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BELLEVILLE-AREA
INDEPENDENT

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Parents question school board

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Monday, after completion of this month's school business, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education listened to representatives of about 35 parents and others in their audience.

One of the issues was the recent announcement by School Supt. Michael Van Tassel that he was investigating the high MSTEP scores of Savage Elementary School after an alleged inquiry from the state.

Parent Michael Gentz began the questions, saying he was offended on behalf of the staff. He said his own students took those tests and he was surprised to see Van Tassel's letter in the paper and on the district website. He said a similar incident happened at Haggerty Elementary a few years back and there was never a word about it from the district.

He said in the recent MSTEP results, Tyler Elementary doubled its proficiency rate from 32 to 62 and nothing was said about it.

Gentz said students at Savage, eight or nine years of age, were questioned about the tests that were taken months earlier. Faculty members were questioned without union representation.

"They are trying to find something bad," he said, asking if the letter from the state that brought on this investigation could be made public.

"The staff of Savage is being thrown under the bus," Gentz said. He said his son had sheer exhaustion over taking several days of testing and, "My own child's test score is being called into question."

School Board president Brent Mikulski said the district received a communication from the state on Friday and the district will have a discussion with the parents, "once we understand" what it says.

Gentz asked for a report on the progress of

(continued on page 3)

Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Thirty-five people gathered for Monday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education in the Commons (cafeteria) area of Belleville High School. Usually there are one or two members of the public there for regular meetings. On Monday, parents had questions on Savage Elementary School.

Trustee Sherry Frazier, second from left facing the camera) spoke in support of employees at the end of Monday's school board meeting, although board president Brent Mikulski tried to shut her down. From left, counterclockwise around the board table, are Trustee Kelly Owen, Trustee Frazier, secretary Kevin English, president Mikulski, School Supt. Michael Van Tassel, vice president Martha Toth, treasurer Kathy Kovach, Trustee Alison Bennett, finance director Shareen Barker, and curriculum director Jeff Moore.

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Jan. 5 – Chris Kennedy
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Jan. 11 – Teresa Holly
Jan. 12 – Stormie Clark, Esther Bedore-Blackwell
Jan. 13 – Pam Mullins
Jan. 14 – Tiffany Barnes
Jan. 17 – Ericka Stiltner-Hicks, Jeremy Blackwell, Toni Bennett
Jan. 21 – Tarsha Smith
Jan. 24 – Angie Burke, Peggy Simon
Jan. 27 – Stephanie McKeen-Donlic
Jan. 28 -- Amanda Rider, Cindy King, Pastor Jim Lockard
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board

(continued from page 1)

the investigation that included questioning of students and faculty plus the results of other schools and why they are singling out Savage.

Gentz said, "These are discussions that parents should be involved in."

The second parent speaking was Richard Rytman, who congratulated the new principal at Savage, Amy Gee, on the recent birth of her fifth child and applauded Curriculum Director Jeff Moore for immediately improving the math program when he took over.

Then Rytman reminded board members that he was the parent who was before them six months ago questioning teacher morale. He said he didn't know if the number of teachers leaving was an inordinate number and he offered to help fund a climate survey. He said for businesses -- and the district is run like a business -- it's crucial to have a survey like this every two years.

[The *Independent* counted the number of teachers/administrators leaving the district during the 2014-15 school year and it was 54, higher than any year in the last five and a half years. This included resignations and retirements.]

He recalled that the board obviously wasn't interested in a climate survey.

He said with former Savage Principal Kelley Villa resigning last summer there was no follow-up with the board for why she left.

"It left a perception and the rumor mills started," he said, noting the rumors are what the public perceives as the truth.

"When we talked about exit interviews, did anyone reach out to find out why she left?" Rytman said. "Not to give any response looks like the board is trying to do a cover-up."

Rytman asked, "Did anyone look…" and president Mikulski said Rytman's three minutes were up.

Mikulski said the district has done a work culture survey.

Van Tassle they will discuss the National Climate Survey that was done at the Jan. 25 work/study meeting of the board, among other topics.

Rytman asked if they will explain how the test was handed out and how it was done.

Moore said last summer there was a lot of discussion, and really, even before the summer there were discussions about a survey. He said they rolled out the process. He said it was an on-line survey and he just received the results in early December. He said every building principal has those results.

Trustee Sherry Frazier questioned if the survey asked how the staff perceives the administration.

Moore said there wasn't the ability to identify individuals taking the test.

Rytman, a former FBI agent, said one of his former occupations was as a prosecutor. He said he knows that if they were interviewing a child a lot of time the way a child answers a question is based on how the question is asked.

"I don't want to have the board involved in a class-action law suit," he said, noting, "Scores shoot up and you look for wrong-doing. A kneejerk reaction."

Mikulski said the investigation will be wrapped up this week and shared with the public.

When attorney Barbara Miller asked from the audience if the letter from the state was very long, Mikulski said it was the "content not the length" that delayed information being released.

Miller stated the letter should be made public. She stated she is starting a local chapter of the League of Women Voters which will be able to disseminate information on the millage election in May to help the district. New state law says the school board must not give information on a millage election 60 days before the election.

Rytman asked how many teachers and administrators had left the district and Mikulski said there had been no follow-up on that.

Rytman insisted that the first thing a Human Resources officer does when someone resigns is to have an exit interview. The HR person asks why the employee is leaving. For example, is it for better pay?

"When we have a high level of employees leaving … We'd like to unravel why they are leaving."

"I'm still very concerned," said Trustee Frazier. "They are not going to do exit interviews," she said to Rytman, referring to fellow board members, who have stated they will not vote for exit interviews.

Frazier said she talked to an employee who left in the middle of the school year, and Mikulski interrupted her and tried to get her to stop talking. She said there were three teachers at Owen that left.

Mikulski kept trying to shut her up and Frazier called out, "This needs to be discussed!"

Mikulski shut down the meeting.

No other board members spoke out about the parents' concerns.

League of Women Voters to organize here

An organizational meeting of a Belleville-area chapter of the League of Women Voters will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 18, at the private banquet room of the Something to Talk About restaurant on Sumpter Road in Belle Plaza (formerly called Paula's).

School Board votes to put 18-mill renewal on May 3 election ballot

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously on Monday to place the renewal of an 18-mill non-Homestead property tax on the May 3 election ballot. This time it will run for 10 years.

Finance Director Shareen Barker said the district would lose $9.6 million a year if the 18 mills weren't renewed, about 21% of the budget.

Barker explained that with the inception of Proposal A in 1994, property taxes paid by Michigan homeowners were dramatically reduced and limited future increases. Property is now classified as homestead and non-homestead. Homestead is considered to be a Michigan resident's home. Business property, rental housing, and vacation homes are considered to be non-homestead property. Property that is not homestead and not qualified agricultural property can be assessed up to an additional 18 mills for local school operating purposes, she said.

She said Van Buren Public Schools voters approved a renewal of the 18-mill non-homestead operating millage on Nov. 8, 2011, which is scheduled to expire with the December 2016 levy. She said the board had the option of either bringing the renewal forward for another five years or for 10 years. She recommended 10 years.

The renewal would generate about $9,634,689 annually, Barker said.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said, "We can't afford to lose $9.6 million."

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel said with it being on the May 3 election, if the millage fails, "We could go again."

There was some discussion about Public Act 269 newly signed by the governor that limits schools, libraries, city governments, and other groups from releasing any kind of information on a ballot question 60 days before an election.

That means they have until March 3 to get information out to the voters, said board president Brent Mikulski.

In other business at the Jan. 11 meeting, the board:

• Held an organizational meeting, reelecting all the board officers: president Mikulski, vice president Martha Toth, secretary Kevin English, and treasurer Kathy Kovach. The board also approved regular and work/study meetings and places for the year, the depository for school funds, and authorized investments by the designated agents: director of finance or the superintendent;

• Received certificates of appreciation from Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) for serving on the board. January was declared School Board Recognition Month;

• Approved the retirement of teacher Teresa Kuehnel from Owen after 23 years of service as of Jan. 15 and the resignation of teacher Robert Taylor from BHS as of Dec. 18 after less than a year of service;

• Approved hiring two custodial / maintenance employees: Jennifer Dalton at Owen Intermediate School and Kastriot Hoxha at BHS, both as of Dec. 7;

• Heard Supt. Van Tassel give his monthly report. First, he turned it over to Jeff Moore, curriculum director, to tell about how Dr. Grant Chandler will be with ELA and math staff all day Friday to work out changes for the second semester. He said it will not be an overhaul, just revisions. Then, Van Tassel said staff, administration, teachers and counselors at the high school helped students deal with the loss of two ninth grade students within three weeks of school;

• Heard Trustee Frazier ask for a moment of silence in honor of the students who passed and to mark the terrible loss to these parents. President Mikulski honored her request and called for the moment of silence;

• Heard Savage Elementary School's new Principal Amy Gee introduce herself, saying it was unusual for the district to hire a principal that was expecting a baby. She said she started in November, rather than August, and now has five children. She said eight members of her school faculty were there that evening to support her and she had them stand. Principal Gee talked about some of the things they are doing at their school. She talked of the new NWEA folders that each student will have to carry their national test scores home and discuss their scores with their parents. She said she believes this will help students want to do better on the tests;

• Heard Human Resources Director Shonta Langford Green announce that the Student Directory Information/Freedom of Information letters have been mailed home to parents to explain what personal information can and cannot be revealed under a FOIA request; and

• Heard vice president Toth go over a large stack of papers as she outlined the first reading of new board policy updates, changes necessary to comply with the law. Changes included language on what kinds of board member expenses can be reimbursed, spouses can be of the same sex, conflict of interest, weapons, threats, medical leaves of absence, and food that is non-compliant with national guidelines can be sold in the district twice a week.

OPINIONS

Editorial

School Board, Library Board rail on Gov. Snyder

First, it happened Monday night at the School Board meeting. Some very harsh words were said about Gov. Snyder who had just signed SB 571 into law. The legislation bars libraries, school districts, and local governments from spending public funds on TV ads, mailers or phone messages about local ballot proposals 60 days before an election.

Gov. Snyder has asked the legislators for a clean-up bill to fix that provision that he signed, but we don't see it yet.

On Monday, board members were concerned about their non-homestead millage, they desperately need renewed, that is going before local voters in May. They want to be able to tell voters about it so it will pass, but now, legally, they only have until March 3.

Then, on Tuesday, those at the Belleville Area District Library Board, who are seeking a November ballot proposal to fund a new library, voiced frustrations.

Newly elected Library Board Chairwoman Sharon Peters said she, among many others, had personally written to Gov. Snyder asking him not to sign that hasty bill, but he signed it anyway.

Barbara Miller was at both meetings and she said the new League of Women Voters group she is organizing will be able to give out non-partisan information during those 60 days before the election. Just what we need to get the info out.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW ...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Potassium Iodide (KI) is what is suggested people should take to prevent thyroid cancer after a radioactive accident.

Last week we printed information from the Citizens Resistance at Fermi 2 (CRAFT) group that said we should take Potassium Iodine, but the second part of that, Iodine, is wrong. Should be Iodide.

The Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter area is considered within 50 miles of Fermi 2 nuclear reactor near Monroe, so it's a good idea to have some of those pills on hand, according to the American Thyroid Association, and others.

Joan Oddy of Sumpter said she was going to order some potassium iodine through the computer, as suggested in a letter last week, when she decided to call a pharmacist to get more information. She said she called CVS.

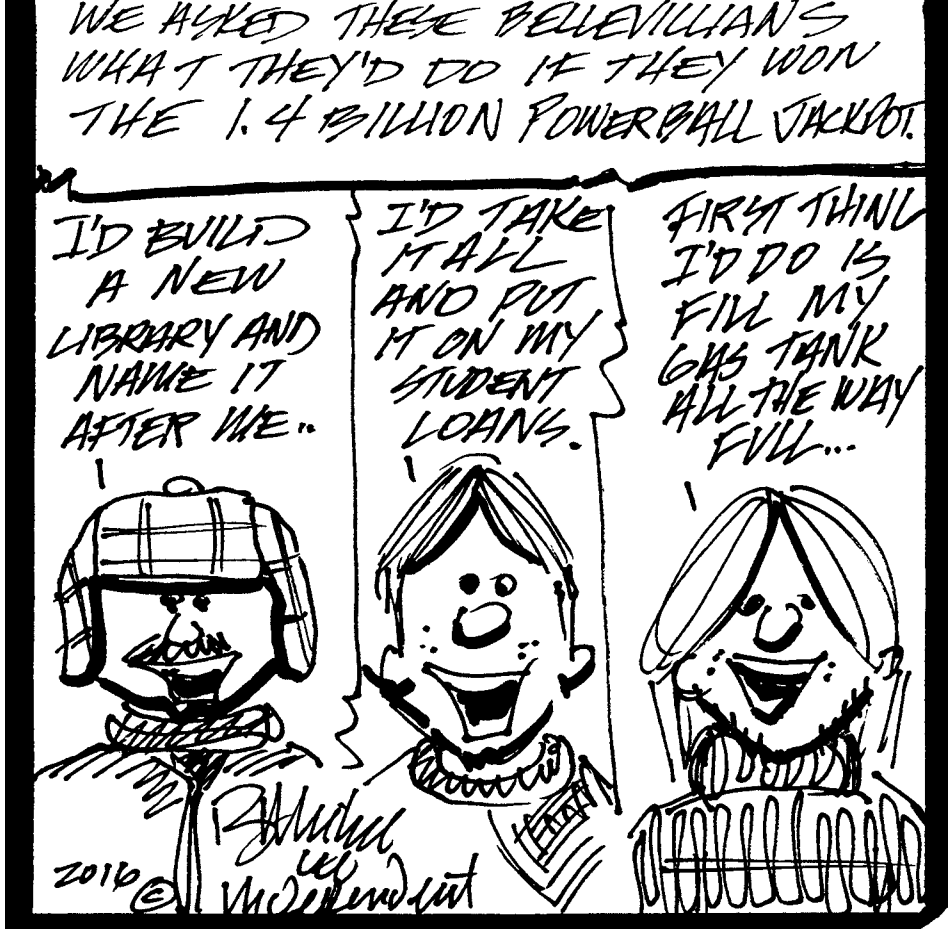
She said the pharmacist told her there was a discrepancy about how much you had to take and when it had to be taken to help protect you from radioactivity at Fermi 2. She said it appeared that you had to take a lot and that would put too much potassium in your system which could affect your heart.

The pharmacist suggested getting the tablets from a public or federal health agency, so she's going to look into that.

This is for your information. You might want to ask your doctor, or at least Google it and investigate before buying or taking any tablets.

***

Reg Ion of Van Buren Township regularly takes his grandchildren to Victory Park in downtown Belleville to play on the play equipment. For the last two months, maybe



longer, there has been a gathering array of graffiti on the playscape. Also, part of the playscape has been broken for four months.

Reggie has been to city hall three times to try to get them to remove all the f…. words and other nasty phrases. There also are names and phone numbers and drawings of male organs.

"I've seen a lot of graffiti," Reg said. "And, it didn't happen all at once. It happens over a period of time. That's what happens when you let it go."

Reg knows a lot about graffiti since he retired after 28 years in the custodial department of the Van Buren Public Schools. He even gave the city advice on how to cover up the graffiti, but it was still there last Thursday when he made his third trip to city hall to complain.

He felt that when he said he lived in VBT the women in the office taking his messages gave him a lower priority since he wasn't a city resident.

He said he left two messages asking for the mayor to call him and she didn't call.

And, as to the little walking disc in the playscape that's been broken so long, he knows it can be fixed. He said the DPW director said it couldn't be fixed, but Reg knows it can.

Reg said his young grandchildren can read the words and that's not good for his grandchildren or for other people's children.

I should tell Reg to try the new playscape at Village Park on Savage Road next to Victoria Commons. No graffiti that I've heard of.

***

Last Friday at about 6:41 a.m., I was at home having my first coffee of the day when I heard a police call from Sumpter Township. A man was struck in the head with a bucket and was bleeding profusely. They called it a felonious assault. The man was on top of a hill at Carleton Farms Landfill. They were having trouble getting HVA to know where to go since it was pitch black at the time. When all was said and done, the man did not want to prosecute. He also did not wish to go to the hospital. He just wanted to unload his truck and get another load. And, apparently, that's what happened.

***

Well, it's finally winter. I got out my boots and my mittens and I'm all set.

***

At Monday's work/study session at Van Buren Township, Clerk Leon Wright said according to his sources there is no evidence to give credit to the report that the family that lived in the house that burned on Denton Road were squatters. He said the people could have been there with permission. It is yet to be determined what caused the fire, Supervisor Linda Combs pointed out.

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Letters

VBT Fire Chief Besson to represent Michigan

To the Editor:

It is with great pride I announce that Deputy Director Daniel Besson, Chief of Van Buren Township Fire Department, was selected to represent the State of Michigan at the Traffic Institute Management (TIM) Responder Training Symposium. The selection was based on his involvement with MDOT's Southeast Michigan Operating Committee where he represents the Western Wayne County Fire Chiefs. Besson will be representing all of the Fire Chiefs throughout the State of Michigan.

The symposium is designed to continue the efforts to train first responders to respond to highway crashes in order to safely operate near the roadway, divert traffic around crash scenes, and open roadways sooner to reduce the risk of secondary crashes. Besson is an instructor for the Michigan program, which was built off of national recommendations.

The symposium will be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD on the week end of Jan. 15-17. Deputy Director Besson was selected as a visible leader in the fire service as one who is committed to the further growth and successful institutionalization of the TIM Responder Training in our State.

This selection is an absolute honor for Van Buren Township in having Deputy Director Besson being selected as a professional representative for the entire State of Michigan fire service.

The Federal Highway Administration is reimbursing travel arrangements.

Sincerely,
Gregory M. Laurain
Director of Public Safety
Van Buren Township

Prosecutor Worthy files appeal on DNA decision

To the Editor:

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has filed an appeal of 34th District Judge Brian Oakley's decision throwing out my refusal to give DNA to Van Buren Police. This means that a 3rd Circuit Judge in Detroit will hear the appeal. This will be the first interpretation of the new statute(s).

Worthy and VBPD hold that the relevant statutes require those who have been ACCUSED of any felony to give DNA without a court order. Attorney John Day of Belleville got Judge Oakley to agree that a COURT ORDER IS REQUIRED; now Worthy & Co. want to take it upstairs.

As this is of concern STATEWIDE, I would think that the issue will be taken by the Michigan Supreme Court on a writ for superintending control. The issue strikes at the heart of individual rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution. For those who are paying attention, I will cite the 4th Amendment:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

United States Constitution
Amendment IV

Notice that the Framers used the word PERSONS first after the word "secure." To take DNA evidence from an accused, is, necessarily an invasion of a person's body. The person, and his or her body, are therefore the first and foremost protected Rights, and therefore to be all the more guarded by the courts, who exclusively hold the power to issue warrants to invade, only upon sworn testimony relevant to probable cause. This was not done in this case.

The DNA statutes as Worthy & Co. are attempting to read them, are being applied to the People in an UNCONSTITUTIONAL manner. There are to be checks and balances under the U.S. Constitution; if the Michigan Legislature intended to enact unconstitutional law, or the executive power enforced said law in an unconstitutional fashion, then it is up to the judicial branch to declare the law and/or its enforcement to be prohibited.

I agree that the courts have the power to issue warrants for DNA, same as ordering a blood alcohol for a DUI; but I most vehemently disagree that the executive (cops, prosecutors) has the power to unilaterally require DNA without probable cause and a warrant.

Apparently Judge Oakley agrees, and he is to be COMMENDED for his adherence to the U.S. Constitution and his Oath to uphold it -- not necessarily because he agrees with me, or my position on the 4th Amendment.

As for VBT/PD Lt. Charles Bazzy's position and statements, I would like to think that the courts will continue to tell him and Worthy & Co. that they are WRONG. If not, I will adhere to my position, stand on the U.S. Constitution, and continue to refuse to provide them DNA from my person without a probable cause court order, even if it means spending more time in jail. And, I'm not sorry, Bazzy. No DNA. Period.

To be sure, Worthy & Co. have solved some old cases, but if this is overturned, then, because of her position, she will have to retry those cases with the fruit of the poisoned tree excluded. That's what she'll have to deal with.

As ever, and still on the river,
James Chapman

B★C CAB
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697-5222

More Letters

Time to register for spring soccer season

Hello, Van Buren Soccer Community:

We are looking forward to our spring 2016 soccer season which will start in April. Registration is open for the spring 2016 season. Please register at www.vanburenpride.com .

We are hopeful we can continue to grow our soccer club at a reasonable cost. Sponsors and volunteers help us do this. We thank you so much for all your support and dedication! We couldn't do it without the community's help. If you are interested in donating to our soccer club, please email us at vanburensoccerbelleville@yahoo.com .

Programs we have available are:

• Pride Development - Ages 2-5. This is a development program for our little ones -- learn basic fundamentals of the game. 1 hour every Saturday starting in April and ending in June.

• Recreational In House - Ages 5-8. This program is an in-house program where teams will play teams within our community. Practices will be held weekly and games will be held once a week.

• Recreational Travel - Ages 8-14. This program is a recreational program where teams will play teams outside of our community. Practices will be held weekly and games will be held once a week.

• High School Off Spring - High school level.

• Offer a Low-Cost Select Program -Tryouts in June 2016. This program is our select, more-competitive program for players that are more highly skilled.

The VBCSA is committed to the game of soccer and nurturing the skills of our young people to be the best they can be. We are committed to building the association to make your child's experience even better. We are open to making positive change in our community!

Thank you for your continued support. Registration is OPEN. Register today!

Thank you,
Angie McCluskey
Van Buren Community Soccer

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Obituaries

Agnes Banotai

AGNES BANOTAI (SZYNDLAR)
(October 23, 1920 – January 7, 2016)
"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."
Agnes came from a hard-working farm family with 5 siblings, Cecelia Poet (Szyndlar), Stanley Szyndlar, Josephine Szyndlar, Helen Szyndlar and Bill Szyndlar in Romulus, MI. The farm consisted of livestock, produce, grain, but eventually incorporated flowers. Agnes had a passion for flowers and she took that passion with her when she got married (Joseph Banotai) and moved to Belleville, MI. She convinced her husband Joe to keep her passion alive by having one greenhouse to grow flowers. After many years and countless hours of hard work, the one greenhouse turned into over 50 greenhouses and a successful third-generation family business. Agnes turned her hobby into a 60-year business with all of her hard work and determination. Agnes enjoyed the greenhouse and would work every day. Even at the age of 95 she would go out to the greenhouses and plant. Nothing got in her way; she was determined to make the business successful just like when she started!
Agnes is preceded in death by her husband Joseph Banotai, son-in-law Ronny Pinter, sisters Cecelia, Josephine, Helen and brothers Stanley and Bill. She is survived by her three children: Rosemary Pinter, Joseph Banotai and Cecelia (Robert) Banotai-Brandmier. Agnes liked passing her knowledge of flowers to her three grandchildren: Crystal (Ben) Brewer, Jason (Whitney) Pinter and Kristin Pinter.
Agnes was also blessed to enjoy her four great-grandchildren: Cora Pinter, Ben Brewer IV, Corbyn Pinter and Brayden Brewer. She is also survived by her brother-in-law James Ware.
Agnes was a believer and she knows she is reunited with her loved ones and her Savior. We will all be reunited with Agnes and the rest of our loved ones.
Funeral service was Sunday, 11 a.m. at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Saturday, 1-8 p.m. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park.
1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 ***For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven and cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. AMEN***

More Obituaries on page 13

Ronald Bruce Lange

RONALD BRUCE LANGE
(December 25, 1934 – January 9, 2016)
Ronald Bruce Lange, 81, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 9, at his home in Hudson MI. Son of Herman & Edythe Lange, Ronald was in the Belleville High School class of 1954. He lived most of his life in the Belleville area as a livestock & grain farmer, which was his passion. He also drove truck for many trucking companies for 43 years.
Ronald was married to Betty Lange (deceased) for 42 years. Ronald is survived by 3 children, Karen Bellers of Canton, Kathy Lange of Ypsilanti, & Ronald Bruce Lange of Belleville; 3 step-children, Diana Villa of Chelsea, Linda Davis of Ann Arbor & Paula Schenk of FL; brother Robert Lange of Maybee, MI & sister Ginger Lange of Winter Haven, FL; 10 grandchildren & 19 great-grandchildren. Ronald requested no memorial service.

Frederick Harold Gotts, Sr.

FREDERICK HAROLD GOTTS, SR.
(July 1, 1936 – January 9, 2016)
Frederick Harold Gotts, Sr., age 79, of Willis, passed away peacefully Saturday, January 9, 2016 with his family by his side. He was born July 1, 1936 in Ypsilanti, the son of Harold and Frances (Hayes) Gotts.
Fred served honorably in the Army National Guard. He lived a full, happy life with his family and loved his kids and grandkids. He was a police officer for the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department as well as a truck driver for 25 years. Fred was a member of the Teamsters Local 299. He enjoyed carpentry and was a handyman.
Survivors include six children, Fredrick Harold Jr., Dale (Dawn), Todd (Sara), Faith, Hope (Shannon) and Mark (Norma); fifteen grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; two siblings, Bill and Linda; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister Pat.
The funeral service will be 11 a.m. Thursday, January 14, 2016 at Stark Funeral Service with Pastor Tim Johnson of Willis Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow in Union-Udell Cemetery. The family greeted friends at the funeral home 2-4 & 6-9 p.m. Wednesday. Please sign his guest book at www.starkfuneral.com .

DEAN PAYNE
Arrangements for the funeral for Dean Payne are being made at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, and were not completed in time for the newspaper publication. Call (734) 697-4500.

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***

Doug Dalton Auctioneer of Belleville will be hold his monthly Estate Antique Auction tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 15, beginning with previews at 4 p.m. at the Romulus Progressive Hall on Ozga Road. Doug is featuring a variety of antique items such as country store advertising, a musical instrument collection and a vintage slot car collection. See his ad in today's paper and visit his website for lots of photos and descriptions at www.dougdaltonauctioneer.com .

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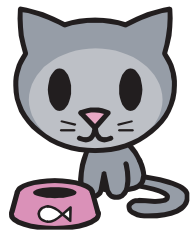

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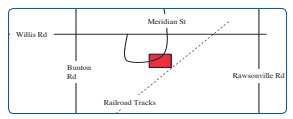

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Sandra Ellis, seated at right, is shown with her paintings in her ArtAffair on Main booth last summer.

Museum to exhibit nostalgic paintings of Belleville by Ellis

The Belleville Area Museum will present a display of "Belleville Nostalgia" paintings by local artist Sandra (Arquette) Ellis from Jan. 19 through Feb. 12. Any paintings sold during or because of the display will include a donation to the museum.

Tom Fielder, a member of the Historical Society, was instrumental in arranging this presentation with Museum Director Katie Dallos. At the Belleville High School All-Class Alumni Dinner last fall Fielder told a group from the class of 1963 about a display of Belleville Schools he and others are working on.

Ellis told him she had a painting of Belleville High circa 1960. He said that was the kind of thing they are looking for. He later went to see the painting and viewed the rest of her works showing historical Belleville locations. He then spoke with Dallos and arranged for this display.

The museum hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 3 to 7 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Admission is $2 for adults and $1 for children. The Belleville Area Museum preserves and promotes the history of the community through the preservation and exhibit of historical artifacts and the presentation of historical programs and events.

Sandra and her husband Walt grew up in Belleville. After they were married they lived in near-by communities until they moved back in 1985.

When her husband retired and his mother passed away in 2011, she found herself with time on her hands. Sandra then decided to do something she had often thought about. She began painting pictures of places in and around Belleville as she remembered them growing up. Her hope is that others will also enjoy looking at them and remembering good times in Belleville.

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Open Monday – Friday 8am - 6pm • Saturday 9am - 1pm

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

CEMETERY PLOT in Michigan Memorial Park. $900. (734) 340-8831 1/14

FIREWOOD. (734) 772-7182 1/21

TWO 30" RANGES. Frigidaire gas approximately 4 years old & electric approximately 5 years old. Good condition. $75ea. (734) 442-7274 1/21

DARK MAROON HEATED recliner coach w/two matching recliner chairs. Quilted frames w/hoop.(734) 718-7815 1/28

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2002 NISSAN FRONTIER King Cab, 4 cylinder, automatic, 2wd, 132,000 miles, $2,700 obo. Call or text (734)516-5962 1/28

WANTED

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

HUNTING PROPERTY 8+ acres. Small house/out building. Call Tom (248) 435-8870 1/21

HOUSEMATE to share clean country home. Large yard, safe location, Belleville area. Close to highways, airports & schools. Female preferred. (734) 325-6107 1/28

LOST

GOLD SHAMROCK pinky ring at Belleville Post Office before Christmas. Call (734) 740-9111. 1/14

MIXED BREED DOG, mostly white with black mixed in, long shaggy hair. Missing since 12/20 from Arkona/Sumpter area. 2 years old, answers to "Spot". (734) 461-0483 1/21

FOR RENT

1 BR. APT. 1st Floor. Corner of 5th & Liberty St. $595/mo. plus security. Includes heat & water. 1 yr. lease. Must have good credit. No Pets. (734) 945-2409 1/21

ONE BEDROOM available in Belleville. $600/mo. No pets, no lease. (734) 844-8241 1/28

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

Shake up the New Year with a home from Franklin!

Security deposit and first month rent waived when you purchase a Franklin Home! Call one of our associates before January 31!*

Visit our website for a list of homes for purchase or lease starting at **$550**

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Belleville Manor
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Belleville Road just 1 mile north of I-94

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734-697-6159
3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit

Mohawk
734-513-4108
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

*WAC. Restrictions apply. No cash value.See a Franklin Homes associate for details.

HELP WANTED

Hiring Reliable & Dedicated Bus Drivers for Van Buren Public Schools. Starting Pay: $11.50/hour. Training Available. Call 734-699-5100

GREAT CLIPS NOW HIRING

Busy salons in Canton and Belleville.
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- **Paid Vacation**
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Keep up with all the latest trends and make $$ at the same time.

Call or text Sandra
586-623-1197

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

PART-TIME on-site Maintenance. Own tools required. $12-$15/hour. Prior experience desirable. Inquires to: Carrie Martin (734) 459-5440 or cmartin@herriman.net. 1/14

HELP WANTED

SUBSTITUTE KITCHEN HELP. Belleville schools food service. Call (734) 697-0011. 1/21

HIRING FULL-TIME AUTO TECH. Must have tools, license, transportation & previous work experience. Pay varies by experience & certifications. Contact (734) 697-5811 1/21

LOOKING FOR LABORER that is willing to work towards apprenticeship in the plumbing profession. Must have good valid driver's license and own car, must pass drug test. Benefits after 180 days. Call (734) 697-1650 to schedule interview. 1/21

Off-leash playtime with other friendly Pugs and Pug Owners!
Your Pugs will love you for their new social life!

Learn more & RSVP online at:
www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs
www.facebook.com/pugplaygroup

Location:
Wayne County Fairgrounds
Abbott Building
10871 Quirk Rd
Belleville, MI 48111
Off I-94 at Belleville Rd exit near I-275

All Pugs & Pug Owners are Welcome!!
One Sunday *EVERY* Month – 2:00pm

2016 Dates:

January 17	May 15	September 18
February 21	June 12	October 16
March 20	July 10	November 20
April 17	August 21	December 18

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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Home Improvement & Handyman Service
Painting, Drywall, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.
Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ 734-740-0628

M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE
Refrigerators • Washers
Dryers • Ranges
$20 House Call
Phone (734) 782-3354

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Family Owned & Operated. Serving The Belleville Area Since 1978.
Visit
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Call **(734) 301-5959**

LOCAL HANDYMAN – SOME Jobs too LARGE – NO JOB too SMALL. Residential snow blowing. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

CARPET HEADQUARTERS Winter Special. Free padding w/purchase of carpet & installation. Free estimates, fast friendly service, repairs, restretching, since 1979. Phil (734) 612-7570 8/18/16

PRIVATE PIANO LESSONS. Enroll for full month, next two lessons free. Ages 5-adult. (734) 697-9628. 1/14

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

Public invited to special reception to showcase plans for new library

The public is invited to a special reception showcasing plans for a proposed new downtown library. The reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 29, at the library, 167 Fourth Street, Belleville.

The meeting will offer hors d'oeuvres and a dessert bar.

The public is invited to, "Come find out how you can help make this vision a reality."

The Belleville Area District Library plan for a 45,000-square-foot library on the lake, just north of the Belleville Bridge, was turned down by voters. After a survey, it was determined voters wanted the library to be smaller and to remain downtown and so the library board has approved a proposal for a new 30,000-square-foot, two-story library building in the middle of Fourth Street at Charles Street in downtown Belleville.

The reception is to share plans with the public and seek support for funding for the building.

Obituaries

George Franklin Brown, Jr.

GEORGE FRANKLIN BROWN, JR.
(September 14, 1942 – January 10, 2016)
Age 73, of Belleville.

George was born as first twin on September 14, 1942 in Rochester, PA, son of George Franklin Brown, Sr. and Elesa Delores (Elliott) Brown. George graduated from Belleville High School in 1960. He retired from Ford Motor Company, Local 898. He was married for 54 wonderful years and has four loving children.

George enjoyed spending time with his family and bonding with his golden retrievers. He was known by all his family and friends as "Jedi". Over the years, he started a Little League softball for girls and enjoyed coaching softball, baseball and football. He was a member of the Belleville Moose, Conservation Club and Van Buren Eagles. Some of his interests included Michigan Wolverine football, Fantasy Football, woodcarving, bowling, golf, going to Las Vegas, playing Keno, listening to Frank Sinatra, and he appreciated the support of his neighbors, Lonnie & Deanna McQueen.

He is survived by his loving wife, Saundra Kay (Bruder) Brown; sons George Franklin (Donna) Brown of Livonia, Robert Clinton Brown of Lexington, SC and David Charles (Kimberly) Brown of Milan; three grandchildren Scott (Echo), David and Whitney; one great-granddaughter Willow; mother Elesa Brown; brother Robert (Diane) Brown; twin brother Clinton (Dorothy) Brown; brother, Patrick (Lee) Brown; brother Timothy Brown; sisters Rebecca (Michael) Stephens, and Mary (Robert) Nickels; sister-in-law Beverly Brown; brother-in-law Keith (Ginger) Bruder; sister-in-law Dawn (Bruder) Pluff, and many nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors.

Sadly, he is preceded in death by his father George Brown, Sr., daughter Judy Brown, brother Norman Brown, sister-in-law Maggie Brown, mother-in-law Shirley Straub, sister-in-law Kathy (Ralph) Van Valkenburg and brother-in-law Butch Pluff.

Funeral Services were held at 12 noon, Wednesday, January 13, at the David C. Brown Funeral Home. A procession to Alban Cemetery with committal prayers followed. A visiting period was held from 10 a.m. until the 12 noon service. Visiting hours also were held Tuesday from 2 until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the wishes of the Brown family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com .

St. Anthony Parish sets 7-week faith-building series

St. Anthony's Parish will hold a seven-week, faith-building series entitled "Discovering Christ." Classes begin Jan. 17 in Room 8 of the school at 409 West Columbia Ave. Sessions are from noon to 2:30 p.m. each Sunday and include a light meal, prayer time, video presentation, and a small-group discussion. There is no cost for participants. Contact Mary prior to Jan. 17 at (313) 282-8266 to reserve a seat.

Obituaries

Laurie Lee Bourque

LAURIE LEE BOURQUE
(November 11, 1956 – January 8, 2016)
Age 59, a lifelong resident of Belleville.

Laurie is survived by her beloved children, Cameron Wojie, Eric Wojie, Jennifer (Brad) Parks and Angela (Jeremy Cole) Bourque; beloved daughter of Bernadine Schaerer; proud grandmother of Mariah, Makayla, Ryan, Marissa, Caitlynn, Kylie and Bradley Jr.

Laurie is also survived by her siblings, Ronald (Gina) Held, Debra (Ralph) Hendrix, Richard Held, Gary (Cathy) Held and Tamara DeMara and many loving family and friends. Sadly, she is preceded in death by her father, the late James (d. 2010) and granddaughter, Paradyce (d. 2007).

Born November 11, 1956 in Ypsilanti. Laurie was a longtime employee with Eastern Michigan University. A parishioner of St. Anthony Church, Laurie enjoyed music, crossword puzzles and spending time with family and friends

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, January 12, at David C. Brown Funeral Home. A visiting hour was held one hour prior to the service. Interment prayers followed at Alban Cemetery, Ypsilanti Township. Visitation was held Monday from 2 until 8 p.m. The rosary was prayed at 7:30 p.m., Monday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the family's wishes. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com .

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Jan. 14 –** "Homegrown Knowledge" program at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Dr. David Wilson will explain why Van Buren Township now bans the use of coal tar driveway sealants. Free.

• **Sunday, Jan. 17 –** St. Anthony's Parish invites you to participate in a seven-week, faith-building series starting at noon today. Free. Call Mary for information at (313) 282-8266.

• **Sunday, Jan. 17 –** Fraternal Order of Eagles, Van Buren #3996, is hosting a Late Breakfast Buffett fund raiser at 9961 Beck Road. $10 adults/$5 children. Proceeds benefit building fund. Menu includes biscuits and gravy, pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, fruit and coffee or tea. Bloody Marys and other drink specials from noon on. Register via https://www.facebook.com/events/949553218469323/

• **Monday, Jan. 18 –** You're invited to a meeting to discuss a new League of Women Voters chapter organizing in Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter. Both men and women are welcome. The non-partisan group works to provide voting information to citizens and encourage voting. The meeting is at 7 p.m. at the private dining room of the Something to Talk About restaurant at Belle Plaza on Sumpter Road, formerly Paula's. For information, call Barbara Rogalle Miller at 697-4455.

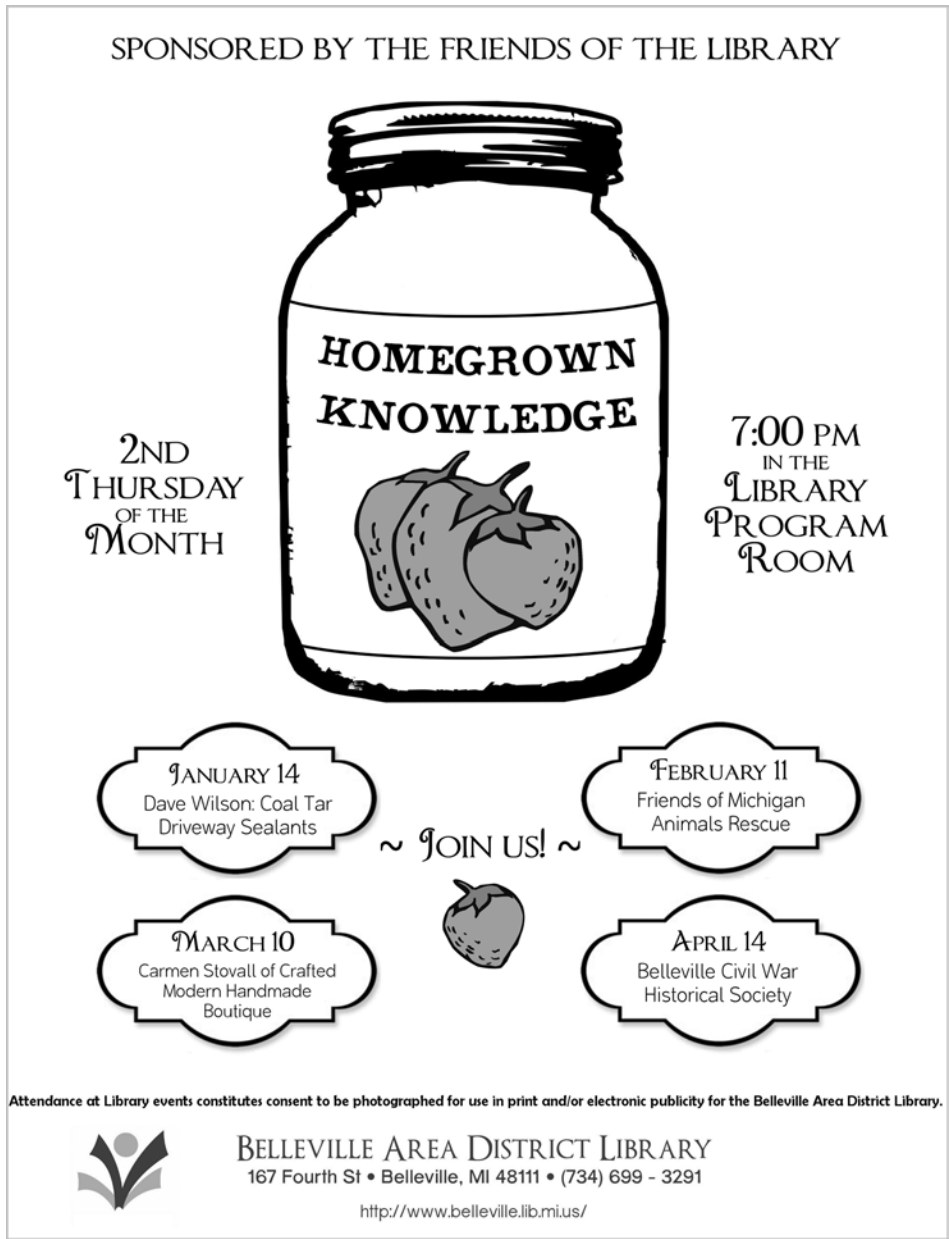
• **Tuesday, Jan. 19 –** You're invited to the first meeting of a new Lions Club for the tri-community. It's at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Building on Main Street in downtown Belleville. They need 20 members to start a new chapter here. They're serving pizza.

• **Saturday, Jan. 23 –** State Rep. Kristy Pagan will hold her coffee hour at 10 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road in Van Buren Township. Tell her your concerns.

• **Saturday, Jan. 23 –** The annual meeting of the Friends of Belleville Area District Library runs from 1 to 3 p.m. at the library and everyone is welcome.

• **Saturday, Jan. 23 –** The annual Wild Game benefit dinner at the Wayne County Fairgrounds begins at 6:15 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m. Presale tickets are $30; at the door $35. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd. Information: (734) 942-1684

• **Sunday, Jan. 24 –** St. Anthony Catholic Church's Boy Scout Troop 793 invites you to an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast fund raiser at the church's cafeteria, 409 W. Columbia Ave., 9 a.m. to noon. Includes 3 sausages, milk/juice or coffee. Adults $6; children 6 and under free.



Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 696 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Jan. 3:

0020 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.
0153 – assault & battery, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0710 – property damage accident, Marlowe Ave.
0937 – larceny from auto, Victoria St.
0946 – suspicious person, Rawsonville Rd.
0955 – vehicle repossession, Tyler Rd., cancelled
1052 – abandoned auto, Country Walk Blvd.
1245 – suspicious person, Belleville Rd.
1426 – trespassing, Morton Taylor Rd.
1438 – assault & battery, Sumpter Rd., cancelled
1451 – child abuse, Belleville Rd.
1527 – suspicious situation, Denton Rd.
1818 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1835 – family trouble, W. Huron River Dr.
1908 – larceny, Belleville
2002 – disorderly conduct, Rawsonville Rd.
2020 – suspicious situation, Republic Dr.
2152 – noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2238 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2247 – noise complaint, Brandi
2257 – narcotics crime, Haggerty Rd.

Monday, Jan. 4:

1015 – missing person, Denton Rd.
1050 – code enforcement, E. Huron River Dr.
1259 – breaking & entering, Maple Dr.
1453 – breaking & entering, Ecorse Rd.
1524 – assault & battery, Jackson Ln.
1539 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1643 – property damage accident, Belleville
1816 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1911 – abandoned auto, Walden
1913 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2124 – suicide or attempt, Van Buren St.

Tuesday, Jan. 5:

0041 – intimidation threat, Harbour Club
0156 – disturbance, Rawsonville Rd.
0308 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0503 – noise complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0641 – mental, Sandlewood Dr.
1101 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1303 – noise complaint, Briarcliff Dr.
1349 – suspicious situation, Edison Lk.
1444 – property damage accident, Visteon Way / Ecorse Rd.
1552 – larceny, Riggs Rd.
1605 – harassment call, E. Archwood Dr.
1702 – suspicious person, Nautica Dr.
1851 – suspicious situation, N. Cumberland Dr.
1852 – narcotics crime, Jackson St.
2006 – agency assist, W. Huron River Dr.
2039 – disturbance, Locust Dr.
2155 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, Ashbury Dr.
2356 – assault & battery, Water's Edge Ln.

Wednesday, Jan. 6:

0116 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0216 – vehicle repossession, Parkwood Dr.
0703 – assist citizen, Clarence
0800 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Ln.
0801 – suspicious situation, Denton Rd.
0938 – private property accident, Martinsville Rd.
1329 – ordinance violation, Lake Crest Dr.
1335 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.
1502 – assault & battery, Beckley
1517 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, Victoria St.
1520 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1559 – fraud, Rawsonville
1815 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1823 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
1903 – agency assist, Ecorse/I-275
1935 – malicious destruction of property, McBride
1945 – noise complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2002 – noise complaint, N. Ponderosa Trl., cancelled
2151 – vehicle repossession, Lighthouse Dr.

Thursday, Jan. 7:

0115 – unattended death, Rawsonville Rd.
0140 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr./Elwell Rd.
0241 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville
0324 – suspicious person, Wendy's
0333 – malicious destruction of property, Hull Rd.
0706 – agency assist, Main
0913 – malicious destruction of property, Juniper
0949 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1009 – larceny from auto, Park Estates
1406 – sexual assault, Textile/Hitchingham
1850 – fraud, Pick & Pay
2213 – assault & battery, Alden Ave.
2218 – agency assist, Alden Ave.
2323 – neighbor trouble, Outer Dr.

Friday, Jan. 8:

0848 – weapons violation, Haggerty Rd.
0848 – suspicious situation, Harmony Ln.
0958 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Harmony Ln.
1041 – private property accident, Bradley Dr.
1331 – malicious destruction of property, Revere
1610 – intimidation threat, Hamilton St.
1651 – abandoned auto, Revere Dr.
1711 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1726 – suicide or attempt, McBride Ave.
1805 – assault & battery, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1817 – agency assist, Meadows Ct.
1857 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2337 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2351 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Saturday, Jan. 9:

0042 – assault & battery, Stratford Dr.
0511 – water leak found, Belleville Rd.
0742 – agency assist, Chloe Ct.
0758 – malicious destruction of property, Sheldon
0853 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1015 – vehicle repossession, Oak Ln., cancelled
1022 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.
1245 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1257 – ATV/ORV complaint, Maple Dr.
1347 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
1457 – assault & battery, Van Buren St.
1733 – suspicious situation, Cedarhurst Dr.
2056 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2335 – trespassing, W. Huron River Dr.

Also on this week's log are 251 traffic stops, 79 of which took place on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 3:

0825 – assist fire dept., Robbe St.
1011 – miscellaneous complaint, Denton Bridge
1416 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.
1653 – domestic assault, W. Columbia Ave.
1715 – follow up, W. Wabash Ave.
1816 – assist fire dept., W. Thornhill Ct.
2155 – agency assist, Tyler

Monday, Jan. 4:

0814 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
1128 – traffic complaint, Quirk/Belleville
1358 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
1357 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Lat.Long.
1420 – assist citizen, Church St.
1629 – suspicious situation, Clarence St.
1734 – warrant arrest, Washtenaw County Jail
2059 – suspicious vehicle, Belleville Bridge
2253 – assist fire dept., Sumpter

Tuesday, Jan. 5:

0803 – suspicious situation, W. Columbia Ave.
0803 – E-911 cellular, Sumpter
1630 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1719 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1917 – abandoned auto, N. Liberty St./Fifth St.
1930 – assist fire dept., Anaheim

Wednesday, Jan. 6:

0703 – breaking & entering, Clarence St.
0943 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1138 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.
1156 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Menlo Park
2050 – domestic assault, Astor Pl.

Thursday, Jan. 7:

0202 – suspicious vehicle, Bay Pointe Dr.
0635 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
0704 – property damage accident, Main St.
0733 – property damage accident, W. Columbia
0829 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
1102 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1640 – malicious destruction of property, Victory Park
1932 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
2020 – information, Victorian Ln.
2236 – agency assist, Alden Dr.
2246 – trespassing, Belle Villa Blvd.

Friday, Jan. 8:

0003 – overdose, Church St.
0028 – E-911 cellular, W. Columbia Ave.
0221 – suspicious situation, E. Columbia Ave.
0957 – property damage accident, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon St.
1007 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1514 – suspicious person, Light Tower Ct.
1550 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.
2116 – miscellaneous complaint, N. Liberty St.

Saturday, Jan. 9:

0005 – suspicious situation, Madelon St./E. Huron River Dr.
0045 – information, Main St.
1135 – follow up, Light Tower Ct.
1244 – private property accident, Henry St.
1300 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
1402 – suspicious situation, Second St./Church St.
1629 – miscellaneous complaint, W. Columbia
1734 – parking complaint, Family Dollar
1911 – all other traffic, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.
2021 – malicious destruction of property, Victorian Ln.
2113 – all other traffic, St. Anthony's
2341 – agency assist, W. Huron River Dr.

Also on this week's log are 64 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 3:

1404 – well-being check, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1536 – civil dispute, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1957 – juvenile complaint, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2054 – animal complaint, 18000 bl. Martinsville
2317 – threats complaint, Rustic Ln.
2342 – operating while intoxicated arrest, California

Monday, Jan. 4:

0603 – noise complaint, Montana
0708 – traffic hazard, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1121 – threats complaint, 8300 bl. Rawsonville
1131 – assault, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1557 – property damage accident, Clark/Wear
1622 – assist other agency, out of township
1817 – alarm, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1957 – alarm, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 5:

0019 – property damage accident, Harris / Martinsville
0951 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1005 – civil dispute, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1034 – assist other agency, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1144 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1508 – suspicious incident, Judd/Carleton West
1512 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
1825 – suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 6:

0445 – property damage accident, 41000 bl. Wear
0452 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0559 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0754 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0847 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0907 – malicious destruction of property, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1102 – assist other agency, out of township
1200 – alarm, Oregon
1231 – mental health commitment, California
1253 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1435 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1622 – parking complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1742 – suspicious incident, Timberlane
2017 – threats complaint, Carriage Ln.
2259 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
2332 – disorderly person, California

Thursday, Jan. 7:

0459 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Morton Ave.
1013 – civil dispute, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1333 – found property, 46000 bl. Kozma
1524 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1656 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1702 – civil dispute, Timberlane
1948 – well-being check, Sumpter/Harris
2107 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
2155 – fight, 45000 bl. Bontekoe

Friday, Jan. 8:

0632 – assault, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
0843 – assist other agency, out of township
1848 – property damage accident, 41000 bl. Judd
2347 – alarm, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 9:

0102 – civil dispute, Timberlane
0149 – suspicious vehicle, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
0605 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Willow
0803 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1116 – fraud complaint, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1131 – civil dispute, Timberlane
1244 – alarm, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1319 – suspicious incident, 26000 bl. Sherwood
1418 – shots fired, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1606 – larceny, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1929 – suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.

Also on this week's log are three follow-up investigations, 33 miscellaneous details, 181 patrol checks, and 44 traffic stops.

Court Watching:

School district says employee embezzled, but he got his job back

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

David Scott Fletcher was before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott on Jan. 6 after the Van Buren Public Schools complained he had committed embezzlement.

Fletcher took a plea deal, pleading no contest to a charge of "attempted embezzlement" and had immediate sentencing. He asked to plea no contest instead of guilty because of a "preliminary civil case," according to his attorney.

The attorney said Fletcher already had given restitution, returning the items.

Fletcher explained he was terminated and had in his possession a pager, work shirts, and keys. Reports said he was fired for driving a school vehicle while on prescription medication for a health problem.

His attorney said Belleville Police Cpl. Kris Faull was called in to get the items from him. Fletcher said he was confused and thought he could keep the items until his arbitration case was decided.

It turns out he won at arbitration and is going back to work at the school district.

Judge Parrot sentenced Fletcher to pay $495 in fines and fees and to take an Economic Crime Course on line.

If Fletcher has no further legal problems in the next three months, the charge will be dismissed.

Present in the courtroom for the case were Van Buren Public Schools Director of Buildings and Grounds James Williams, Cpl. Faull, and Belleville Cpl. Todd Schrecengost.

Woman held in stabbing at Water's Edge Apts.

A woman in her 30s from Romulus is being held in custody by Van Buren Township police for a stabbing that occurred about 11:56 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 5, at Water's Edge Apartments on the South I-94 Service Drive.

VBT Police Lt. Charles Bazzy said police were called to a domestic dispute at the location and found the 40-year-old male victim with a superficial wound to the chest. Another victim, a woman in her 30s, was present.

Police are seeking warrants for the suspect from the Wayne County Prosecutor's office for assault with intent to murder on the man and felonious assault against the female.

Lt. Bazzy said the male victim is not being cooperative and insists he "fell down" and got his injury.

Wayne County FAIR Assn., Inc.

Invites you to the Annual

WILD GAME

BENEFIT DINNER

on Saturday, January 23, 2016
at the Wayne County Fairgrounds
5:30pm – Doors Open
6:15pm – Dinner
Pre-sale Tickets $30
Tickets at the Door $35

Door Prizes and Raffles

All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Wayne County Fairgrounds, A Nonprofit Organization

Any Questions? Call
Mary Zellner @ 734-942-1684
Tom Busenbark @ 734-799-3692

10871 Quirk Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, Jan. 14 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission (regularly scheduled), 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission is cancelled.

• Monday, Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Municipal offices closed.

• Tuesday, Jan. 19 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 20 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Jan. 26 – Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

• Monday, Feb. 1 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 2 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 9 – Sumpter Township work/study at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

• Thursday, Feb. 11 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. (optional) Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Belleville Area Lions Club Covering Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren Twp

It only Takes Twenty

It only takes twenty people to join together as a Lions Club to begin a journey that you'll find very rewarding.

It only takes twenty people working together as a Lions Club to accomplish what individuals alone could never do. Eye glasses for kids, low vision readers and scholarships for college are within reach when twenty people work together for a common goal.

Come to an informational meeting on January 19th at Belleville Chamber of Commerce 248 Main St Belleville at 6:30 pm. You can enjoy some pizza on us and learn about Lionism. Contact Lion Bill Van Winkle 734 254-9404 govbill1@outlook.com

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BELLEVILLE LAKE

43260 HURON RIVER DR, VAN BUREN
UPDATED 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Belleville Lake Home with 1600+ Square Feet Offering Enchanting Lake Views, 30 ft Deck, 75 ft Boat Dock on Belleville Lake. Natural Stone Fireplace with Built In Book Cases, Super Refished Hardwood Floors with New Carpet, Partially Finished Basement, 2 1/2 Car Garage, Paved Street and The Best Buy on the Lake. $247,900.

BELLEVILLE LAKE

11716 JUNIPER, VAN BUREN
MILLION DOLLAR Lakefront Panorama Views in this Custom Built Full Brick 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath Home. More than 150 Feet of Lake Frontage. Home Professionally Designed for Optimum Lakefront Enjoyment and Constructed with an Unyielding Commitment to Quality. Carefully Placed One of Belleville Lake's Premiere Lake Lots $495,000

23+ ACRES!

10744 WILLIS, WILLIS
UPDATED AND BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED Custom Built 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath 1,650 square Foot Ranch on 23+ Acres. Large Country Kitchen with Hardwood Floors, Granite Countertops, and Doorwall to your Deck overlooking Lush Farmlands plus Extra Large Second Garage. Shows like New. $350,000

8862 PRAIRIE, YPSILANTI TWP
CORNER LOT DREAM HOME with 3 Car Attached Garage and elegant features throughout. Formal Dining Room, Great Room opens to a Huge Kitchen. Master suite offers whirlpool tub and massive walk-in closet. Deep daylight basement has lots of space for play area, workshop area and more. Located near Shopping and Freeways $289,000

6315 DENTON , VAN BUREN
CLASSIC LINES AND TIMELESS DESIGN. Impressive and Updated 4 Bedroom Victorian Home with Wrap Porch Master Bedroom with Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Basement, High Energy Efficient Furnace and Updating Everywhere. 2 1/2 Car Garage PLUS Bonus Second Home w 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. $209,900

40500 HARRIS, SUMPTER TWP
FREE OF CITY PRESSURE Full Brick Country Home with 3 Large Bedrooms, Hardwood Floors, Large Bath, 90+ High Efficiency Furnace, Bigger Pole Barn Plus 2 1/2 Car Garage. Paved Street, 2+ Acres and this Preferred Location is Just minutes from Everwhere. Immediate Occupancy. Just Listed at $175,000

12950 & 12900 HAGGERTY,VAN BUREN
BEST LOCATIONS! 12950 Haggerty offers 9340 SQ FT with 20 foot Ceilings, Large Office Rooms, and Huge Warehouse AND 12900 Haggerty offers 8,000 Sq Ft, Plush Offices, Paved Street and Super Close to I-94 AND I-275. THESE HAVE IT ALL. $750,000 each and Possible Lease at $5.00 Sq Foot NNN

PRICE IMPROVED!

500 HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE
A NEW BREW PUB? HIGHEST QUALITY! Brick Commercial building in the City of Belleville. Former florist, coffee house, and bakery with potential for immediate franchise opportunity The quality, potential and design of this newer (2002) constructed building are beyond description. $550,000 (or $18.00 square ft - NNN)

510 SAVAGE, BELLEVILLE
AUTOMOTIVE TESTING and Engineering Facility. 22,000 Square Feet of Offices, Testing Labs, High Overhead Doors, Possible Prototype Assembly. One of the Few Compressed Gas Filling Station, Light Industrial Zoning. Testing Equipment offered at Additional Price. Possible Land Contract Terms. $700,000.

35337 E MICHIGAN AVE, WAYNE
HUGE MICHIGAN AVENUE EXPOSURE! 5920 Square Foot Brick Commercial Building on East Michigan Avenue. Well Maintained and Clean with Large Parking, Overhead Doors and on a One Half Acre Parcel. Many Uses Possible with Close Access to I-94, I-275 and all Surrounding areas. Priced to Sell at $395,000

BELLEVILLE
337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 $79,500
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES $49,900
ELWELL RD .94 AC (WAS $150,000) $95,000
SOLD

25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES $20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES $30,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
45885 BEMIS PAVED RD BUIDABLE LOT $27,500
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES $30,000

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES $180,000
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES $30,000
VINING AND SIBLEY 21+ ACRES $450,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES $25,000
BOHN NEAR DUNN 5 ACRES $29,000

20731 GRIFFIN COURT 1.1 AC $25,900
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC $29,500
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES $35,000
15880 HAGGERTY 10.53 ACRES $95,000
SOLD

VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES $29,750VAN
6422 GILMORE 82X165 LOT WITH WATER AND SEWER PRICED RIGHT $15,900
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES $49,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES $35,000

2015 TAURUS SHO AWD
24 month lease for
$355/mo.*
Up to $6,000 in rebates.
Buy as low as $34,367.

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2016 ESCAPE SE
24 month lease for
$137/mo.*
Up to $3,000 in rebates. Buy as low as $21,758.

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2013 LINCOLN MKZ AWD
Only 30,000 miles.
$21,599

*A/Z Plan Pricing. 10,500 miles per year. Includes Factory and Renewal Rebate. Requires $2000 due at signing plus taxes and plates. With Approved Credit. **A/Z Plan Pricing. All rebates to Dealer. May require Ford Credit Financing. Plus taxes and fees. May require trade-in.

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