



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 24.50 Thursday, December 13, 2018 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

School Board again rates Supt. Kudlak as 'effective' in his job

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education met in closed-door session to discuss the annual evaluation of School Supt. Pete Kudlak and then came back into open session to rate him "effective" through December 2018.

This is the second year the board has rated him as "effective" instead of the "highly effective" top rating given to the former School Supt. Michael Van Tassel who left the district under pressure in February 2016.

The proposed categories in the evaluation procedure were: ineffective, minimally effective, effective, or highly effective.

Van Tassel was hired as superintendent in July 2012 and every spring during the annual evaluation was labeled "highly effective" by the school board.

The school board had met in several closed-door sessions this year as part of the evaluation process and wound up the process on Monday. The superintendent's evaluation period will be January through December of each year.

In another closed-door session on Monday, the board met to discuss an attorney's recommendation and then came into regular session to pass the following motion.

"I move the Board approve the agreement as presented by legal counsel to resolve a special education student dispute known as Docket Number 18-021751 and that the student who is subject to that dispute be permitted to return to school on Jan. 28, 2019, notwithstanding any prior contrary action of this Board."

The parents of the special education student involved waited outside the closed-door session and said they hoped the school board would reverse its previous decision to remove their son from the district.

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

- Approved purchase of 11 acres of the back property of St. Anthony Catholic Church, adjoining the high school property, from Mooney Real Estate Holdings (the Archdiocese of Detroit) for \$250,000, plus the cost of the inspection, survey, and land divisions. According to the contract, the district will have 90 days to confirm the purchase. Supt. Kudlak said the purchase discussions have taken place over the last six months. When asked what the district will do with the property, Supt. Kudlak said that has not been determined, but it could be for another practice field, parking, or a robotic building, among other potential uses;

- Approved holding the 2019 Organizational Meeting of the school board at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 14, at the Belleville High School Commons. At this meeting the board will elect officers and set the board meeting dates for the year, among other decisions;

- Approved offering Schools of Choice for the second semester of the school year for an unlimited number of openings. Completed application forms are due by Jan. 28;

- Approved \$29,975 worth of student desks and chairs for McBride Middle School from the Great Lakes Furniture Supply Company. A couple of years ago, it was decided that each building could replace furniture in two classrooms per year. This is the same classroom furniture purchased when the new high school was built and has proven to be very flexible, according to McBride Principal John Leroy;

- Held the second reading and approved board policy updates as presented at the last meeting by Treasurer Susan Featheringill. She said also serving on the

(continued on page 15)



Members of the Arthritis Foundation Exercise class ushered in the holiday season by decorating the September Days Senior Center Christmas tree on Nov. 19. The white lights on the tree highlight the beauty of the natural materials members brought in, such as dried orange slices, berry branches, pine cones, grass plumes, and a bird nest or two. The star was constructed from dried hydrangeas from outside the senior center window. Teacher Maxie Jo Haase inspired the class to do this project for the last three years. Seated in front, from left, are Eileen Parent, Ruth Bennett and Dawn Springer. In the group standing at left, from left, are Barb Pesta, Marjorie Lynn, Joy Bickham, Sally Cyphers, Cynthia Vigrass, Yvonne Rickel, and Barb Burns. In the group at right, from left, are Maxie Jo Haase, Pat Tumas, Caroline Bonanni, Ella Lehl, and Roxanne Truhn.

VBT Board approves \$109,611 worth of upgrades to board room

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

After a long discussion at the work/study session on Dec. 3 and a brief discussion at the regular meeting on Dec. 4, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved spending \$109,611 to upgrade technology in the board room and in the cable center down the hall.

Ally McCracken, director of Government Access Cable, said the upgrade to professional broadcasting equipment was discussed during the township budget talks.

She said they got bids from three vendors and did a cost breakdown of major pieces

from suppliers to compare costs.

"TEL System was the only vendor to provide complete industry solution," she said, adding, an analysis concluded that the township is not overpaying for products and services.

She said the TEL (Thalner Electronic Labs) System, which was established in 1965, has contracts with the University of Michigan and has done work for Michigan State, Wayne State University, Cobo Center, Belleville High School, Michigan House and Senate chambers, and the cities of Romulus, Monroe, Westland, and

(continued on page 11)

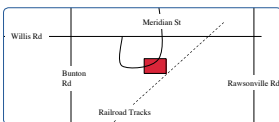


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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Keystone Academy board approves policy on finances

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Dec. 6, the Keystone Academy school board voted unanimously to approve a fiscal management policy that would keep its operator, National Heritage Academy, from shifting funds of more than 10% from the line item to line item in the budget.

The board's attorney Candace Sorenson was present with a financial analysis for 2018 that showed the proposed amended budget shows \$122 average less per pupil spent on instruction under the proposed amended budget.

The analysis shows per pupil funding of \$7,856 in the initial 2018/19 budget, up \$40 to \$7,896 for 780 students in the amended budget.

The percent of revenue from all sources spent on instruction was reduced from 42.5% in the initial 2018/19 budget to 40.9% in the proposed amended budget.

In the 2014/15 audit the percent spent on instruction was 44.9% and in 2015/16 it was 43.6%, down to 41.1% in the 2016/17 audit.

Sorenson said the question is why is Keystone paying almost double for Central Services, Keystone's share of the 86 NHA schools. She said it went from \$300,000 to \$350,000 to \$600,000 now.

She said they can tighten up the policy so money can't be diverted.

Sorenson said the agreement is that if there is a savings, NHA gets it, but Keystone wants integrity in its budget, "instead of taking it out of the budget for instructional services and moving it to support services."

And, she said, principals didn't have the ability to spend all the money budgeted for instruction.

"There has been a \$122 decrease per student budgeted for basic instruction," Sorenson said.

"We made a motion at the end of last summer that the budget would not differ by 10%," said Keystone board president Vesta Losen, noting the board has been concerned about the budget.

"NHA believes this is not a necessary policy," said Jeff Henders, the NHA representative who attends Keystone board meetings. "Your budget is always built on the needs of the school." He said Central Services pays for technology and marketing and training. "We agree they need to be less than 10%. We encourage you to reach out to Bay Mills (the charter authorizer) or to the auditor to see if anything concerns them. Are you getting the support you need? That's a great question."

Claudia Williamson, who had been the interim principal between the resignation



Keystone school board president Vesta Losen, left, welcomed Keystone's new principal Jorvanna Drain to the Dec. 6 school board meeting.

of former principal Keturah Godfrey and the newly hired principal Jorvanna Drain, was present for her last meeting at Keystone.

"In 12 years with NHA, did I have what I needed? Always," Williamson said.

"I don't see anything that would be wrong [in the new policy], anything you would disagree with," Losen said to Henders.

Attorney Sorenson, whose office is in Grand Rapids, said Keystone is not the only school that at the end of the year saw a \$100,000 jump in Central Services in the last six weeks. She said each school has a pro-rated share of Central Services.

"For you to have a sudden jump ... this is for the fidelity of your financial statement," she said.

Henders said NHA talked to the Treasury Department and they said there was no problem.

"Every NHA school got a letter that said they had violated the law -- criminal or civil -- and this policy is to protect you as an entity," Sorenson said.

She said she sent this policy, that Keystone was about to approve, to NHA five months ago and NHA said they "would let me know what they think" in January.

Sorenson said one other charter academy tabled the policy and another approved it.

"It protects you and the academy," Sorenson said.

"You can accept, reject, or table," Losen said to board members.

Board treasurer Charlene Derrick made the motion to accept the attorney's advice which was seconded by board vice-president Darren Hickonbottom and passed unanimously by the board.

"I'll let you know what their request is and you will make your decision as a board," Sorenson said of her expected

reply from NHA.

"It's a complicated legal question," she said.

Sorenson also announced that Keystone's charter authorizer Bay Mills Community College has scheduled a Jan. 7 conference call concerning a proposed eight-year renewal of the charter, which was good news. Losen agreed board members would be a part of the call. Sorenson said NHA also will want to be in on that conference call.

In other business at the one-hour-and-36-minute meeting, the board:

- Welcomed Principal Jorvanna Drain, who was supported for hire in a Nov. 26 special meeting of the Keystone board. Drain said she was from Ypsilanti and had been with NHA for seven of her 15 years in education. She said she was a classroom teacher in Georgia and Detroit and had been serving at South Arbor Academy in Ypsilanti;

- Heard Losen say, "I'm not happy" with the color-coded report of scores from NWEA MAP (Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress). "Most of the time we had all

green in the past," she said, noting some areas of red. "The numbers are slipping," said board secretary Connie Shull. Losen said Keystone is taking steps to remedy the situation. Outgoing interim principal Williamson said they have added "Math Stories" which explains why two plus two equals four. "Kids seem to understand more. And, in reading, teachers come out with reading certificates and not a good grasp of how students learn to read." Williamson said NHA bought the program "Balanced Literacy" on skills kids have to have to be good readers and the teachers will be held responsible. Losen said three years ago Common Core came in. Keystone had a phonics component and Common Core didn't, she said. Williamson said a strong intervention team is going into the classrooms. Principal Drain said a "Balanced Literacy" program has begun in grades K-2 and next year it will be in grades 3-5, as well;

- Interviewed and then recommended Patrick Kirkpatrick of Romulus for a seat on the Keystone board. Kirkpatrick retired after 37

(continued on page 17)



Navy Corpsman Kenneth R. Knox, Jr., formerly of Belleville, stood guard at the back of President George H.W. Bush's casket on the train to the President's last resting place. Knox lived in Van Buren Estates when he was younger with his parents, Ken and Tracy Knox. They moved to Adrian when he was in about the sixth grade. He has been in the Navy for almost eight years. He is a Ceremonial Guard at Arlington National Cemetery, and in charge of one of the groups. He is married to Maricar and they have an 18-month-old son Kenoy.

OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT board members donate \$1,000 to library

At Tuesday's meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board, Van Buren Township Trustee Reggie Miller gave board members a gift that thrilled them.

Trustee Miller spoke under the "Public Comments" part of the agenda, presenting an envelope with more than \$1,000 in checks and cash from VBT board members who dug into their own pockets.

"No taxpayer funds were used," Miller stressed.

She said township board members donated their own money to total the \$1,000 threshold amount to be on the Donor Wall and they designated the funds for restoration of amenities.

The library board had cut some of the library amenities when it found it was over budget on construction of the new building. Since then, private donations have restored some of the amenities.

District Library Board Chairman Sharon Peters said she will use this donation to challenge other organizations to join in donating. She said VBT will get recognition on the Donor Wall and she is very happy for its support.

"This is one of the best Public Comments we've ever had around here," she said referring to the place on the agenda Miller made her presentation.

Peters said the goal was \$400,000 in donations to restore library amenities and they have about \$210,000 so far. That was a great gesture by township board members to help their new library.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

In last week's paper we had an entry under "Things to Do in the Belleville Area" that was wrong. Sort of. We said there would be an event for kids and Santa on Saturday, Dec. 8, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Belleville (Van Buren).

Well, it actually happened at St. Paul's Church in New Boston.

We put the address of our local St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Belleville on the announcement because that was the only local St. Paul's we knew. Rev. Frey had to put a sign on the door of his church in Belleville, telling anyone who came to his church to see Santa that it was a mistake and they have to go to New Boston. We apologize. The young lady who sent us the information said she was new at her job of doing publicity for her church. I asked her to put the address on future announcements.

We've had similar announcements in the past -- for events in Belleville, Ont., and Belleville, IL -- but we had been able to catch them before they went to print.

For a while, we were certain this event was at a Lutheran Church in Belleville, IL, because they really are having a party with Santa there, too. Nope, it was New Boston.

The Michigan Press Association has advised member newspapers to reject any advertising related to the sale of recreational -- or any kind of -- marijuana and so that's what we continue to do.

The MPA and the Independent will continue to monitor the rules being set up by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to see what advertising guidelines it comes up with for



recreational marijuana, approved by Michigan voters on Nov. 6.

But, we probably won't be able to do any advertisements for marijuana anyway because the federal government still classifies it as an illegal Schedule 1 Controlled Substance and we would like to continue mailing our paper using the U.S. Postal Service.

When discussing the new fire engine the Van Buren Township board approved for purchase on Dec. 4, Supervisor Kevin McNamara pointed out VBT's fire chief is from Ann Arbor. "I bet our front line equipment is better than their front line," he said, and Fire Chief Amy Brow responded, "Yes."

The township has been putting aside \$100,000 a year in anticipating of such a purchase, so they are able to pay cash. Chief Brow then, on another matter, thanked the board for the capital improvement money that paid for new carpeting and painting of the inside of the two fire halls.

It was reported at Monday's school board meeting that there were from 700 to 800 people who attended Saturday's craft show at the high school to earn money for the senior class graduation party. Parents and students were delighted at the turnout.

We've heard that the former DNR prop-

erty just north of the Belleville Bridge, as of today, is owned by Van Buren Township which paid \$22,000 for it. What a deal. Now, we'll see what the township wants to do with it.

Supervisor McNamara said on Tuesday, when we talked, that everyone knows what he wants to do with it. He said that he still wants a "Lake House" so people who don't own lakefront property can still enjoy coffee on a deck next to the community's lake. He said there would be a card room and community groups could meet there and have cultural events with rentals for showers and weddings on the week ends.

He said there would have to be a traffic study and soil borings and community meetings to ask members of the public what they want. He said many senior citizens have told him they are in favor of his Lake House. McNamara said when housing developments are going up, the first thing they build is a community building, which drives up the value of the homes.

I asked him about the golf course building offered to VBT by Waste Management. He said VBT has until June to decide on whether it wants to lease that building from the landfill after it closes the golf course.



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-- Theodore Roosevelt

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Letters

On coats and parade and Merry Christmas

Dear Santa,

You can forget about the sable coat for the little woman that was on my wish list I sent you. I understand the township has some coats that are brand new, never used.

I'm glad to see the brain trust is finally bellying up to the public trough. Here I thought we had public officials who were in it for me, not to see what they can get out of it. Though I did see my favorite trustee at Meijer's proudly wearing his "I'm a Van Buren Trustee" shirt.

Speaking of my buddy Paul, I was wondering if he learned how hard it is to kinda hitch hike Saturday night at the parade. Though I believe that WALKING was WAY beneath a person of his high status, I walked the parade route one time. That 1/2 mile can seem like ... a 1/2 mile. 'Way too far for a man who had to carry 900 pieces of candy.

I would like to wish all the fine folks of Van Buren Township, Belleville and Sumpter Township a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Blessed New Year.

Vic Franzoi
Van Buren Township

P.S. I'll keep an eye on the brain trust for you folks in 2019.

Where is water coming from for splash pad?

To the editor:

I was cautiously excited when I read your article this week regarding the potential construction of a splash pad at Quirk Park. These types of amenities are really a nice thing to have access to right here in our community.

I'm sure by now we've all seen how popular they are. And by my estimation, they're much cheaper to own and operate than a water park.

I do have one question for the Township Board and DDA. What is the plan for water supply to the splash pad?

In my professional experience, I've seen three options: 1) Buy the water from the municipal supply, 2) Sink a well and use well water, or 3) Buy the water from the municipal supply and have a recycling process installed to clean and re-use the water.

I would advocate for the third option, but I'm more curious what the Board and DDA has in mind.

Charles Larocque, Van Buren Township

Belleville Community Band
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Belleville

I agree taxpayers should not be paying for jackets

To the editor:

I agree the taxpayers should not be paying for jackets for our township officials. In fact, I think it's pretty awful.

There are perks that these officials have that are not even offered to the big companies any more. Also, there is a lot of travel for classes, always in nice places. How many classes do you need to travel to? Many of the taxpayers cannot afford to go on these nice trips and you are supposed to be working for us.

The one free thing we did have was garbage pick-up and now that is being taken away. I recently called to ask about a service that was offered by a neighbor township and was told Van Buren did not offer that because they were trying to keep our taxes low.

It seems that only applies to the taxpayers and not the township officials.

It is my opinion that our taxpayer money is not being spent very wisely and for the benefit of our community. I fail to see how jackets and mugs, even shirts, offer any benefits.

A Concerned Taxpayer
Please withhold my name.

Dr. Dobson is totally awesome veterinarian

To the editor:

I go to Ban-Field Pet Hospital at 437 Sumpter Rd. in Belleville, MI 48111-8111, (734) 697-9142. I have been taking my German shepherd there to see Dr. Tim Dobson, a very caring vet that listens and takes his time to help my pet.

I was very disappointed that he is no longer working there any more. They told me Dr. Dobson retired. I ran into some people at a local coffee shop. They said they heard he was cut back on hours and eventually let go.

Dr. Dobson was there for years. Dr. Dobson had no other help working long hours and days. Dr. Dobson was the only vet there on duty for months, doing surgeries and seeing pets.

I cannot see how one veterinarian can do a work load like that. It would wear a person out with stress. Now I hear they have a lady vet and she has help. One vet cannot handle all the pets' needs. It's totally impossible.

I would like to hear from anyone that had Dr. Dobson as their vet. I would like to start a petition for all Dr. Dobson's clients to sign to get Dr. Dobson back to work at the Ban-Field Pet Hospital now.

Anyone interested and feeling the same way as me, please contact me. My name is Larry at (734) 502-1130 or text me. Dr. Dobson is a totally awesome veterinarian and a great person.

Thanks and God bless.

Larry Baleja
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Obituaries



Edwin James Renton



EDWIN JAMES RENTON

(September 11, 1925 – November 19, 2018)

Edwin 'Ed' J. Renton, 93, passed away Monday, November 19, 2018 at Oak Garden Place, a senior home in Altoona, WI. He had recently moved to Wisconsin after selling his home on U.S. Hwy 2 in Gulliver, MI, that he and his late wife Eileen owned for nearly 50 years.

Ed was born in Belleville, MI, on September 11, 1925 to George and Donna Belle (Leonard) Renton. The youngest of three children, Ed, his sister Marion and brother George all helped with the family dairy farm. Ed enjoyed farming and expected that to be his life's work, but after graduating from Belleville High School in 1943 he enlisted in the Army, serving in the Pacific theater, including Okinawa and Japan during WWII.

Returning from Japan after his discharge, he married his high school sweetheart Eileen M. Bohl on November 30, 1946. They made their home in Belleville on Martinsville Road where they lived and worked on the family farm. During this time he also drove school bus and worked at Draw-Tite, a trailer hitch factory. While raising their 3 children Sharon, Bob and Joanne, they enjoyed many trips to the Upper Peninsula for camping, fishing, and hunting. After their youngest child graduated in 1969 they moved to Gulliver, MI. While in Gulliver, Ed started Renton Excavation and put in many of the area's driveways, septic tanks, and drainage systems, as well as digging foundations for homes and garages.

Ed enjoyed hunting. He didn't miss a deer season for 70 years. Fishing, camping and walking through the woods and fields of the U.P. with his dog "Budd" were other favorite activities. For many years he planted and harvested a large garden, donating produce to several area churches for their fall harvest dinners. Ed especially enjoyed his time with his grandchildren, fostering a love of the outdoors and adventure in all of them. He also loved playing baseball. He participated on a local Gulliver team into his late 40s, playing positions of third base and short stop.

Edwin is survived by son Robert (Pat) Renton of Eau Claire, WI; daughters Sharon (Larry) Eddy of Trout Creek, MT and Joanne (Wayne) Bjorkman of Pequot Lakes, MN; grandchildren Kristi (Jon) Duff, Max (Sarah) Bjorkman, Travis (Lisa) Bjorkman, Jessica (Kit) Lien, Bryan (Mindy) Renton; and brother George Renton of Saline, MI.

He is preceded in death by his loving wife, sister Marion, and great-grandchild Zephany.

Services were held Friday, November 30, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church in Manistique, with Pastor Don Bedwell officiating. Memorial donations may be given to the First United Methodist Church of Manistique. Family and friends may send condolences or share a memory at mbfuneral.com.

More Letters

Where else can you win a 65" HD TV for \$5?

To the editor:

Where else can you win a 65-inch HD TV for only \$5? The St. Anthony Men's

Club is holding a fund-raising raffle for a 65-inch HD TV.

Tickets are only \$5 each. The tickets say its for a chance to win a "55" or larger Ultra HD TV," but our TV prize actually is a 65-inch Visio D series 4K HDR smart TV. The drawing will be held Jan. 14, 2019 between 8 and 8:30 p.m. or until 150 tickets are sold (whichever is later) and you need not be present to win. A maximum of 500 tickets

will be sold.

For a ticket, contact any Men's Club member, Garden Fantasy on Main, or Pete Pitzen, (734) 699-8563.

Pete Pitzen
Belleville

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We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.



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Vault	\$700.00
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Total	\$6,980.00
Same Day Service	\$6,485.00

Funeral Service with Cremation to Follow	
Service Charge	\$4,730.00
Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
Register Book Package	\$140.00
Crematory	\$160.00
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Obituaries




Kenneth Russell Grice

KENNETH RUSSELL GRICE
 (November 29, 1943 – December 3, 2018)
 Kenneth Russell Grice, Colonel (Retired) U.S. Army, age 75, of Belleville, MI, passed away Monday, December 3, 2018 surrounded by Love, Faith and Family.

He was born November 29, 1943, in Wyandotte, MI, son of Leonard Russell and Eulalia "Dorothy" Grice. Throughout his life, Ken humbly served God, his country, and his family and friends. He met his true love and wife, Jan, in middle school in Detroit, MI, and also attended Mackenzie High School in Detroit, MI, with her. After 30 years, Ken retired from the U.S. Army as a Colonel at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, where he was a permanent Professor of Physics as well as a Vice Dean during his tenure at the academy. Ken graduated from West Point in 1966. He enjoyed watching Army and Michigan Football, hunting, fishing, boating and fellowship with his family and friends. Above all, Ken enjoyed serving God while serving others. Jesus was the foundation of his life. Ken was a member of the Belleville First United Methodist Church, Belleville, MI, and was instrumental in establishing both the West Point, NY, and Belleville/Ypsilanti, MI, Young Life ministries. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Janice Elizabeth Grice; three children: Matthew (Lara) Grice of Rochester Hills, MI, Laura (D. Patrick) Dyer of Belleville, MI and Jonathan (Kristin) Grice of Ann Arbor, MI; 9 grandchildren: Corinne, Lauren, Kaitlyn, Patrick, Will, Emily, Courtney, Jameson and Kathryn; brother-in-law Michael Raymer of Arizona; two sisters-in-law Martha (Roger Lefever) McLean and Kathryn (John) McNamara, both of Sterling Heights, MI; also several nieces, nephews, colleagues, veterans and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, newborn son Richard Russell Grice and his sister, Marian Raymer.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded with full military honors. A Gathering is planned for Friday, December 14, from 2 p.m.-8 p.m. EST at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr, Belleville, MI 48111, and a Memorial Service and Celebration is set for Saturday, December 15, at 11 a.m. EST at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville, MI 48111.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to the Belleville/Ypsilanti Young Life <https://giving.younglife.org/s/?GiftType=Area&Amount=100.00&MissionUnitId=a2s410000002vNUAAY&ClassCodeId=a2j41000000Nj93AAC&Frequency=Monthly&MissionUnitName=Belleville-Ypsilanti&AppealCodeId=70141000000hFibAAE&ClassCodeName=Operating&Name=BY>

or the Belleville First United Methodist Church, Belleville, MI, <http://www.umc.org/find-a-church/church/51950>

and would be deeply appreciated.




Edward Charles Pieche

EDWARD CHARLES PIECHE
 (July 22, 1922 – December 9, 2018)
 Edward C. Pieche, age 96, a lifelong Sumpter Township resident, passed away Sunday, December 9, 2018 at Waltonwood Carriage Park in Canton, MI. He was born July 22, 1922 in Belleville, MI, son of the late Charles and Mary (Zemanek) Piecha.

He is survived by his daughter Brenda (Charlie) Gohl, one granddaughter Megan (Cameron Coburn), one great-granddaughter Arlayna Coburn and one on-the-way. Edward was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Barbara of 58 years; five sisters: Marianne Zielke, Irene Fensch, Ann Piecha, Agnes Fleszar, and Angeline Fensch; and two brothers Frank Piecha and Alexander Piecha.

Edward was a lifelong member of St. Anthony Catholic Church where he served as an altar boy in his young days. He was a proud WWII Marine Corp Veteran who made landings in Guam, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and Iwo Jima. He was actually present at the historic raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. He was later employed by Purolator for many years until making the decision to farm full-time instead of part-time. He was the owner of Belvil Sod Farms where all could benefit from his ever-green thumb. He loved to garden and appreciated all the outdoors had to offer, whether trapping as a young boy or fishing and hunting in his later years. His game of choice was always Euchre with family, friends, and fellow Euchre tournament attendees. He also enjoyed singing; up until his last few days, he continued to serenade the wonderful staff at Waltonwood.

Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Friday, December 14, 2018 with a Time for Sharing at 7 p.m. at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 15, 2018 at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI with Father John Kiselica as Celebrant.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Wounded Warriors or Waltonwood Activities Center, and would be appreciated.

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EDWARD SIKES
 (October 26, 1923 – December 10, 2018)
 Funeral arrangements are being arranged for Edward Sikes at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville. Call for information at (734) 697-4500.
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More Obituaries
on pages 6, 8 & 10

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Obituaries



Donald Claude Byrom



DONALD CLAUDE BYROM

(May 4, 1928 – December 4, 2018)

Donald Claude Byrom, age 90, life-long Belleville area resident, passed away Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at his home. He was born May 4, 1928 in Detroit, MI, son of Mentor & Elizabeth (Simpson) Byrom.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Marines during Korea. He retired from Ford Motor Company as an Engineer after 20+ years. Don was a very active man in his community. He was the former head of the Chamber of Commerce, and enjoyed being active in Little League and Hockey. He was a wonderful husband and father. He loved hunting and fishing and time spent "up North." Most of all, Don was a Born-Again Man and devoted member of First Baptist Church of Canton.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 30 years, Beverly Byrom; sons: Michael (Susan) Byrom of Westland, MI, Stephen (Dynette) Byrom of Britton, MI, the late Kerry Bramlett (d. 1958), Jeffery (Debby) Bramlett of Belleville, MI, Michael (Rita) Bramlett of Gregory, MI and Christopher (Lisa) Bramlett of Indiana; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren and one on-the-way; brother Jack (Shirley) Byrom of Washington, MI; two brothers-in-law Phil (Judy) Harris of Texas and Jim (Mary Ann) Harris of Florida; also, many extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Gloria Byrom, sister Joyce of Texas, also a brother.

Visitation was 5-8 PM Wednesday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Services were 11:00 AM Thursday, December 6, 2018 at First Baptist Church, 44500 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187. The family received guests an hour prior to service. A Private interment was to be held later at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Canton and would be greatly appreciated.



Ethan Robert O'Neil

ETHAN ROBERT O'NEIL

(January 22, 2003 – December 5, 2018)

Ethan Robert O'Neil, 15, of Belleville, MI passed away December 5, 2018. Ethan was born in Farmington Hills on January 22, 2003 to Melanie O'Neil and Michael Litwin.

In his spare time, Ethan did yard work for neighbors and on his family's farm.

He was very interested in meteorology and enjoyed fishing, building things, hanging out with his friends at the library and antique store, biking, being out in nature, fusing and blowing glass with his grandmother and watching NASCAR with his grandfather. He loved helping plan the food and decorating for family get togethers at the holidays, vacationing with family in the UP, swimming, listening to classic rock, camping, kayaking and boating, CB radios, reading, ATVing and building bonfires in Jackson.

Ethan is survived by his parents Melanie O'Neil and Shane Convery; his biological father Michael Litwin; his siblings Ella, Edwin, Olive Convery and Michael, Danielle, Nancy, John, Jewelleanna, Jacob Litwin; his grandparents Mark and Paula O'Neil, Mary Lane and Laura Convery; his great-grandparent Onalee Riess; and his uncle Timothy O'Neil.

Visitation for Ethan was held Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from 2-6 p.m. with the Funeral Service starting at 6 p.m. at Manns Family Funeral Home, 17000 Middlebelt, Livonia 48154.

IRENE ROBERTS

(March 8, 1926 – December 7, 2018)

Age 92, of Van Buren Township. Survived by husband George; children Gary Lee, Linda, Jerry, Douglas; 9 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

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Marilyn Marie Korotney

MARILYN M. KOROTNEY

(December 17, 1934 – December 6, 2018)

Marilyn Marie Korotney, age 83, long-time resident of Sumpter Township, MI, passed away Thursday, December 6, 2019 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born December 17, 1934 in Dearborn, MI, daughter of Maylon E. Rose & Margaret L. Cain-Smith. Marilyn started the very first Sumpter Festival, formerly called Sumpter Days, with her best friend Adonna Demski. She was a trustee of Sumpter Township for many years. She was a former member of the Moose and the Ypsilanti Eagles. She enjoyed crafting and loved to travel, especially to Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Mrs. Korotney is survived by: daughter Denise Korotney of Sumpter Township, MI; son Craig (Martha Ann) Sayer of Ohio; grandchild Tomarilyn Komora of Sumpter Township, MI; and brother-in-law Youel Wortham of Kentucky. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Elmer in 2012, and also sister Margaret Wortham.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Monday and 10-11 AM Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Services were at 11:00 AM Tuesday at the funeral home. Entombment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the A.S.P.C.A. and would be appreciated.



Linda Lee Bennett

LINDA LEE BENNETT

(December 27, 1956 – December 5, 2018)

Linda Lee Bennett, age 61, long-time Belleville resident, passed away Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at her home, surrounded by her family. She was born December 27, 1956, daughter of David James & Louise Virginia (Remus) Bennett. She graduated from Pinckney High School. She enjoyed crocheting and loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Linda is survived by daughter Lindsey Bennett of Belleville, MI; two sons Derek Bennett (Ann Jarvis) of Ypsilanti, MI, and Billy Patrick of Belleville, MI; 9 grandchildren: Sophia, Vivian, Caleb, Jacob, Isaac, Jeremiah, Sarah, Micah, and Olivia; her mother Louise Singer of Belleville, MI; 3 siblings: David (Phyllis) Bennett of Pinckney, MI, Kimberly Bennett of Belleville, MI, and Joe (Brenda) Bennett of Pinckney, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her father.

Visitation was 5-8 PM Saturday, December 8, 2018 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. A Funeral Service was at 1 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home with Pastor Gordon Moore officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the funeral home or family to help defray expenses.

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Obituaries

DONALD JEROME HARRIS

(May 10, 1954 – November 13, 2018)

Donald Jerome “Donnie” Harris, 64, is believed to have died November 13, 2018. He was found in the family home in Sumpter Township by his sister Charlene. He had last connected with family on October 24.

He was born to Charles Harris, Jr. and Crystal Harris on May 10, 1954 in Inkster. He was the second oldest of three children.

They moved to Sumpter Township in the early 1950s where Donald attended Sumpter Elementary, Bessie Hoffman Junior High, and Belleville High schools. He was an honor-roll student most of his school years and participated in a school play, was on the debate team, was in swimming tournaments and on the wrestling team. At an early age, the school systems wanted to double promote him because his intellectual abilities were above many of his classmates.

He was born into the spiritual *Israel Church and Its Army* at the *Farm Church Temple* in Sumpter Township and remained an Israelite all his life.

Donnie proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War era, serving in the Republic of Germany as a supply management clerk in the field artillery headquarters battalion, ordering all vehicles and supplies. This trained him in the warehousing business which led to a career in the labor and trades field.

He learned culinary arts and worked as head chef for seafood restaurants in Ann Arbor.

He studied and became a heating and cooling technician. He learned the operation of and drove many heavy construction equipment vehicles in Canton Township and Georgia.

He then entered the Civil Service career field in Ypsilanti as the maintenance supervisor in public housing. Then he moved on to the State of Michigan employment service department and mental health department as a maintenance lead worker and supervisor. Donnie worked with construction companies, installing plumbing and roofing as extra side employment. His last project was building a deck onto his mother’s winter home in Gibson, Georgia, that he completed in 2017.

He was preceded in death by his father and his brother Christopher M. Harris. He is survived by one son Vartan C. Harris of Ann Arbor; four grandchildren, Autumn, Azende, Noah, and Allanah; one great-grandchild Theron and one on the way; his mother; sister Charlene A. Harris-Shepard; two aunts Jacqueline A. Green and Theresa M. Ethridge; one uncle Venia S. Jordan, Sr.; and four close friends Bobby Drake, Billy Laster, Cousin Charlotte Smith, and Ricky

Thornton; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Services were held December 1 at Isreal Gardens in Sumpter Township. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park with full military honors. Crystal Fountain Chapel Funeral Directors were in charge of arrangements.



Debra Ann Barron

DEBRA ANN BARRON

(September 10, 1957 – December 6, 2018)

Debra Ann Barron, age 61, of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, December 6, 2018. Debra was born September 10, 1957 in Dearborn, Michigan. She was the daughter of the late Joseph John Blaskiewicz and Josphine Annie (Glowacz) Blaskiewicz.

To cherish her memory she leaves her loving husband Ronald Barron; family Edward Blaskiewicz, Cynthia and (Henry) Plateau. Loving aunt of Lisa, Michael, Jason, Melanie and Joseph, and aunt to many great nieces and nephews. Debra was preceded in death by her parents and one sister; Patricia Cadden.

Arrangements by Crane Funeral Home, Romulus, Michigan.

MIRIAM ‘TOOTSIE’ A. SPRAGG

(June 1, 1927 – December 8, 2018)

Age 91 of Sumpter Township. Survived by 5 children; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, sister and brother. Service 11 a.m., Dec. 14, Immanuel Baptist Church, Ypsilanti. Janowiakfuneralhome.com “Where Families Come First”

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Dec. 13 – Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m., if needed.
- Monday, Dec. 17 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 18 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 19 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

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**THE
KING IS HERE**
A CHRISTMAS WORSHIP MUSICAL

VBT Board

(continued from page 1)

Wyandotte.

The VBT upgrades include new cameras, improved board microphones, 12 speakers throughout the room, a wireless microphone,

document camera built into the podium, and two 80" monitors mounted on articulating mounts on the walls. Also, there will be 49" and 43" television sets in the control room.

At the work/study session on Dec. 3, Trustee Sherry Frazier chastised TEL account manager Matthew Bizer for not having a

power point presentation to show the details of the equipment, being that he represents a technology firm.

She said at least he could put up templates on the wall to show the size of the 80" monitors. At the work/study, Bizer said the monitors would be on opposite walls in the board room, but at the regular meeting, two big pieces of blue paper, representing the monitors, were stuck on the same, north side, of the boardroom, without explanation.

At the regular meeting, McCracken presented a brief power point showing details of some of the equipment.

McCracken first estimated that all the equipment would be in place by February, but then said she has been informed that the Building and Grounds Department would be doing work in the board room, as well, with painting, carpeting, and other upgrades, which may delay her equipment installation.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said these two projects are from the CIP+1 projects to be paid for with the surplus funds from the 2017 budget.

McCracken said much of the equipment is still in place since the beginning of the building in 1997 when they first started cable coverage of meetings.

Trustee Frazier asked if the used equipment could be sold to Sumpter Township and McCracken said it is working now, but is at the end of its life.

"We could give it to Sumpter Township, give it to the high school. We don't know," said Supervisor McNamara.

"I wouldn't want it," McCracken said. "Its lifespan is four to five years and the last equipment was replaced in 2008."

Bizer said the new equipment would have a one-year parts and labor warranty. He said he is located in Ann Arbor and, "We're very close by" and could come for service quickly during

regular business hours.

In other business at the one-hour-and-ten-minute meeting, the board:

- Held a moment of silence in memory of President George H.W. Bush, who passed away the previous Friday;

- Approved the first reading of an ordinance to prohibit marijuana establishments in all areas of the Charter Township of Van Buren. The second reading and approval is planned for Dec. 18 meeting. The board wants to wait until it finds out what the state rules are for marijuana businesses before it makes a final decision on allowing businesses in the township. That could take a year;

- Approved the selection of Eaton Corporation to provide a new, uninterruptible power supply for VBT Public Safety and IT departments at a cost of \$27,880;

- Approved purchase of a new 2018 Pearce fire engine from Spartan Fire Engine at a reduced price of \$367,899 because it has been used as a demonstration model across the country. It is a sister vehicle to another fire engine recently purchased, but 18" longer. Prices are expected to go up the first of the year because of tariffs. It was originally planned to be purchased in 2019, but buying it now will save about \$16,000. Fire Chief Amy Brow said this fire engine will complete the fleet and, hopefully, no other vehicle purchases will be necessary for 10 years;

- Approved a Public Participation Plan, prepared by intern Grace Stamper, for use in the planning and development process. Stamper is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in Urban Studies. She was praised by board members for her work;

- Held another discussion on the Supervisor's purchase of seven, embroidered winter coats for the township board. Trustee Paul White said he

(continued on page 14)



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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Some of the members of the Belleville High School football team were honored at Monday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. This team brought BHS its first-in-history district and regional championships. From left are Ramier Lewis, Coach Jermain Crowell, Jaden Johnson, Deon Selma, Eric Wallace, Devontae Dobbs, Cameron Wallace, and Hunter Little. At the microphone, in front, is Athletic Director Joseph Brodie, who holds one of the "Final Four" t-shirts he brought for all of the board members.



Dec. 8 – Khloe Williams
 Dec. 16 – Oliver White
 Dec. 18 – Rhonda Dutton, Russ Peabody, Paul Smith
 Dec. 19 – Cheryl Toms, Mary Jane Egan, Thomas Fielder
 Dec. 20 – Jenny Hawkins
 Dec. 22 – Candace Myshock

Do you have a birthday in December? 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.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Now through Thursday, Dec. 20** – The Belle Noel Tree Festival continues until Dec. 20 at the Belleville Area Museum. The museum is open from 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday and noon until 4 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday. Admission is \$2 for adults; \$1 children.

• **Thursday, Dec. 13** – Homegrown Knowledge is at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. "South Africa: Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Cape" will be presented by former and current library directors Deb Green and Mary Jo Suchy, who will tell of their pictorial safari in South Africa. Free. Information: (734) 699-3291.

• **Friday, Dec. 14** – Give blood at the Red Cross Blood Bank from 12:30 to 6:15 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township.

• **Saturday, Dec. 15** – Belleville Area Museum Children's Christmas Ornament Workshop and free pictures with Santa from noon to 4 p.m. Special sessions with Santa at 11 a.m. for special needs children. Workshops at noon, 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Reservations encouraged and required for groups. Call (734) 697-1944.

• **Sunday, Dec. 16** – Swift Transportation in New Boston is sponsoring its fourth-annual "Christmas Dinner for Our Veterans." Dinner served from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Southgate VFW Post, 16200 Toledo-Dix Rd. Donation of \$12 for dinner; \$5 for children 5-12. Vets

with proper ID eat free. Advance tickets at Swift, (734) 753-2323, and VFW Post 9283, (734) 282-0605.

• **Sunday, Dec. 16** – Free Sunday Music at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, 2-5 p.m. This week it's 18 Strings. Information: Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.

• **Sunday, Dec. 16** – "Sounds of Winter," a concert by the Belleville Community Chorus with the Children's Chorus, begins at 3 p.m. at the Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville. Director is Rachael Parr and accompanist is Judith Weed. Free, but donations to support the chorus are accepted.

• **Monday, Dec. 17** – State Rep. Joe Bellino will hold coffee hours with constituents from 9 to 10 a.m. at Tim Horton's, 404 South Monroe St. in Monroe and from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Blue Heron Trading Company, 26217 Huron River Dr., in Flat Rock. Rep. Bellino represents Sumpter Township in Lansing.

• **Saturday, Dec. 22** – Belleville Area Museum closed Dec. 22-31 and Jan. 1-7.

• **Sunday, Dec. 23** – No music at September Days Senior Center. Closed.

• **Sunday, Dec. 30** – No music at September Days Senior Center. Closed.

• **Monday, Dec. 31** – New Year's Eve celebration at Moose Lodge 934, at the corner of Harris and Sumpter roads. Southern Heat Band from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner from 7 to 9 p.m., with champagne and pizza at midnight. Tickets are \$20 each until Dec. 20 and then \$25. Call (734) 325-7799.

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VBT Board

(continued from page 11)

was willing to pay for his since he didn't think it was proper for taxpayers to pay for personal clothing for him, but Supervisor McNamara refused his offer. McNamara re-read a prepared statement he had presented at the work/study session the day before, explaining his action to provide a "uniform" for board members so the public would know who to go to for help at public events. "You have a right to vote no," said Clerk Leon Wright to Trustee White, referring to the voucher list that contained the \$601.80 for the coats. "Vote no and move on," he said. White voted no and the voucher list passed on a 6-1 vote; and

- Heard Trustee White compliment Clerk Wright for his handling of the Nov. 6 election which had no problems. He said several people mentioned to him that the election went very well.

After the work/study meeting on Dec. 3, the board went into closed-door session to consider the purchase or lease of real property.

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom."
— Isaac Asimov

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School Board

(continued from page 1)

policy committee were Secretary Kevin English and Trustee Alison Bennett;

• Thanked English and Bennett for their time on the school board, since this was their last meeting. Kudlak presented framed certificates from the Michigan Association of School Boards. A reception with cake and punch was held before the meeting to honor the two;

• Thanked the Belleville Rotary Club for all its help over the years, including \$500,000 worth of student scholarships, plus the most recent collection of 101 coats for students in need. Kudlak presented an

armload of thank-you cards made by the students who received the coats;

• Honored members of the BHS football team for a season that left them KLAAs East Division Champions, KLAAs League Champions, and MHSAA Division 1 District Champion (first in school history) and Regional Champions (Final Four – first in school history). Athletic Director Joseph Brodie presented “Final Four” t-shirts for members of the board;

• Heard Tonya Porzondek praise at length her son-in-law Kevin English for his nine years on the school board. “You are one of a kind,” she concluded, adding, “We’ll always call you ‘our little politician’”;

• Heard Director of Plant Operations James Williamson report all the safety “boots” are

on the doors and there will be a final walk-through to make everything is complete. He gave updates on the bids for Owen and McBride media center construction and the Tyler boiler project;

• Heard Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun report the Michigan State Police audited the district security files and the MSP trooper told him it was one of the best audits he’d received. There is some follow-up work there. Also, Madyun said he sent a Proposal One memo to all of the staff, telling them the new state law on marijuana changes nothing in how the district operates;

• Heard Supt. Kudlak report the district is somber because it lost a student last week, apparently referring to the recent suicide. He said the district is offering services to the students who need support. He said the student was well-known and well-liked; and

• Heard Kudlak say the logo committee has been meeting and has selected a tiger it likes and will be meeting with a graphic artist. The committee also is deciding on a color and fonts for the letters and, “Any

time you use a tiger, it’s this tiger, this paw, this letter, and this color orange.” He said there will be a presentation to the board at the end of January or beginning of February. He said this logo will be used as things need to be replaced.

Tyler Lewis of VBT Joins Albion College’s Ford Institute

ALBION, MI -- Tyler Lewis of Van Buren Township is a new member of Albion College’s Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service.

Students from a variety of majors participate in the Ford Institute, with its emphasis on community involvement and internships in government, nonprofit organizations, the media and the legal system. Institute participation is an academic concentration and part of an Albion bachelor’s degree.

Lewis is majoring in political science.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

ARAMARK @ Lincoln Schools is hiring part time food service employees. Please visit www.aramark.com/careers to apply. Email Thomas-karen@aramark.com with questions. A background check/drug screen is required for this position. EOE, M/F/Disability/Vet

HELP WANTED

PLUMBING APPRENTICE

Looking for a motivated person willing to learn all aspects of the plumbing profession. Must have a high school diploma, good driving record & pass a drug test. Must also have the ability to lift heavy objects & work with your hands in a mechanical setting. Apply by email at: dmyers3060@gmail.com

CERTIFIED AUTO MECHANIC WANTED

Competitive Pay.
Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm
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KWICK AUTOMOTIVE
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Belleville
734-391-8218

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Food Service Department. Earn while your children learn. Immediate openings for substitute kitchen help. \$9.25 to start. Will train. Good working hours. Background check required. To inquire & schedule an interview call (734) 697-0011 12/13

Read The Newspaper On The Web!

The Belleville-Area Independent Website is Online! Visit us @ bellevilleareaindependent.com

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

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Quest, Inc. is HIRING

We’re looking for fun, energetic & caring Direct Care Workers to assist persons with special needs we serve in their own homes.

Applicants must be:

- Responsible & committed and work well with others.
- Have a clean criminal record.
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Send Letter/Resume to:
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or Call (734) 458-8140



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Sumpter Twp., MI 48111

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R.V & Boat Storage
Mon 10-6, Tues - Fri 6-6
Sat. 7-4, Sun 7-2



Est. in 1995

Storage Hours Same As Bakery Hours.

TAKING ORDERS UNTIL THURS., DEC. 20!

PIES: Cherry Crust, Apple Crust, Cherry Streusel, Carmel Apple Streusel, Lemon Meringue, Banana Cream, Chocolate, Coconut Cream, Pumpkin, Peanut Butter Pie.

Strudel, Pineapple Upside Down, Cannolis, Angel Wings, Eclairs, Pastries, Coffee Cakes, Pumpkin Rolls, Custard Puffs.

CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS - CAKES ON HAND

CHEESECAKES - A Variety of Flavors!

ORDER EARLY!

Rye, Marble, Pumpernickle, White, Italian, Hard Rolls & Potato Wheel – 36 Rolls.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES ARE IN!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT THE BAKE SHOPPE!

CLOSING AT 2PM DEC. 24. RE-OPENING JAN 15

Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



Jackson Hewitt Tax Service on Sumpter Road in the Belle Plaza will be opening soon and starting Dec. 17, you can get your taxing filing under way when you bring in your pay stub. They also will be offering express refund advance up to \$3,500. To learn more, call Lesa at (734) 732-4554.

The Bake Shoppe on Savage Road at Bemis Road is taking orders for Christmas until Thursday, Dec. 20. The family owned bakery has been in business since 1995 offering fresh pies, cakes, breads, rolls, cheesecakes, and, of course, their famous Christmas cookies. Owner Cheryl Norden and family will be closing at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve and will re-open on Jan. 15. The RV/Boat storage yard will also be closed during this time. To place an order, call (734) 699-2236.

The Belleville Community Chorus will be performing "Sounds of Winter," a free concert this Sunday, Dec. 16, beginning at 3 p.m. at the Belleville First United Methodist Church on Charles Street.

The Belleville Central Business Community presents photos with Santa again this Saturday, Dec. 15, from noon until 4 p.m.

at the Belleville Area Museum. The photos are free, but donations will be accepted. A separate session of photos with Santa for special needs persons of all ages will take place from 11 a.m. until noon.

JNG Auctions of Belleville will be holding a huge online auction Dec. 14-18 on their website at www.JNGauctions.com. See their ad in today's paper for a sample of items and visit their website for full details and how to take part. Call (734) 489-4636.

The City of Belleville's holiday decorating contest is under way with judging tonight, (and last night) from 6 to 10 p.m. in five separate locations in the city: Victoria Commons and Harbour Pointe Subs, the two mobile home parks, the balance of the city, and businesses. Be sure to have your lights on. The winners in each area will be notified beginning Friday and I'll be around to take photos for the plaques that will be given away on Monday, Dec. 17, at the City Council meeting.

Today's newspaper contains an insert from Tractor Supply, Inc. with locations in nearby Ann Arbor, Saline, Dundee, and coming soon to Canton. To learn more on how you can have your advertisement or flyer inserted, call me at (734) 699 9020.

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

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On December 26th, 2018, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2013	CHRYSLER	4D	1C3CCBBB6DN543347	18-15924
1999	TOYOTA	4D	2T1BR12E1XC219370	18-16035
2003	CHEVROLET	SW	1GNDS13S032164198	18-18036
2000	DODGE	SW	2B4FP25B5YR701336	18-18123
1994	HONDA	4D	1HGCD5654RA085483	18-18279
2004	PONTIAC	4D	2G2WS522X41130012	18-18279
1989	VOLVO	4D	YV1FA8943K2373501	18-18279
2000	FORD	2D	1FAFP4048YF164093	18-18346
1996	MERCURY	4D	2MELM75W2TX620294	18-18346
1997	FORD	4D	1FALP52U9VG273920	18-18346
2003	MERCURY	4D	1MEFM50273A620080	18-19281
2001	FORD	SW	1FMCU041X1KA79442	18-19433
2006	NISSAN	4D	3N1CB51D96L552763	18-19433
2003	CHEVROLET	PU	1GCEC14V63Z285859	18-19712
2002	AUDI	4D	WAULC68E12A247819	18-19712
2003	FORD	SW	2FMZA51473BA88899	18-19745
2004	PONTIAC	4D	2G2WS522041140693	18-19731
2004	PONTIAC	4D	2G2WP522341259713	18-19937
2010	CHEVROLET	SW	1GNLREED0AS106067	18-19988
1994	FORD	2D	1FMEU15N7RLA14764	18-19532
2002	CHEVROLET	SW	1GNDT13S622412689	18-18622

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

2006	CADILLAC	4D	1G6DM57T460157139	18-11286
1999	FORD	4D	1FAFP53U0XA320432	18-11577
2007	CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WB58K279221745	18-15841
2006	DODGE	SW	1D4GP24R86B504150	18-15949
2003	MERCURY	4D	2MEFM74W63X613895	18-18145
1995	CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WL52M1S1188932	18-18305
2003	SAAB	4D	YS3FB49S031018392	18-18508
2006	NISSAN	4D	1N4AL11D36N406603	18-18556
1997	FORD	PU	2FTDX18W8VCA91563	18-19507
2009	DODGE	SW	3D4GG67V89T608737	18-19293
2008	FORD	4D	1FAHP35N78W198160	18-19370
2003	FORD	SW	1FMFU18L83LB65229	18-19506
2001	FORD	PU	1FTRW08W81KD54465	18-19289
2009	LINCOLN	4D	1LNHM93R89G608984	18-19516
2000	NISSAN	4D	1N4DL01D4YC243675	18-19721
2012	FORD	4D	3FAHP0JA5CR411748	18-19728
2009	DODGE	4D	1B3LC56BX9N558515	18-19888
2004	FORD	2D	3FAFP31Z64R109479	18-19900
2001	FORD	PU	1FTSF30S11ED07868	18-19900
2002	HONDA	SW	2HKRL18642H507440	18-19900
2006	HONDA	4D	1HGCM668X6A002604	18-19900
2003	FORD	PU	1FTWW32P13ED29219	18-19900
2011	FORD	VA	1FBNE3BL5BDB12857	18-19900
2008	GMC	SW	1GKFC13548R207856	18-19900
2011	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1PF5S98B7162399	18-19900
2008	JEEP	SW	1J8HR58298C132284	18-19900
2008	MERCURY	SW	4M2CU87168KJ29059	18-19900
1995	TOYOTA	SW	JT3VN39W8S0176804	18-20143
1999	HONDA	4D	1HGEJ667XXL028604	18-20362
2003	HONDA	4D	1HGCM56333A023465	18-20117

At 12:30am, the auction will move to **Henry J's Towing** and storage, 46363 Ecorse Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1964	MERCURY	2D	4h23k504630	18-18947
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All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC, Van Buren Township Clerk,
Published: December 13th, 2018

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699-0055

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699-3210

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF POSTING

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN:

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 359 of 1947, (the Charter Township Act), notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will be considering the following ordinance at 7:00 p.m. on December 18, 2018 at their regular meeting:

1. **Ordinance #12-04-18: AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS IN ALL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN.** An ordinance to completely prohibit marihuana establishments within the boundaries of the Charter Township of Van Buren per section 6.1 of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act.

The complete text of the proposed ordinances are available at the Township Clerk's Office located at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Date of Publication: December 13, 2018

*To build a better world,
start in your own community!*

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 26, 2018

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Smith	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations
Jessica Geracz, Salvation Army Intake Supervisor, gave a presentation on outreach services for their addiction recovery program for individuals in Wayne County.

Council follow up list

Mike Renaud asked if we should add an item for recreational marijuana. City Manager Kollmeyer stated that the City Attorney has provided guidance and this issue will soon be addressed by Council.

Citizen Comments None

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to approve the City Council meeting minutes from November 5, 2018 with corrections as indicated by Mayor Pro Tem Loria.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES-None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. 2019 City Council Meeting Dates

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 18-095 for the 2019 City Council meeting dates as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Copier Recommendation for City Hall

City Clerk Scharf provided cost comparisons on the companies who bid on a new copier for City Hall.

The City has had the current Ricoh copier/scanner/fax machine since 2009, and it has made 951,036

copies YTD. While the bids were very competitive, Administration recommends an upgraded Ricoh machine for City Hall.

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to approve Resolution No. 18-096 for a 60-month lease for \$125.85 per month with \$1 buyout at term end as presented. Maintenance agreement includes parts, labor and supplies and will be billed quarterly based on actual copies (\$.0048 pp for black & white; \$.045 pp for color).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Wayne County Annual Road Maintenance Permit

D. Wayne County Annual Pavement Restoration Permit

E. Wayne County Annual Special Events Permit
DPS Director Rick Rutherford confirmed that the language for these annual permits is the same as last year's. Council stated preference to approve all three in one motion.

Motion by Loria, Second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 18-097, Wayne County annual permits for road maintenance, pavement restoration, and special events as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 18-098, for accounts payable and purchases over \$500.00 for a total of \$163,361.70 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council hereby recesses the regular meeting to go into a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss the status and strategy of pending union negotiations.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 18-099, recess regular meeting at 8:06 p.m. and enter into closed session.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Fielder to return to open session and adjourn meeting at 8:28 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf, City Clerk

Approved: December 3, 2018

Published: December 13, 2018

Keystone

(continued from page 3)

years of teaching. She said while teaching she coached forensic competition. After checking her references her nomination will go to Bay Mills for approval;

- Approved the amended 2019-20 Prior Approval Checklist, required by Bay Mills, which had been delayed since the board wanted to check "yes" on a changing the curriculum question instead of "no." Henders said NHA agreed the correct response would be "yes" to that question, since they plan a change in the science program;

- Approved the amended 2018-19 budget of \$6,916,645; and

- Heard Principal Drain report more

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DECEMBER 4, 2018 BOARD MEETING
7:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Miller, Trustee Martin and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Cable Director McCracken, Director Akers and Student Intern Stamper, Executive Assistant Selman, Fire Chief Brow, Secretary Beaudry, and an audience of four (4).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Budd moved, Frazier seconded to approve the revised agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Work Study Session minutes of November 13, 2018, Board Meeting minutes of November 13, 2018, Prepaid List of November 15, 2018, Prepaid List of November 29, 2018, Voucher List of November 20, 2018, Voucher List of December 4, 2018, Approval of Eaton Corporation to provide a new uninterruptable power supply for the Van Buren Township Public Safety and IT Departments on the Main Campus]. Roll call vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Nays: White. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

A resident called dispatch to express her gratitude towards Officer David Champagne for helping her husband. Officer Champagne was dispatched to a broken-down vehicle on the corner of Haggerty and Tyler. He stayed with the caller's husband while he waited for a tow truck to arrive to assist the driver. The Van Buren Police Department hosted their annual "Shop with a Hero" event this evening at Walmart. Officers shopped with students from Van Buren Public Schools for Christmas presents with K9 dog Jase being a big hit with the kids. Announcements included the following: The DDA announced the Pedestrian Bridge is now open and encouraged residents to check out their redesigned website that is now live; the lights are being replaced in the parking lot with new LED lighting so the Board asks that residents be patient with sections of the parking lot being closed at the Township

security is now in place at the school. She said people had been able to just walk into the building, but now they are gently reminding parents to sign in. She said parents can scan their driver's licenses and get red lanyards that hang around their necks. Also, she said, they have replaced the lock on the back door to the office as a safety feature. She said if, for example, an active shooter came into the office and shot the staff, that person could enter the school hallway through an unlocked back door. Now a person has to be buzzed through that door, she said. She said they also are working hard on the parking lot to clear up the congestion. Williamson said a new system called Drive Line is going into place after the winter break. It has been tested in several other NHA schools, she said.

Hall; Goodfellows is accepting monetary, toy, and warm clothing donations for children ages infant to young teen at the Van Buren Police Department or the September Days Senior Center; The Township is selling a fire truck with bids starting at \$5,000 and interested parties are encouraged to contact the Supervisor's Office for more information; the American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage so the Township is hosting a blood drive on Friday, December 14 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. in the Otisville/Sheldon room for anyone wishing to donate blood; the Treasury Department will be open on Friday, December 28 from 10 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. to accept payments, or they can be placed in the drop box in the police department lobby and drop box in front of the Township Hall main doors.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the purchase of the Board Access Equipment Upgrades from TEL Systems. Motion Carried. Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 12-04-19 to prohibit marihuana establishments in all geographic areas of the Charter Township of Van Buren. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the purchase of a new fire engine from Spartan Fire Engine. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Miller seconded to approve a Public Participation Plan for use in The Township's planning and development process. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: The August 2018 and September 2018 Budgetary Reports were received. A copy is available for review at the Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Trustee White complimented Clerk Wright on how smoothly the November election ran and expressed his frustration with the lack of organization in regards to trustee riding assignments at the Winter Fest Parade.

ADJOURNMENT: Budd moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:11. Motion carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Publish: December 13, 2018

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 481 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Dec. 2:

0148 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor Rd./Tyler Rd.
0337 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0403 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville/I-94
0849 – larceny, Harmony Ln.
0934 – assault & battery, Michigan Ave.
1520 – disorderly, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1538 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
1746 – disorderly, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1825 – neighbor trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1904 – domestic, E. Archwood Dr.
2054 – juvenile complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2113 – neighbor trouble, Dellor St.

Monday, Dec. 3:

0053 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0454 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0852 – traffic offense, Parkwood Dr.
0953 – animal complaint, Birch Dr./Maple Dr.
1007 – suspicious activity report, Beacon Trl.
1025 – animal complaint, Birch Dr.
1134 – hospice death, Laguna Dr.
1151 – suspicious person/vehicle, Robson Rd.
1440 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1653 – fraud, Lake Villa Dr.
1935 – malicious destruction of property, Arthur
1945 – follow up by officer, Fret Rd.
1949 – domestic, E. Archwood Dr.

Tuesday, Dec. 4:

0217 – domestic, Van Buren St.
0355 – hospice death, Louisa Dr.
0446 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
1000 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service/Quirk
1019 – animal complaint, Brookside/Wildbrook
1032 – larceny, W. Huron River Dr.
1150 – domestic, Milton Dr.
1250 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
1505 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1513 – fraud, Rogers Ave.
1530 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ Grove St.
1610 – parking complaint, Burtrig St./Martinsville
1635 – suspicious person/vehicle, Savage/Haggerty
1811 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beck/Michigan
2044 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2241 – suicidal person, E. Archwood Dr.
2351 – suspicious person/vehicle, Village Green Ln.

Wednesday, Dec. 5:

0037 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler/Belleville
0034 – animal complaint, Arlene Ln.
0210 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Bellridge Dr.
0401 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0814 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Oak Ln.
0837 – parking complaint, Anna Dr./Ecorse Rd.
0847 – suspicious person/vehicle, Meadows Cir.
0918 – larceny, Lancaster Dr.
0955 – ordinance violation, Martinsville Rd.
1059 – animal complaint, Van Buren St.
1100 – larceny, Dartmoor Cir.
1136 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1354 – follow up by officer, Hamlin St.
1456 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1544 – property damage accident, Hannan/S. I-94
1555 – animal complaint, Rogers Ave.
1556 – threat, Buchanan St.
1615 – assist other dept., High St.
1623 – 911 welfare check, Fret Rd.
1652 – assault & battery, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1700 – miscellaneous complaint, Savage Rd.
1910 – 911 welfare check, Wilson ave.
2004 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler/Haggerty
2131 – larceny, Denton Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 6:

0308 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
0320 – suspicious person/vehicle, Stonebridge Dr. / E. Walden Dr.
0355 – assist other dept., Hannan Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0740 – traffic offense, McBride Ave.
0830 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1040 – missing person, Denton Rd.
1113 – suicidal person, Brandi Dr.
1122 – traffic offense, EB I-94/Van Buren Park
1131 – property damage accident, Haggerty

1224 – larceny, Tyler Rd.
1359 – noise complaint, Renton Rd.
1550 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd./Van Born Rd.
1557 – traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd.
1606 – traffic offense, Cobblestone Creek Dr./W. Huron River Dr.
1942 – noise complaint, Renton Rd.
2225 – parking complaint, Haggerty Rd.
2250 – suspicious person/vehicle, Locust Dr.

Friday, Dec. 7:

0029 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
0248 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0452 – overdose, Rogers Ave.
0738 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
0847 – suicidal person, Ecorse
0939 – animal complaint, Spruce Ln.
1148 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1227 – suspicious person/vehicle, Woodbury Green
1347 – traffic offense, S. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville Rd.
1455 – larceny, Freedom Way
1502 – road hazard, Ecorse/I-275
1511 – trespassing, Hamlin St.
1516 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1548 – missing person, Daniel Dr.
1552 – suicidal person, Winding Pond Dr.
1810 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1856 – harassment call, Denton Rd.
2022 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ayres Ave.
2034 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2144 – mental subject, Jackson St.
2242 – noise complaint, Huron River Dr.

Saturday, Dec. 8:

0201 – property damage accident, WB Michigan Ave. / bypass
0305 – domestic, Jackson St./Hayes St.
0419 – traffic offense, Haggerty/I-94
1024 – found property/child, North Shore Dr.
1317 – larceny from auto, Vernon St.
1349 – suspicious person/vehicle, Jackson St.
1439 – parking complaint, Andover Dr./Tavistock
1449 – malicious destruction of property, Wildbrook Dr.
1455 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1619 – suicidal person, Sylvia Dr.
1637 – noise complaint, Lighthouse Dr.
1647 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Hamlin
1905 – sexual assault, Beaumont Wayne
1955 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
2220 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.
2226 – lost property/child, Oak Ln.

Also on this week's log are 243 traffic stops, 89 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 2:

1407 – property damage accident, Main St.
1516 – welfare check, Menlo Park Dr.

Monday, Dec. 3:

0139 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
0329 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
0900 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0926 – suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.
1413 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River

Tuesday, Dec. 4:

0740 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
0914 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
1057 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1301 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Industrial Park Dr.

1320 – assist fire dept., Owen St.
1540 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
1646 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
1742 – larceny, Carmell St.
2042 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.
2050 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
2324 – threat, Loza Ln.
2351 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.

Wednesday, Dec. 5:

0246 – intrusion alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.
0332 – intrusion alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.
0604 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
1017 – vehicle lockout, Belle Villa Blvd.
1608 – suicidal person, High St.
1704 – assist other dept., Savage
1854 – suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.

Thursday, Dec. 6:

0557 – found property/child, Main St./First St.
0609 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
1225 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1335 – vehicle lockout, High St.
1611 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wabash Ave.
1956 – abandoned auto, Church St./W. Columbia

Friday, Dec. 7:

0604 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
1140 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1149 – civil matter, N. Biggs Ave.
1435 – private property/property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1500 – trespassing, W. Columbia Ave.
1929 – welfare check, Main St.
1950 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2021 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
2237 – traffic offense, South St.

Saturday, Dec. 8:

0016 – miscellaneous complaint, High St.
2144 – welfare check, E. Columbia Ave. / Madelon St.

Also on this week's log are 25 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 2:

0225 – property damage accident, 51000 bl. Willis
1028 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1225 – noise complaint, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1304 – animal complaint, Bohn/Judd
1344 – citizen assist, W. Arizona
1455 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1507 – animal complaint, 27000 bl. Martinsville
1812 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1847 – warrant arrest pick up, 42000 bl. Bemis
2111 – suspicious vehicle, 5600 bl. Oakville Waltz

Monday, Dec. 3:

0125 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
0705 – suspicious vehicle, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
0845 – alarm, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1035 – larceny, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1113 – larceny, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1132 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1353 – disorderly person, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1410 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1419 – death investigation, Utah
1426 – fraud complaint, 6400 bl. Oakville Waltz
1439 – lost property, 42000 bl. Wear Rd.
1445 – well-being check, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1512 – hunting complaint, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
2033 – family trouble, Carriage Ln.
2132 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
2158 – juvenile complaint, Maine
2342 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 4:

0102 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville
1135 – alarm, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1350 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1409 – fraud complaint, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1459 – well-being check, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1501 – subpoena service, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1656 – fire dept. assist, Montana
1808 – found property, Carleton West/Willow
1832 – alarm, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2118 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2204 – 911 hang up, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 5:

0537 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Martinsville/Bemis
1144 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1222 – animal complaint, Judd/Rawsonville
1402 – fire dept. assist, Idaho
1419 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Sherwood
1601 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1755 – juvenile complaint, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1756 – well-being check, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1856 – warrant arrest pick up, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
2243 – 911 hang up, Rawsonville/Bemis

Thursday, Dec. 6:

0022 – warrant arrest pick up, Bemis/Rawsonville
0203 – citizen assist, Harris/Savage
0918 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1127 – alarm, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1837 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Sumpter/Judd
1953 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2140 – personal injury accident, Willow/Carleton West

Friday, Dec. 7:

0029 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire
1134 – malicious destruction of property, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1327 – fraud complaint, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1836 – subpoena service, Timberlane
1855 – well-being check, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
2027 – civil dispute, Rustic Ln.
2242 – threats complaint, Rustic Ln.
2353 – alarm, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 8:

0105 – suspicious incident, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
0144 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
0512 – death investigation, 45000 bl. Kozma Rd.
1217 – citizen assist, 29000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1226 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Victoria
1229 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1411 – mental health commitment, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1552 – warrant arrest pick up, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
1725 – flee & elude, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
2111 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico

Also on this week's log are five follow-up investigations, 38 miscellaneous details, 74 patrol checks, and 37 traffic stops.

Court Watching:

Sumpter Twp. mother sentenced to 30-60 years for her child's death

Candice Renea Diaz, 25, of Sumpter Township has been sentenced to 30-60 years in prison for the death of her four-year-old daughter Gabrielle Barrett last New Year's Day.

Diaz's boyfriend Brad Edward Fields, 29, had been sentenced to life in prison after a Wayne County Circuit Court jury found him guilty of murder and other charges in connection with the girl's death.

The two had been held without bond in the Wayne County Jail since Jan. 18 when they were taken into custody in Georgia where they had fled after Gabrielle's death was ruled a homicide.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Vonda Evans had harsh words for Diaz before sentencing on Dec. 5: "You are a female breeder who neglected your child for the love of a bum named Brad. ... You assisted this monster in the drowning of your beautiful, precious gift."

Sumpter Township police were called to the couple's home in Rawsonville Woods mobile home park on Jan. 1 and found the girl unresponsive on the bathroom floor. Diaz told police she found her submerged in the bathtub after she left her alone there and went to make pancakes.

The medical examiner said the girl's death was the worst case of child abuse he had ever seen.

Officials said the girl was given cold baths, hit in the mouth and forced to sleep on the cold floor of the mobile home on a trash bag wearing nothing but underwear.

She had been tortured with hair being pulled from her head and flesh was hanging from her feet when she was found. Body tissue was found in the drain.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Bruce Elsey praised Sumpter Township Det./Sgt. John Toth and Sgt. Beth Egerer for their work on bringing the two to justice.

Diaz had been charged with homicide – felony murder, which was dismissed as part of a plea deal. She pled guilty to second-degree murder, first-degree child abuse. The charges of torture, first-degree child abuse (conspiracy) and second-degree child abuse (conspiracy) were also dismissed.

She was sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison for the two guilty pleas, with 330 days credit for time served. Her retained attorney was David R. Cripps.

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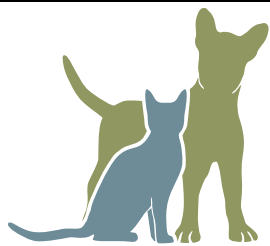
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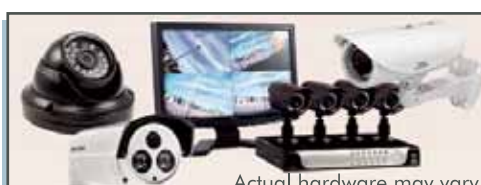
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Independent photos by Rosemary K. Oztman

Monday's school board meeting was the final meeting for two members of the board who did not run for reelection. The board held a reception with cake and punch before its regular meeting. At left is Kevin English, who served nine years on the board, and, at right, Alison Bennett who served four years. In the center is School Supt. Pete Kudlak.



On Monday, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education honored the Belleville Rotary Club for all it does for the district, including the 101 winter coats donated for needy students. At left is Rotary President Brian Percy with Rotary Treasurer Deb Green. School Supt. Pete Kudlak noted that among all the many other things the Rotary has done for the schools over the years is the \$500,000 in student scholarships.

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