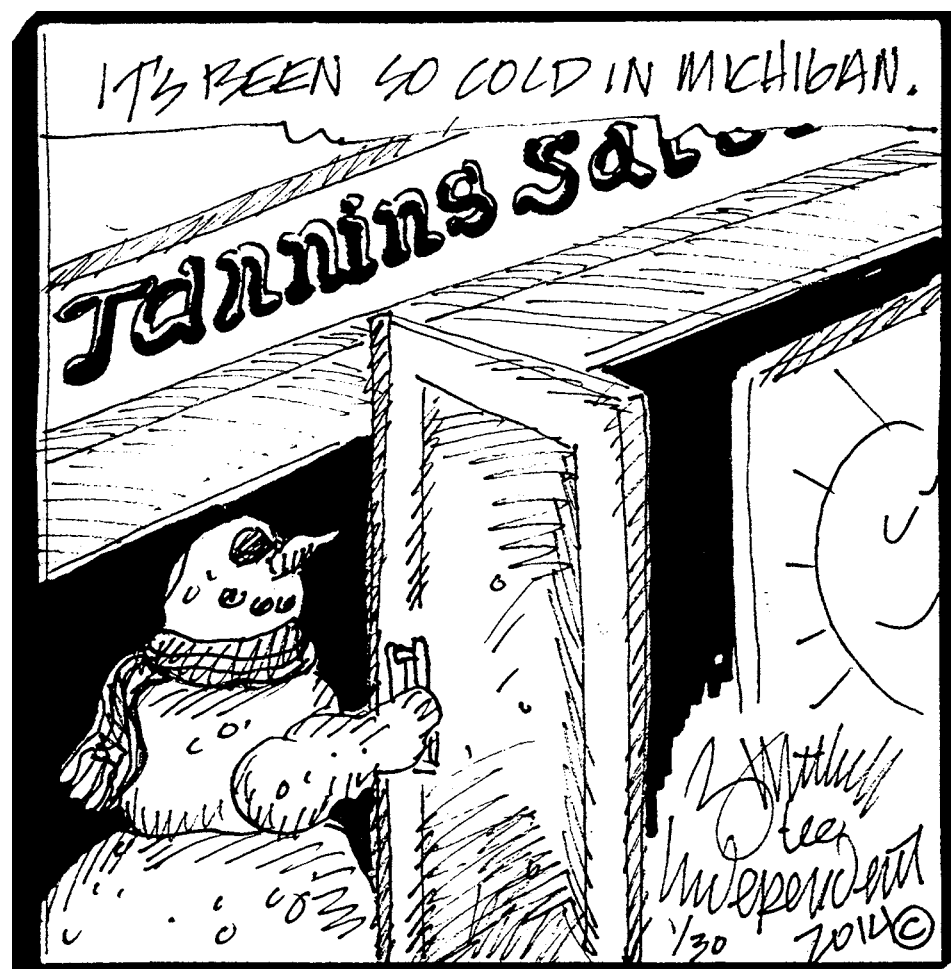
Fred said he is expected to be officially hired at a February meeting of the Huron Township Board of Trustees.

He said someone from the Huron PD came to him to ask about the rumor that he was retiring. Fred responded that he was retiring and Huron PD asked him to come work for them, about three days a week.

I will say in the last eight years since Fred put together VBT's traffic unit, we have heard nothing but compliments about Officer Yono's method of handling a traffic stop. Polite, professional, quick. He said he believes he wrote 200 tickets a month. I believe it.

Sorry to see him go. Huron will benefit big-time. Lt. Ernie Thornsby is leaving tomorrow, too. He's a longtime good officer, as well. And, they tell me, Lt. Dennis Brooks is retiring in September.

I received the following email about the district library story in last week's paper: "It infuriates me that \$65,000 has been spent SO FAR on a new library building project and \$40,640 approved for architectural services! Wouldn't it make more sense to spend whatever it takes to immediately



repair our EXISTING library's roof since leaks have swamped the offices and caused ceilings to fall in? We need to appreciate and be responsible for what we already have. Guess whose millage vote has been decided?"

A few weeks ago, I was delighted to see that the sidewalk along the east side of Belleville Road, just north of the bridge, had been cleared of snow and people were walking into town on the cleared sidewalk. That sidewalk usually is not cleared in the winter.

Later, I saw a Wayne County grader scraping Belleville Road and throwing all the salty slush onto the sidewalk, making it impassable again.

I'm sure that problem will be worked out before any library with planned wider sidewalks along the roadway is built there. There's a space problem, so they really can't use up any of the proposed parking spaces to push the sidewalk farther into the site. Time will tell.

On Monday, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees meeting for Tuesday was cancelled because there was only one item on the agenda and it could wait until a February meeting. Then, later in the day it was announced the township hall would be closed entirely on Tuesday because of the forecast severe cold weather.

Van Buren Township also closed its

township hall on Tuesday because of the really frigid weather that was forecast: Below-zero temperatures and windchills of -30 degrees or so.

The Belleville City Hall, however, was open and functioning on Tuesday. Belleville City Hall also was open the last time VBT and Sumpter closed their offices for the weather. Tough in the city.

Van Buren Township has set an all-day work/study session for Saturday, Feb. 8, to begin at 8:30 a.m. The single topic for discussion is "Strategic Planning" and it's going to be facilitated by representatives from SEMCOG (Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments).

This should be interesting. What have they got in mind? A police chief from outside? A millage proposal? Hmm.

It's open to the public except for the closed door session on the agenda at the end.

Al Ostrowski of Van Buren Township has been pretty busy with his animal control business. Al says raccoons give birth in January and that is why so many are trying to get into houses and other warm places these days, to make it comfortable for the little family. He recently retrieved a sleeping raccoon from a kitchen counter in a house along Belleville Road.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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

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Office Manager: Jackie Garner

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**Letters****Sorry we held up traffic
to help fallen person**

To the Editor:

It happened on Jan. 14, 2014. I want to apologize to the person that was beeping their horn when a citizen was lying on the ground near the intersection of Owen and Sumpter.

We did not mean to slow/stop traffic on your road. Next time, flash your lights so we can clear a pathway and just let you go. I understand the urgency of your life instead of your fellow man, but, hey, we didn't know you were there. You know how emergency personnel get caught up in what they do. And, how dare the citizens who stopped, helping by using their coats to cover up the man to keep him warm.

I want to tell the citizens who did stop and help: Great job. Owen school personnel came the distance with medical equipment to help. The concern of their fellow man was outstanding. I am glad to still see the concern from citizens of the community to stop and help and these same people would help the horn-beeper if they needed it.

The school district should be proud that the employees were able to react on an emergency of this kind so quickly.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor

**I'm tired of all the
property damage**

To Whom It Concerns:

I have just about had all I can take. In the last 20 years living at this address I have had my mail box, split rail fence, and property destroyed by just plain being hit by a baseball bat or a vehicle running everything over (6+ times). As of now, it has cost me about \$500+.

But what bugs me the most is only one person had the courtesy to STOP and say they were SORRY and that was when we first moved here.

I know you know what you did was wrong, but WHY DID YOU NOT STOP AND AT LEAST SAY THAT YOU ARE SORRY?

As of now (if you don't stop and admit to what happens) we will be taking license numbers down and calling the police.

Either you learn how to drive and respect others' property or we will do all that the law will let us do to prosecute. So, please, be courteous and stop and admit to what you did and then we will see what we can work out.

I can be reasonable. Just don't push the buttons by not admitting to the damage.

Van Buren Township resident

**Why no support groups
for bipolar disorder?**

To the Editor:

Never give up. Nowhere to go.

Why no support groups? I have been sober many years. In Alcoholics Anonymous a lot of churches have support groups.

I see on TV and here people talk about bipolar, so common nowadays. My marriage broke up because I have bipolar. We need support groups where people can share their experience, strength and hope.

This doesn't have to happen. It would let people know they are not alone and this disorder can be kept under control.

Charlie Crispell
Sumpter Township

"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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— Albert Einstein

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--Leonardo Da Vinci



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Fire engulfs truck next to home on Bak Road in Van Buren Township

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

When Van Buren Township South Duty Crew fire fighters David Schuler, Elizabeth McCormick and Bruce VanGemert responded to a fire call at 16150 Bak Road just after 6 p.m. on Jan. 16 they found a truck in the yard engulfed in flames.

And, there were multiple explosions.

Fire fighters said they had seen the flames shooting up in the air from the fire hall at Sumpter and Hull roads.

They extinguished the truck fire. There was no damage to the home.

Van Buren Township Fire Chief Dan Besson said the fire appears to have started with a short in an extension cord leading to a battery charger.

Chief Besson said three members of the South Duty Crew arrived, instead of the usual two, with Engine 1 because the call came at shift change.

Engine 4, carrying the North Duty Crew, was also on the way to the fire, but was cancelled enroute by the South Duty Crew, Besson said.

Responding with Engine 4 were: Captain Ken Floro, Firefighter Mike Moening, and Probationary Fire Fighter Keeton doing in-service training.

The fire was called in to dispatch at 5:59 p.m. The South Duty Crew was enroute at 6:02 p.m. and arrived on the scene at 6:05. Firefighters cleared the scene at 7:05 p.m.

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Obituaries



Steve J. Veres, Jr.

STEVE J. VERES, JR.

(April 13, 1962 – December 31, 2013)

Steve J. Veres Jr., 51, of Traverse City, formerly of Belleville, passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 31, 2013. Steve was born on April 13, 1962, in Lincoln Park to Steve and Eva (Varga) Veres.

He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University and was employed by Ford Motor Company until retiring in 2010.

Since his mom passed away three years ago he grew his hair longer. He did this as a tribute to her so he would never forget that she had lost her hair due to cancer before her passing.

After his mom passed away Steve moved to Traverse City to help take care of his dad and to keep his dad company. Steve's unexpected passing has left his family with inconsolable grief.

Steve is survived by his father Steve Veres Sr., sister Eva (Tom) Pointe, an aunt, Marta Mohacsi, and a cousin Steve Harkabusz.

A memorial service was held Jan. 8, 2014, at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St., Traverse City. Those planning an expression of sympathy may consider memorials to Holy Cross Hungarian Roman Catholic Church, 8423 South St., Detroit, MI 48209; or St. Francis Catholic Church, 1025 S. Union St., Traverse City, MI 49684.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Steve's family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

Keystone Academy resets info meeting for Kindergarten/Young 5's

Keystone Academy has rescheduled its Kindergarten/Young 5's information meeting to 5:30-7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, due to the school being closed by bad weather on Jan. 27.

Also, the Keystone Open House is set from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4.



Rodney A. Chamberlain

RODNEY ALLAN CHAMBERLAIN

(February 14, 1956 - January 21, 2014)

Rodney Allan Chamberlain, age 57, a life-long Belleville-area resident, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at his home. He was born on February 14, 1956, in Kentucky, son of Allen C. & Edna L. (Hensley) Chamberlain.

He is survived by 3 children, Robert (Kiley) Chamberlain, Andrea (Andrew) Chamberlain, and Jeffrey (Nina) Chamberlain; 3 grandchildren, Lucas, Allan & Aidan; brother Larry; his parents, and his best friend and companion "Cookie" Lillis.

Rod loved spending time with his friends and family and he especially loved playing with his grandsons and watching them grow. They brought much joy to him and will miss him dearly.

Many friends and family gathered for visitation and a memorial service on Sunday, January 26 at David C. Brown Viewing Chapel with Deacon Peter Cornell officiating. A private burial was held Monday at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville. Memorial contributions may be made to David C. Brown Funeral Home to help defray the funeral expense and would be greatly appreciated by his sons and daughter and their families.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Jan. 30** – The African American Book Group meets at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library to discuss "Dopefiend" by Donald Goines.

• **Friday, Jan. 31** – There's a Potato Pancake Supper from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 28320 Waltz Rd., New Boston. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12, children 5 and under free. Carry-out dinners available after 5:30 p.m.

• **Friday, Jan. 31** – Friends Family Theater Free Movie, 7 p.m., with Bounce House, in Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis, Ypsilanti. Featuring Olympic cartoon and "Grace Unplugged." All movies tentative. Confirm or questions: (734) 482-5074. Previews at: www.friendsfamilytheater.com.

• **Saturday, Feb. 1** – Lots of bargains await you at the Love to Read Used Book Sale at the Belleville Area District Library. The sale starts at 11 a.m. for Friends of the Library and runs from noon to 3 p.m. for the general public.

• **Sunday, Feb. 2** – Bugles Across America is held at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street in Belleville to honor military people serving and at rest with a brief ceremony.

• **Thursday, Feb. 6** – Join the Evening Book Group at the Belleville Area District Library at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Roots of the Olive Tree" by Courtney Miller Santo.

Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, Feb. 3 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 4 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Feb. 5 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m.

• Saturday, Feb. 8 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees special work/study session, 8:30 a.m., Denton Room at township hall, to discuss strategic planning.

• Monday, Feb. 10 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Belleville High School Commons.

• Tuesday, Feb. 11 – Van Buren Township September Days Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA), 2 p.m. Also, VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Feb. 12 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Thursday, Feb. 13 – Keystone Academy Board of Directors, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m. Possible Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

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6th Annual Report to Taxpayers

(continued from page 3)

Van Buren Township Employees Wages & Actual Cost to Township 1/1/13 - 12/31/13

| | Wages | Longevity | Benefits | Total Compensation |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|
| Parks (continued) | | | | |
| Brittany Miller | \$754.89 | _____ | \$57.74 | \$812.63 |
| Kathleen Blackstone | \$2,388.39 | _____ | \$182.72 | \$2,571.11 |
| Earvin Nicholson III | \$4,098.00 | _____ | \$304.50 | \$4,402.50 |
| Judith Andrews | \$2,238.00 | _____ | \$171.17 | \$2,409.17 |
| Kayla Priebe | \$2,014.00 | _____ | \$154.00 | \$2,168.00 |
| Recreation Dept. | | | | |
| Jennifer Wright | \$58,897.38 | _____ | \$32,691.62 | \$91,589.00 |
| Jennifer Zaenglein | \$39,655.22 | _____ | \$8,228.20 | \$47,883.42 |
| Melissa Blackstone | \$9,320.00 | _____ | \$713.00 | \$10,033.00 |
| Caitlin Jones | \$49.50 | _____ | \$3.79 | \$53.29 |
| Alexandra Stamper | \$3,372.00 | _____ | \$257.96 | \$3,629.96 |
| Scott Fleming | \$9,976.00 | _____ | \$763.17 | \$10,739.17 |
| Karli Zantop | \$2,446.00 | _____ | \$187.12 | \$2,633.12 |
| Stephanie Ralls | \$2,364.00 | _____ | \$180.85 | \$2,544.85 |
| Kristen Price | \$3,692.44 | _____ | \$282.47 | \$3,974.91 |
| Nicole Gehly | \$3,715.26 | _____ | \$284.21 | \$3,999.47 |
| Leondre Wright | \$2,222.00 | _____ | \$169.98 | \$2,391.98 |
| Devine Loving | \$2,398.00 | _____ | \$183.46 | \$2,581.46 |
| Tiffani Patterson | \$2,896.00 | _____ | \$221.56 | \$3,117.56 |
| Ryan O'Neill | \$7,646.00 | _____ | \$584.98 | \$8,230.98 |
| Senior Center | | | | |
| Lynette Jordan | \$48,804.88 | _____ | \$30,202.85 | \$79,007.73 |
| Patricia McBride | \$22,417.50 | _____ | \$1,715.04 | \$24,132.54 |
| Treana Callahan | \$10,100.16 | _____ | \$772.70 | \$10,872.86 |
| Lawrence Gallo | \$2,602.50 | _____ | \$199.14 | \$2,801.64 |
| Beverly Porter | \$6,752.50 | _____ | \$516.63 | \$7,269.13 |
| Janine Alexander | \$2,992.50 | _____ | \$229.00 | \$3,221.50 |
| Henry Johnson | \$9,445.00 | _____ | \$722.62 | \$10,167.62 |
| Dawn Wilson | \$5,712.50 | _____ | \$437.07 | \$6,149.57 |
| David Callihan | \$520.00 | _____ | \$39.79 | \$559.79 |
| Supervisor's Office | | | | |
| Karin LaMothe | 58,215.92 | _____ | \$32,566.98 | \$90,782.90 |
| Cynthia Belanger | \$18,525.00 | _____ | \$1,417.17 | \$19,942.17 |
| Treasurer's Dept. | | | | |
| Sean Bellingham | \$74,790.00 | _____ | \$35,621.00 | \$110,411.00 |
| Donna Hunter | \$6,575.17 | _____ | \$824.17 | \$7,399.34 |
| Kathy Adams | \$29,771.89 | _____ | \$21,424.63 | \$51,196.52 |
| Water Department | | | | |
| James Taylor | \$63,401.26 | _____ | \$13,183.47 | \$76,584.73 |
| Mario Pinard | \$74,027.15 | _____ | \$42,089.70 | \$116,116.85 |
| Joseph Strickland | \$63,949.85 | _____ | \$29,472.94 | \$93,422.79 |
| Bradley Hine | \$59,568.88 | _____ | \$31,624.88 | \$91,193.76 |
| Noah Caincross | \$69,033.72 | _____ | \$20,766.75 | \$89,800.47 |
| Jeffery Osborne | \$49,925.68 | _____ | \$35,456.16 | \$85,381.84 |
| Jason Valinski | \$68,071.71 | _____ | \$19,502.46 | \$87,574.17 |
| Laurie McIntosh | \$44,904.44 | _____ | \$34,373.79 | \$79,278.23 |
| Kristy Bovitz | \$44,904.45 | _____ | \$30,209.55 | \$75,114.00 |
| Karen Smith | \$47,081.76 | _____ | \$30,060.92 | \$77,142.68 |
| Charles Esch | \$52,979.91 | _____ | \$17,930.71 | \$70,910.62 |
| William Turner | \$22,528.70 | _____ | \$8,480.35 | \$31,009.05 |
| Thomas MacDonald | \$32,170.68 | _____ | \$5,156.96 | \$37,327.64 |

Benefits include employer FICA, Medicare, Health Care, Vision Life Insurance and in some instances Longevity and Pay in Lieu of Health Care

| Retiree Costs | Health Care | Life Insurance | Total |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| K. Brooks | \$8,291.61 | | \$8,291.61 |
| Carroll | \$1,101.88 | | \$1,101.88 |
| Guenther | \$19,124.73 | | \$19,124.73 |
| Noye | \$11,890.59 | | \$11,890.59 |
| Schroeder | \$6,607.86 | | \$6,607.86 |
| Sears | \$6,607.86 | | \$6,607.86 |
| Smith | \$8,291.61 | | \$8,291.61 |
| Foster | \$15,599.24 | \$36.00 | \$15,635.24 |
| Greene | \$31,880.44 | | \$31,880.44 |
| Gutowski | \$7,799.60 | \$18.00 | \$7,817.60 |
| Hodge | \$10,331.17 | | \$10,331.17 |
| Hunter | \$5,945.34 | | \$5,945.34 |
| Kauppila | \$20,662.43 | | \$20,662.43 |
| Kennedy | \$20,769.29 | | \$20,769.29 |
| Miller | \$22,919.99 | | \$22,919.99 |
| Mussehl | \$2,784.44 | \$18.00 | \$2,802.44 |
| Partridge | \$20,769.29 | | \$20,769.29 |
| Smyth | \$2,190.39 | | \$2,190.39 |
| Soja | \$7,799.66 | \$18.00 | \$7,817.66 |
| Springer | \$1,369.22 | | \$1,369.22 |
| Szuma | \$20,662.43 | | \$20,662.43 |
| Wilson | \$8,653.94 | \$36.00 | \$8,689.94 |

| Pay in Lieu of Health Care | Longevity | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Phillip Hart | \$2,200.00 | Leon Wright \$1,483.69 |
| Alwena McCracken | \$2,400.00 | Sharry Budd \$6,475.04 |
| Joanne Montgomery | \$2,400.00 | Phil Hart \$2,239.58 |
| Carl McClanahan | \$200.00 | Jeff Jahr \$1,739.55 |
| Jeffery Gueli | \$2,400.00 | Linda Stevens \$4,980.82 |
| Terri Brooks | \$2,400.00 | Kathy Cline \$4,223.05 |
| Carol Towles | \$2,400.00 | Vern Morse \$4,223.05 |
| Patty Miller | \$2,200.00 | Steve Rankin \$1,981.84 |
| Georgia Baker | \$400.00 | Jennifer Wright \$3,226.98 |
| Thomas MacDonald | \$800.00 | Lynette Jordan \$2,230.92 |
| Total | \$68,580.82 | Sean Bellingham \$2,977.90 |
| | | Pam Fleming \$4,980.82 |
| | | Kenneth Dandy \$1,981.84 |
| | | Total \$42,745.08 |

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All the hard work to compile and present the information from Van Buren Township was done by Diane Madigan.

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Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

"MABLE"



Marvelous **Mable** is a true once in a blue moon kitty! She's a pretty and petite lap loving girl with a great people friendly personality. **Mable** really loves her people time and eagerly soaks up any attention she can get making her a purr-fect fit for someone seeking a loving furry companion. However, her friendly attitude does not extend to other cats so a multi-cat household is not a great idea for this kitty girl. Her beautiful shiny black coat and emerald green eyes will add a lovely touch to your household and her smaller size will be a welcomed treat as she snuggles on your lap. **Mable** also appears to be a big fan of our "bird" TV outside the cat haven windows and requests nice big windows hopefully with bird feeders for her continued entertainment in her fur-ever home. Call today to meet **Mable**; she'll be thrilled to get away from the other cats by going home with you and is sure to shower you with lots of thankful affection. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped.

734-461-9458

Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



The **Huron Soccer Association** of New Boston is holding open registration through the month of February for its 2014 Spring Season. The association has leagues for all boys and girls, ages 5 to 19 years old. For info and to register online, go to www.huronsoccer.com.

Jayco Comfort Systems in nearby Taylor serves the downriver area as well as all of Western Wayne County in the Belleville tri-community. It has more than 33 years of experience with professional service and installation of Trane heating and cooling systems and other brands. Jayco brings an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau and offers free estimates and 180 days same as cash. Jayco also provides discounts to military, teachers, and city, state and county employees. Call

Jay at (734) 381 2800.

The **Yankee Air Museum Historic Presentation Night** welcomes **Lt. Col Joe Rutkowski, USAF (ret)** Flying the A-1 Warthog in the Gulf War. He will discuss his experiences as a pilot at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 inside the General Purpose Room in the YAF Museum at Willow Run Airport. The event is free and open to the public. Call (734) 483 4030.

AI's Wildlife Removal Service can safely remove all unwanted animals from your home, commercial business or property. Call (734) 262-3675.

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

Birthdays

Jan. 2 – Dave Simon
Jan. 5 – Chris Kennedy
Jan. 6 – Gary C. Corbin
Jan. 12 – Stormie Clark
Jan. 14 – Tiffany Barnes
Jan. 20 – Hope Williams
Jan. 24 – Peggy Simon
Jan. 28 – Pastor Jim Lockard
Jan. 31 – Teresa Holly

Do you have a birthday in February? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

Sierra Loomis on fall President's List at Pratt

Sierra Loomis, a Belleville resident and student at the Pratt Institute in New York City, was among more than 1,000 students who made the President's List in the fall 2013 semester.

Founded in 1887, Pratt Institute is a dedicated to preparing its 4,700 undergraduate and graduate students for careers in art, design, architecture, information and library science, and liberal arts and sciences.

MISSION

Join us

Lutheran Hour Ministries
School of witnessing presents ...

Equipping to share: Everyday Evangelism

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
19109 Craig St.
New Boston, MI

Saturday, February 22, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Register by calling: 734-753-9048 or by
email: churchoffice@stpaulsnewboston.org

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.
There is no cost for admission, but any donation will be put towards the cost of the program.

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\$5.99
No Coupon Needed!

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ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH \$8.99

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Every Tuesday

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- Sliders, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- 1/2lb California Burger, Fries & Pop \$7.99
- 1/2lb Ultimate Cheese Burger, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
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- California Chicken Burger, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Turkey Burger, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
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Monday - Friday Breakfast Specials
6am - 11am
Starting at only \$1.99
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FISH & CHIPS EVERY FRIDAY

Every Wednesday & Friday

- All You Can Eat Fish -- \$8.99
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- 21 Shrimp Basket, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Tuna Wrap, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Tuna Melt, Fries & Pop -- \$7.99
- Lake Perch, Fries & Pop 2pc -- \$6.99
- Lake Perch, Fries & Pop 3pc -- \$7.99
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Investment Properties

PENDING!

454 BREAKWATER, BELLEVILLE

MILES OF STYLE - EVERYWHERE in this updated 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home. Featuring first floor master suite with whirlpool tub, hardwood floors and upgrades everywhere, fireplace in open great room plus open kitchen and partially finished basement. Fenced back yard with patio and inground pool. 2 1/2 car attached garage and next to a dedicated natural park. Priced to sell at \$179,900.

GREAT LIVING!

15685 BROOKSIDE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

CHARM YOU CAN LIVE IN! Stunning colonial in a best neighborhood featuring a kitchen with a breakfast area, 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 bathrooms, large unfinished basement, central air and more. Large family room and the large master bedroom has separate tub and shower. Private yard backs up to woods. A true reflection of good taste! \$225,000.

2 POLE BARN!

9502 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

LOTS TO LOVE! 5+ acre brick ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, finished basement with large living room and bar. Paved street and 2 huge pole barns. Possible re-zoning to commercial use. It's clean and neat with new carpet and fresh paint. This one shows great! Priced at \$239,500

POLE BARN!

47530 HARRIS, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

COUNTRY CHARM! Nature's palette of colors enhances this inviting 3 bedroom country ranch featuring open kitchen-dining area, 2 bathrooms, large 2-1/2 car attached garage plus pole barn and storage building. About an acre of fine country living and impressive curb appeal. Make this the one for you! NOW \$161,900.

BELLEVILLE LAKE

44407 HARMONY, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

LIVE THE RICH AND FAMOUS LIFE ON BELLEVILLE LAKE! New Listing! Open floor plan with impressive views. Anderson doorwalls to patio and deck. Huge rooms, new kitchen, 2 fireplaces, new baths, large basement and more. Landscaped, boat dock & wooded yard. This home is fresh and updated. Sale at \$500,000 Lease at \$2,500.mo with acceptable credit score of at least 650, employment and rental history.

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PENDING!

394 HARBOUR POINTE, BELLEVILLE

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Special Events 2014

Valentines' Day Celebration!

Friday February 14th 2014

Sweet Heart Special!

Buy 1 admission get 1 free!

7:00pm - 11:00pm

Admission \$7.00 Skate Rental \$3.00

Saturday February 22nd 2014

Late Skate Night

7:00PM - 1:00AM

Admission \$12.00

includes 1 Slice of Pizza + 1 Beverage and Skate Rentals

Free Admission Tokens NOT valid for this event!

New Activity Night!

Friday February 28th 2014

7:00pm - 11:00pm

On Skates - New Activities every 30 Minutes!

Games and Prizes! Admission \$7.00 Skate Rentals \$3.00



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State Rep. Dian Slavens to run for State Senate in this fall's election

State Representative Dian Slavens, D — Canton Township, has announced that she will be filing her candidacy for the 7th District seat of the Michigan State Senate in 2014.

She plans to run against Republican incumbent 7th District Senator Patrick Colbeck.

Slavens is serving her third term as State Representative for the 21st House District, which includes the city of Belleville and Canton



Slavens

and Van Buren townships, and cannot run for re-election to that seat because of term limits.

Before joining the House in 2009, Slavens worked as a respiratory therapist for more than 20 years in Southeast Michigan hospitals — first at William Beaumont Hospital and later at Henry Ford Hospital.

Rep. Slavens was joined at her announcement by Canton Township Trustee Steven Sneiderman, Plymouth Canton School Board Vice President Judy Mardigian, and Van Buren School Board Vice President Martha Toth.

Slavens is a long-time active community member, volunteering at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, as a Sunday School teacher at Geneva Presbyterian Church

in Canton Township and as a Girl Scout leader for the Huron Valley Council. Dian and her husband Mark Slavens, a Wayne County Circuit Court judge, have three children, Damey, Patrick and Molly, and one grandson, Evan.

“Michigan’s public schools have taken a drastic hit in recent years under the leadership of the Republican administration in Lansing,” said Van Buren School Board Vice President Martha Toth. “I support Dian Slavens in her run for the Michigan Senate because I know that she will continue the fight for investment in public education in our state.”

The 7th District Senate area includes the City of Belleville and Van Buren and Sumpter townships.

Richter, Hutchison named to Hope College Dean's List

Leah Richter and Alexandria Hutchison, both of Belleville, were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2013-14 school year at Hope College in Holland, MI.

Hope College is a four-year, co-educational, liberal arts college with an enrollment of 3,388 men and women and is affiliated with the Reformed Church in America.

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Kevin McNamara announces for Wayne County Executive

On Thursday, Wayne County Commissioner Kevin M. McNamara, D-Belleville, announced his candidacy for Wayne County Executive in front of a crowd of elected officials, members of labor, business leaders, community leaders, and county residents.

And, McNamara's son Cullan read an endorsement by former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm: "Kevin McNamara has Wayne County in his very DNA. But more importantly, Kevin has a gut for real people, and knows that the best government is one that fights for their needs. That, too, is in Kevin's DNA. He's a decent and honest man, a compassionate soul and a champion for the little guy – a tremendous blend of qualities for the next Wayne County Executive."



McNamara

Present County Executive Robert Ficano has yet to announce whether he is running for reelection. Also recently announcing as a candidate for County Executive was William Wild, mayor of Westland. State Rep. Phil Cavanagh, D-Redford Township, also is a possible candidate.

The primary election is Aug. 5.

"The possibilities for our county are greater than our challenges," said McNamara in a news release on Friday. "Wayne County residents are seeking real, sustainable change. As commissioner, I have been courageous enough to take a hit when I stood up for what I believed was best for our county. However, I cannot instill real change as a commissioner and that is why I seek to become the county executive."

The announcement was held in Taylor at Wayne County Community College District Downriver Campus. The site was chosen due to its location within the county. The guests were welcomed by Taylor City Council Chairwoman Pro-Tem Angela Croft.

McNamara began to outline his vision for Wayne County during his announcement, according to the news release.

"Our three priorities will be to balance the budget; create an environment of innovation and transformation in county

government in order to affect change; and ensure transparency.

"I plan to form a task force that represents communities across this county so that they have a voice in reinventing Wayne County. Together, we will prioritize services and I project significant cost savings during that process."

McNamara is son of the late Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara who served from 1987 to 2002. Edward McNamara is probably best known for overseeing the \$1.6 billion expansion of Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, including two new runways and the new Edward H. McNamara Terminal.

"There needs to be a reinvention of county government like there was in the 1960s and 1980s," said McNamara. "Together, we can reinvent Wayne County government through a new model that will be strong for at least the next 20 years."

The news release said a campaign website will be launched at www.mcnamarawayne.com.

The campaign headquarters, which will be open for limited hours, is at 34900 Plymouth Road, Second Floor, Livonia. You may call the office at 734-744-8091. Satellite offices will be announced at a later date.

As county commissioner, McNamara currently serves the communities of Belleville, Huron Township, Romulus, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township, Wayne and a southern portion of Westland. He has been on the commission since 2006.

Public Notice

Public Notice – Moose Lodge

Notice is hereby given that Belleville Lodge No. 934, Loyal Order of Moose, Incorporated, located at 45476 Harris Road, Belleville, MI 48111, has applied to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for a club license to sell beer, wine, spirits and mixed spirit drink to bona fide club members only.

Published: January 30, 2014

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Handyman Homes starting at \$1.
Rental homes available
Ask about our specials
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AUCTION

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Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014 at 9 a.m.
WALTZ GARAGE & TOWING
28111 Waltz Road

New Boston, MI 48164

1-734-654-6226; fax 1-734-654-3780

| Year | Make | VIN |
|------|------------|-------------------|
| 1994 | Ford | 1FTCR14X5RPA77015 |
| 1993 | Lincoln | 1LNLM83W6PY636820 |
| 1993 | Honda | 1HGEJ1264PL046581 |
| 1995 | Oldsmobile | 1G3WH52M3SD335927 |

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.

Publish: January 30, 2014

"Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising."

Mark Twain

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"The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creature that cannot."

– Mark Twain



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Cash Paid!
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Paid. Call For Free
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 You've won a dozen free roses. Pick
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 the great ones to public office."
 - Aesop

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is
 subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it
 illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation
 or discrimination based on race, color, religion,
 sex, handicap, familial status or national origin,
 or an intention, to make any such preference,
 limitation or discrimination." Familial status
 includes children under the age of 18 living with
 parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and
 people securing custody of children under 18.

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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Caring, mature, enthusi-
astic people needed to
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have disabilities. Part
time call-ins could lead
to full time. Will train the
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start with paid for
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"Reality leaves a lot to the imagination."
 - John Lennon

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\$8.25 total per hr. plus good benefits.
Call (734) 699-3808 or (734) 699-6543
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Read The Newspaper
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HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Jan. 19:
0204 – assault & battery, Laguna Dr.
0217 – overdose, W. Huron River Dr.
0251 – juvenile complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
0325 – juvenile complaint, DNR Huron River
0811 – malicious destruction of property, Greenbriar Dr.
1356 – water leak found, Greenwood Ct.
1413 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Haggerty Rd.

1448 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1532 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1600 – private property accident, N. Bellridge Dr.
1610 – agency assist, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis Rd.
1849 – fight, Quirk Rd.
2121 – harassment call, Maple Rd.
2159 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Dalton

Monday, Jan. 20:
0905 – private property accident, Colony Ln.
0909 – agency assist, WB I-94/Haggerty
1144 – suspicious person, Hamlin St./Kennedy Ct.
1242 – private property accident, Haggerty
1915 – suspicious situation, Peachtree
2125 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Haggerty

Tuesday, Jan. 21:
0810 – missing person, Bayshore Dr.
0945 – noise complaint, Endicott St.
1222 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr.

1608 – breaking & entering, Van Born
1616 – malicious destruction of property, E. Archwood Dr.
1721 – malicious destruction of property, Maple Dr.

1756 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1812 – assault & battery, La Pita
1906 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2152 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, Jan. 22:
0519 – suspicious situation, Bayshore Dr.
0529 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Country Ln.

0635 – suspicious person, Harmony Ln.
0818 – malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.

0946 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
1042 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. Bellridge Dr.

1204 – fraud, Lake Crest Dr.
1219 – fraud, Borgman Ave.
1505 – juvenile complaint, S. Timberview Dr.
1507 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.

1535 – private property accident, Nautica Dr.
1609 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Harmony Ln.
1624 – fraud, E. Sadie Ln.

1626 – property damage accident, Martz Rd./Hoft Rd.
1709 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty Rd.

1757 – suspicious situation, Sumpter Rd.
1808 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Southport

1840 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Ln.
2102 – private property accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2351 – personal injury accident, EB I-94/Belleville
Thursday, Jan. 23:
0615 – personal injury accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville

0706 – water leak found, Lacy Dr.
0709 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville
0744 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.

0949 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, McBride Ave.
1030 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville
10:30 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty

1046 – personal injury accident, EB I-94 / Belleville

1339 – operating while intoxicated, W. Huron River Dr./Hoeft Rd.

1821 – missing person

2206 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Tyler Rd.

2351 – suspicious person, Tyler School

Friday, Jan. 24:
0016 – assault & battery, Locust Dr.
0018 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

0816 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Freedom Way

1650 – assault & battery, Andover Dr.

1832 – larceny, Belleville Rd.

1929 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 25:
0021 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0057 – suspicious person, Martz Rd./Hoeft Rd.
0057 – noise complaint, Westlake

0512 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
1600 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Tyler Rd.

1605 – private property accident, Woodbury
1608 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.

1617 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Haggerty Rd.

1619 – malicious destruction of property, Lake Pointe Pass

1622 – private property accident, Martinsville Rd.

1624 – intimidation threat, Andover Dr.

1625 – malicious destruction of property, Martz

1626 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.

1627 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.

1629 – vehicle lockout, Van Buren Park
1639 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.

1751 – assault & battery, Birch Dr.
2035 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Lake Villa Dr.

2043 – suspicious person, Maple Dr.
2055 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.

2110 – disturbance, Lighthouse Dr.
2327 – suspicious person, W. Huron River Dr.

Also on this week's log are 108 traffic stops, 12 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 19:

0254 – juvenile complaint, Wexford Ave. / E. Huron River Dr.

1644 – larceny, Main St.

Monday, Jan. 20:

1411 – water leak found, W. Columbia Ave.

1428 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.

1445 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

1656 – civil matter, Church St.

1724 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

2144 – suspicious person, South St.

Tuesday, Jan. 21:

1231 – animal complaint, Carmell St.

1240 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.

1557 – trespassing, Henry St./Church St.

1920 – intimidation threat, Carmell St.

1958 – malicious destruction of property, Main St./Fifth St.

2007 – assist fire dept., Fourth St.

2234 – welfare check, Main St.

Wednesday, Jan. 22:

0859 – intrusion alarm, Main St.

0951 – narcotics crime, Owen

1732 – vehicle lockout, N. Liberty St.

1848 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.

1916 – suspicious vehicle, Main St.

Thursday, Jan. 23:

0008 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

0930 – vehicle lockout, Carmell St.

0937 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.

0917 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

1504 – agency assist, Menlo Park Dr.

1551 – information, Goofy

1841 – E-911 cellular, Carmell St.

1910 – suspicious situation, South St.

2101 – vehicle lockout, Lunchbox

Friday, Jan. 24:

0146 – suspicious vehicle, Savage

0705 – property damage accident, E. Huron River

Dr. / N. Biggs Ave.

0708 – P.b.t. alcohol, Main St.

0714 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

0857 – larceny, Greylock St.

0917 – misc. complaint, S. Industrial Park Dr.

1918 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

2108 – family trouble, N. Liberty St.

Saturday, Jan. 25:

0009 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.

0412 – operating while intoxicated, Savage / Martinsville

1609 – assist fire dept., W. Wabash Ave.

1619 – motorist assist, Savage/Liberty

1845 – property damage accident, Main/Liberty

2103 – harassment call, Main St./Fifth St.

Also on this week's log are 26 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 19:

0235 – assault, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

0245 – fire dept. assist, Delaware

1400 – alarm, 46000 bl. Kozma

1418 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1620 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Bemis

1655 – larceny, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.

1859 – civil dispute, Greenmeadow

2109 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Judd

2303 – suspicious incident, Utah

Monday, Jan. 20:

0004 – family trouble, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.

0337 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.

0938 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1158 – lost property report, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

1314 – warrant arrest, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1319 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.

1412 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.

1441 – breaking & entering report, 44000 bl. Wear

1453 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1652 – larceny, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

2151 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 21:

0212 – property damage accident, Willow / Rawsonville

0506 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.

1333 – suspicious incident, Washington

1423 – accidental damage report, 50000 bl. Willis

1443 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1709 – breaking & entering report, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1711 – larceny, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.

2100 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 22:

0922 – property damage accident, 50000 bl. Willis

0947 – breaking & entering report, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1006 – ordinance violation, 21000 bl. Karr Rd.

1049 – fraud report, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1426 – trespassing complaint, New Mexico

1553 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

1616 – property damage accident, 40000 bl. Harris

1723 – child abuse/neglect, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2214 – alarm, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 23:

1230 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1316 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1909 – subpoena service, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.

1909 – subpoena service, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.

1953 – subpoena service, out of township

2236 – property damage accident, Clark/S. Huron

Friday, Jan. 24:

0133 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1057 – alarm, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

1123 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Deborah Ct.

1321 – alarm, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1507 – civil dispute, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1512 – suspicious vehicle, Reed/Fenster

1625 – civil dispute, Country Club Blvd.

1827 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.

1924 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Fenster

1937 – suspicious vehicle, Rawsonville/Bemis

2303 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis

Saturday, Jan. 25:

0235 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.

0916 – alarm, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.

1122 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1401 – citizen assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1434 – subpoena service, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.

1444 – animal complaint, Judd/Karr

1703 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Reed

1719 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1825 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville / Willis

Willis

2127 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week's log are 14 follow-up investigations,

29 miscellaneous details, 91 patrol checks, and eight

traffic stops.

Attempt to thaw pipes on Biggs, turns into fire; man arrested as flasher

On Sunday afternoon, a friend and a neighbor tried to thaw out some frozen pipes with an open-flame device and set the insulation in the wall on fire in a house in the 100 block of South Biggs Street in the City of Belleville.

Police Chief Gene Taylor said the homeowner was away and the friends tried to help her with the house that had the thermostat turned low while she was gone.

Belleville Fire Department extinguished the blaze, which caused some damage to the house.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger said the thawing of pipes should be left to professionals. He said there are special ways to shield the heat so that it doesn't set the wood on fire.

Man moons woman

On Saturday night, a man left Johnny's bar and walked over to the Citgo gas station, at the corner of Fifth and Main, where he allegedly started harassing a woman who was pumping gas. He finally flashed his butt at the woman, according to Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor.

After police were called, the man was arrested at Egan's Pub. Chief Taylor said the alleged mooner was due to be arraigned on charges Jan. 28.

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Michael Leak bound over to circuit court on stolen truck charges

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

After listening to the testimony of three police officers on the details of a truck theft and wild chase, 34th District Court Judge David Parrott bound defendant Michael Leak over to circuit court.

Following Leak's preliminary hearing on Jan. 23, Judge Parrott found there was enough evidence that a felony had been committed and Leak had been involved.

Leak, 49, will be arraigned on the information on Jan. 29 at 3rd Circuit Court at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. He remained in the Wayne County Jail under \$50,000 bond.

Leak's court-appointed attorney is David Lankford.

During the preliminary exam Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Kristen Capling presented the sworn testimony of three police officers to show probable cause.

The first witness called by the prosecution was Van Buren Township Police Officer Scott Griggs. Officer Griggs testified that while on patrol at 4:41 p.m., Jan. 10, he received a phone call with a description

of a stolen vehicle heading northbound on Rawsonville Road.

Griggs said he was nearby driving a fully marked VBT police SUV, and immediately proceeded to the area. He said he spotted the suspect stolen vehicle, a white F-350 dually, proceeding north on Rawsonville. Griggs said he followed directly behind it with his lights and siren on. He said the vehicle made a U-turn just past the I-94 entrance ramp.

He pursued the truck, which went southbound through traffic lights with speeds up to 80 mph. Griggs said the truck collided with a U-Haul truck and ran several other vehicles off the road.

Griggs said his sergeant terminated the chase at the VBT border. Griggs said he made a U-turn at Bemis Road, going back to look for the damaged U-Haul.

Under cross examination by Leak's attorney Lankford, Griggs said he was alone in the patrol car and identified the truck by description and license plate.

The next witness called by Capling was Sumpter Police Sergeant James Cayce. Sgt. Cayce testified he responded to a dispatch call on a stolen vehicle that had last been seen backing out of the owner's drive at 4:30 p.m. in the 11000 block of Rawsonville Road.

Cayce said the keys had not been in the vehicle and it had not been running (as previously reported).

While on the scene, Cayce said he heard on his police radio that VBT was pursuing the vehicle southbound on Rawsonville Road and the chase had been terminated.

Being six miles south of where the pursuit was stopped, Cayce said he left the scene of the theft, heading north. He said he drove into Augusta Woods trailer park and turned off his overhead lights.

Michigan State Police Trooper Raymond Matthews testified that he had been listening to the be-on-the-lookout police calls while in the area of I-94 and M-23. He said he quickly headed east on I-94.

Along the way, Matthews said he heard VBT had been in pursuit and had terminated. He said he also heard the vehicle had been found by Sumpter PD in Augusta Woods.

Matthews said he drove to Augusta Woods and met up with Cayce, parking in an opposite direction so both drivers could easily speak to each other through the drivers' windows, with Matthews facing into the park.

Across Rawsonville Road from Augusta Woods is a business, A2Mac1.

Matthews said Cayce gave him some information and after speaking for about a minute they noticed the suspect vehicle, occupied by one, driving north on Rawsonville. They said they saw the vehicle turn into the parking lot at A2Mac1 and back into a parking space.

Testimony said Cayce drove across Rawsonville Road into the parking lot with Matthews following. As they drove across the parking lot, the truck came towards them and kept accelerating. To avoid being hit, Cayce first, followed by Matthews, made quick right turns. The truck came within five feet of hitting the Sumpter patrol car, according to testimony.

The truck exited the parking lot making a sharp left turn into a snow bank. Matthews used the push bumper on the front of his patrol car to force the vehicle deeper into the snow bank preventing its escape. The suspect was subsequently taken into custody, according to testimony.

Leak's attorney asked that the videos from the pursuit and apprehension, including Sgt. Cayce's patrol car videos and the A2Mac1 security cameras be preserved.

Leak was 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 has been charged as a habitual offender. This is his fifth arrest for unlawful driveaway. He has also been convicted of escaping from prison, fleeing from a police officer, several B&Es and receiving and concealing stolen property.

Willow church invites all to 4th-annual 'Free Style' clothing giveaway

Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Road, New Boston, is hosting its fourth-annual free (but gently used) clothing event to benefit anyone in the communities struggling to afford these items.

Just show up, take what is needed, and pass it on – no questions asked.

The event is in the church basement from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (or until all items are gone) on Saturday, Feb. 15.

While browsing the Free Style boutique, shoppers are invited to grab a snack of popcorn, cookies, coffee and punch offered at Nick, Nelson, & Calvin's "Free" snack bar.

Clothing, clothing accessories, shoes and purses are being accepted through Feb. 8 for the event. No items will be accepted past this date so that the volunteers can prepare for a nice, successful Free Style experience.

For information contact the church at (734) 654-9020 or email krwilson@umich.edu.

Iloba-Tshimuanga, Lee, Overby-Long honored at Davenport University

Raissa Iloba-Tshimuanga and Verlinda Lee, both of Belleville, have been named to the President's List for the fall 2013 semester at Davenport University in Grand Rapids.

To achieve the President's List, a student must maintain a minimum 3.8 grade point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

Michelle Overby-Long from Belleville was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2013 semester at Davenport.

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