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Disaster Hits, Dexter Recovering From EF-3 Tornado



Rare winter weather conditions bring disaster to the Dexter area. Early warning system saves lives. Photo by Robert Nester

By Robert Nester

The storm that hit Dexter in the afternoon of Thursday, March 15 was not only uncommon for this time of year but also unusually large and powerful. With winds estimated at 130 to 140 mph it ranked as an EF-3 tornado.

While Michigan is not immune to tornadic events in the spring and early summer, March rarely sees weather conditions that spawn tornados. The unseasonably warm temperatures capable of holding large amounts of moisture on a collision course with a cold front helped to trigger the storm.

Stretching over seven miles long and nearly a half-mile wide, the tornado left a path of destruction through most of Dexter Township.

An observer on the Livingston/Washtenaw County line noticed strong winds from the east colliding with strong winds from the north directly overhead. In less than half a mile from that sighting the tornado touched ground in the back yard of Jack Clayton in the 7000 block of Dexter Townhall Road, uprooting large trees.

As the storm moved southeast it hit the first house, a farmstead owned by Ray Quigley on the south side of North Territorial Road.

As Quigley approached the window on the west side of his house to check the weather he heard a loud crash as three trees hit the roof of his home. "I knew this was going to be a big one when I saw the rest of the trees in my yard fall over" said Quigley. Pieces of his 100 year-old barn and farm equipment were tossed across the open field.

As the storm continued southeast, more and more homes were damaged, leaving a trail of broken, uprooted trees and debris littering the landscape.

Continued on Page 7

Sylvan Township Neighborhood Hoping to Annex into Chelsea

By Melinda Baird

Residents of Chelsea Springs, a subdivision currently located within Sylvan Township borders, approached Chelsea City Council Tuesday night to discuss possible annexation into the city. After listening to Homeowner's Association President Deneil Harney plead a case for annexation on behalf of fellow residents, Council agreed to schedule a work session April 10 for further discussion.

"We chose to live in Sylvan Township because of the cost-effectiveness of living in the township while being close to the resources available in the City of Chelsea," Harney explained. "The township doesn't treat us very well," she added, complaining of limited hours during which township officials are available to answer questions. "We feel like there may be an opportunity to make living in the City of Chelsea better for our community."

Harney spoke of residents' frustrations with irrigation and access to water in the township, as well as the township's thus far unmanaged debt to the county for new water and wastewater systems.

"We would pay more to live in Sylvan Township this year just based on water and sewer increases," said Harney.

She indicated annexation of the subdivision - a total of 51 homes - would contribute about \$200,000 annually to the City of Chelsea. She reminded Council of the brand-new infrastructure of the subdivision, including roads and plumbing, and described it as a low-crime area.

City Manager John Hamfan informed Harney and fellow residents that in addition to the library, school and fire millages they already pay, an additional 11 mills would be levied should they obtain residency within the city.

Sylvan Township residents currently pay less than one mill in general fund taxes.

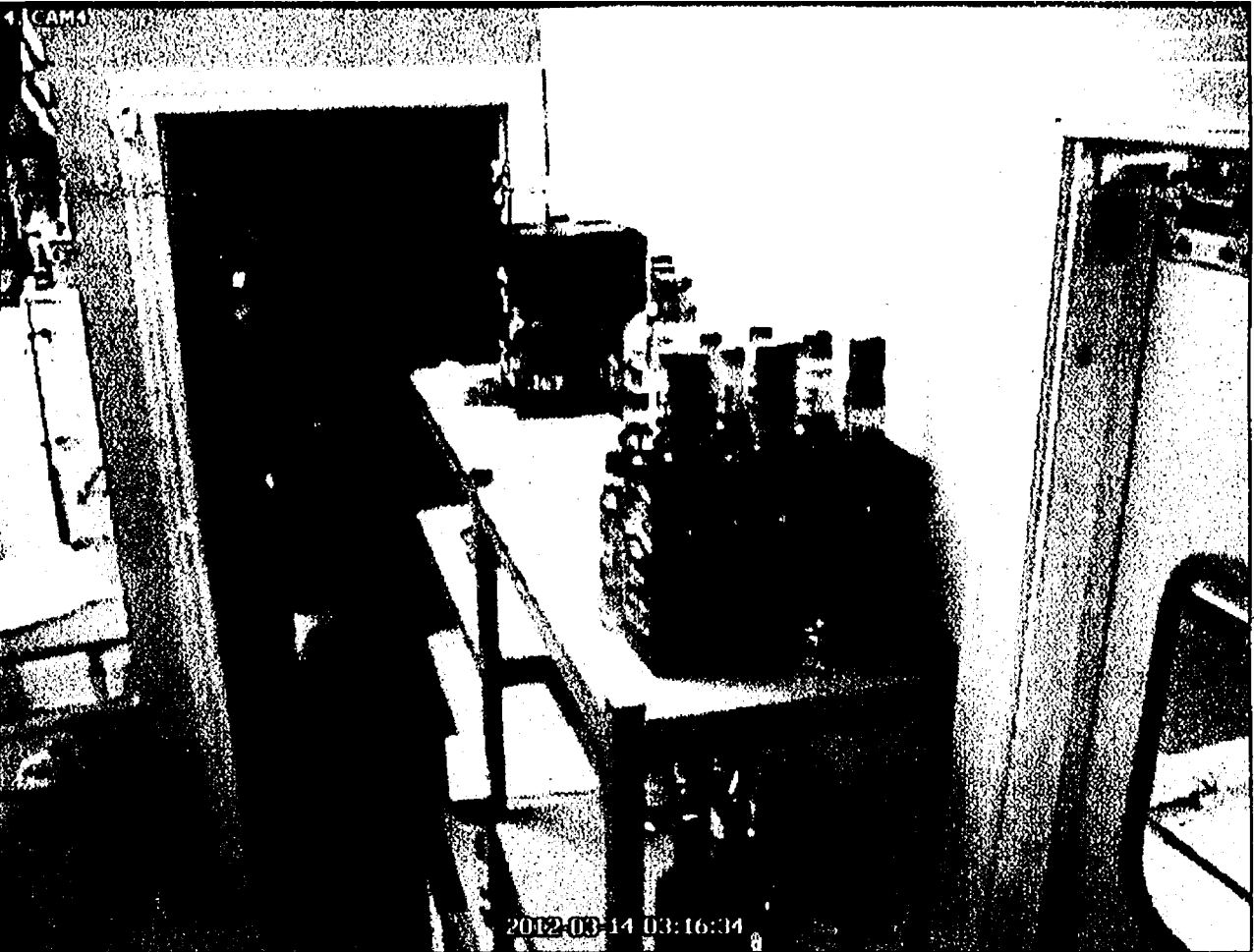
Council member Ann Feeney questioned whether Chelsea Springs would be obligated to pay any debt service millage the township levies in the future to pay back the \$13.2 million owed to the county. Her question, "Do you get off the hook, or does that millage follow you?" was left unanswered.

In general, council reacted favorably to the idea of annexation.

"From a planning perspective, Chelsea Springs seems to belong here anyway. They should have been part of the city originally," said council member Ann Feeney.

Continued on Page 3

Wanted By Police
Stockbridge Police Asking for Public's Help in Identifying Suspect



Officers from Stockbridge Police Department are investigating a breaking and entering that took place at Stockbridge Shell Gas Station and Market, 390 W. Main Street, in the early morning hours of March 14.

The image of the white male suspect was captured on surveillance cameras. Police report an undetermined amount of cash was stolen and more than one person may be involved.

Anyone with any information about the identity of the suspect(s) is asked to call 517-851-7435 or the Michigan State Police - Lansing Post at 517-322-1399.

Chelsea Wellness Coalition Poised to Present Plan for Funding

By Melinda Baird

After a solid year of meeting regularly to analyze the state of health and wellness of the Chelsea community and discern its needs, Chelsea Wellness Coalition is on the verge of finalizing a master plan for Chelsea Wellness Foundation's approval.

Once submitted, the foundation, a non-profit

organization poised to grant one million dollars per year to the community, will review the coalition's work in light of the foundation's mission: eat better, move more, avoid unhealthy substances, and connect with others in healthy ways.

The coalition, a 48 member group and constantly growing, spent much of 2011 sifting

through data to determine health and wellness gaps within the geographical area of Chelsea School District.

According to coalition member Bernadette Malinoski, about thirteen interventions identified by the group will be submitted to the foundation for feedback in the very near future, with the ultimate goal of obtaining funding approval.

Continued on Page 8

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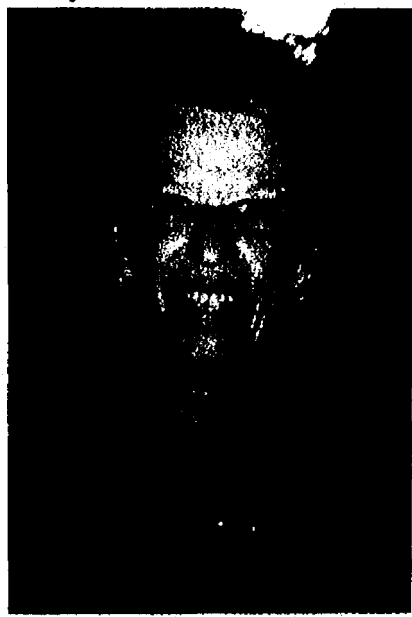
Obituaries

Donna M. Bacon (Moore)

Died peacefully at her home Friday, March 16, 2012 with her family and loved ones by her side. A kind and loving soul who touched the lives of many.

Her passions in this life were her children, grandchildren, gardening, bird-watching and "The Farm."

Surviving are the children of Ron Branham: Jeff Branham (Sheila), Tracy Branham and Susan Branham. Special companion: Michael Huesing. Step-children: Jim Bacon (Maureen) and Mary Hillebrand (Dave), Molly Bacon and Betsy Bacon. Grandchildren: Josh Branham and Nate Branham. Step-grandchildren: Jessica, Lydia and Shannon. Sisters: Anne Steinaway (Art), Janie Parker, Joette Crain and Colleen Brown (Jim). Preceding her in death are: David D. Bacon (husband), Alice Moore (mother), Thomas Moore (father), Russell Moore (Marcie) brother.



Funeral services took place Monday, March 19, 2012 from the Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea. Burial followed at Vermont Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy should be made to the charity or cause of your choice.

Caroline "Kelley" Vincent Gregory Michigan

Passed away at age 66, at home with her loving family at her side Monday, March 19, 2012. She was born December 18, 1945 in Big Rapids, Michigan, the daughter of Lawrence and Dorothy (Chidester) Kelley.

September 25, 1965 she married Donald A. Vincent in Garden City, and he survives. Also surviving are her children, Bradley S. (Suzy) Vincent of Bartow, Florida and Amy J. Vincent of Gregory; four grandchildren; also her siblings: Joan (Victor) Osterburg of Lowell, Lawrence Kelley of Montague, and Roberta (Michael) Fountain of Cedar Springs, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister-in-law Edith Kelley.

Funeral services take place Friday, March 23, 2012 at



1945-2012

11:00 a.m. from the Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea with Rev. James Vander Schuur officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Special Olympics.

People Post

There are a few people in Waterloo Township who think it wise to eliminate the police department and contract for service from the sheriff's department.

They claim this is necessary to cut costs due to a reduction in revenue. What they fail to realize in this process is the hidden cost of contracting for police service.

Based on the present level of service we now enjoy, here are some facts to consider: 1) With a local police department, you have the benefit of having officers who have developed personal relationships with the local residents and business owners. This is invaluable because of the bond that is formed when you develop trust in an officer with whom you have a personal contact. 2) With our current police department, you have a force of officers who aggressively pursue criminals and are very proactive in other words they make things happen. With a contracted arrangement, you get the deputy of the day who happens to be assigned to the

township. The deputy would be strictly a reactionary force in other words, handle the calls dispatched to him/her and then go home. 3) The local officers have a personal knowledge of the local conditions. Who's laid off, who's breaking up, who's back on the drugs, etc. 4) The local officers have a personal knowledge of the local "usual suspects". When something happens, they know where to go look, who their friends are, where they run to and hide, what they are driving, etc. 5) The local officers have a vested interest in closing cases with arrests and recovery of property. They work harder at it because they care about the local residents. 6) And lastly, the sheriff isn't going to hire deputies to fill the contract. All he's going to do is assign a patrol car to the township for a given shift. Waterloo Township will be subsidizing the sheriff's department general budget.

If this concerns you, please attend the Township Board meeting on Wednesday the 21st at 7pm. Don Hannewald Tax payer of Waterloo Township.

POLICE BEAT

Waterloo Township Police

3/13 ~ Handled a larceny report at a residence on Clear Lake Road at 1:54 pm.
3/14 ~ Court hearing in 12th District Court on Tim and Sue Cole drug case. Both bound over to Circuit Court for trial.
~ Responded to a report from neighbors of an abandoned dog at a house on Territorial Road
3/15 ~ Stopped a semi-truck and trailer at Seymour and Clear Lake Road for multiple violations - turned over to Motor Carrier Officers for further investigation.
~ Assisted an Animal Control Officer at the same address on Territorial Road for an abandoned dog at an unoccupied house.
~ Handled a larceny report at a residence in Coachman's Cove MHP at 2:22 pm.
3/16 ~ Did a personal welfare check on a resident at an address on Firefly Lane at 2:14 pm.
~ Checked out an abandoned vehicle near the intersection of Territorial Road and M-106 at 7:24 pm.
~ Detected a suspicious vehicle in the area of Waterloo-Munith and Reithmiller Road at 7:46 pm and found them to be salesmen.
~ Assisted an individual at a business on M-52 while they loaded a piece of equipment on a trailer at 8:40 pm.
~ Assisted another police unit on a peace officer call at an address on Hawkins Road at 10:09 pm.

Stockbridge Village Police

3/13 ~ 2 pm: Assisted Ingham County Child Protective Services in the 100 block of S. Williams on check welfare of children complaint. No criminal charges filed.
7:15 pm: Assisted Ingham County Sheriff's Department on an attempt suicide in the 5300 block of Morton Road. Stockbridge Police arrived and found the victim still conscious. SAESA arrived and treated the victim. The scene was later turned over to Ingham County Sheriff's Office deputies upon their arrival.
3/14/12, ~ 8:30 am: Responded to a late B & E at the Shell Gas Station that occurred during the early morning hours. This case is under investigation.
3/15 ~ 4 pm: Investigated a late assault complaint that occurred the previous day in the 300 block of W. Main. All parties involved have been contacted and this case is under investigation.
3/16 ~ 3 pm: Investigated a trespassing complaint in the 4900 block of S. M-52 involving a terminated employee. The 20 year-old Stockbridge male was warned not to go back onto the complainant's property. No charges filed at this time.
3 pm: Arrested a 25 year-old man from Jackson on a misdemeanor warrant stemming from a 2008 case. He was transported to the Ingham County Jail where he was lodged.
8 pm: Investigated an "unwanted subject" complaint in the 100 block of Herbert Street. The problem was deemed to be civil, and the subject was advised to leave the premises. No formal charges filed.
3/17 ~ 1 am: Report of a woman screaming in the road in her nightgown in the 200 block of Mills Avenue. Officers arrived but were unable to locate the woman.

Washtenaw County Sheriff - Dexter Patrol

3/14 ~ Deputies assigned to the Village of Dexter are investigating a commercial burglary that occurred at the Aubrees Restaurant, 8031 Main Street. The break-in was reported during the morning of 3/12/2012; investigators believe the incident occurred sometime after closing the night before. Employees at the business discovered that the back door had been damaged, as well as an interior office door. A list of stolen property was unavailable at the time of this posting. No arrests have been made. The incident continues to be investigated by area deputies.

Deputies are investigating a commercial burglary that occurred at 8118 Main St, Village of Dexter. Employees of the Modern Vintage shop discovered the break-in on the morning of 3/12/2012. Investigators believe the crime occurred during the night. The suspect(s) entered the shop through the back door (forced open). An unknown quantity of cash was stolen. No arrests have been made at the time of this report. The incident remains under investigation.

Chelsea City Police

3/13 ~ 1100 Block S. Main Street, at approximately 5 pm, Chelsea Police responded to the listed location for the report of a larceny of a large number of Playstation 3 games. It was reported that a black male in his early 20's entered the store and stood by at the counter; a second black male in his early 20's came into the store and asked the employee for some assistance with locating a movie near the back of the store. The employee was distracted, the suspect went underneath the counter and stole a large number of Playstation 3 games and fled the location in an unknown direction. The reported theft was not immediately discovered but was believed to have occurred around 2 pm. Case still under investigation. Both suspects described as average build approximately 20-25 years old, both subjects wearing dark colored clothing.

100 Block S. Main Street, patrol officers responded to take a report of a larceny of a bicycle from an open garage port. The victim stated that he last saw his bicycle on March 5th and believed that the theft occurred sometime between March 5-6 and noticed it missing shortly thereafter. The bicycle was described as a men's mountain bicycle that was blue in color with black fenders, made by "Cannondale". Incident closed due to lack of investigative leads.
3/15 ~ 900 Block S. Main Street, while on routine patrol at approximately 5:30 am, Chelsea Police responded to a commercial burglary alarm. Upon arrival to the location officers discovered a window on the side of the building had been broken. No suspect was located at the scene and a full perimeter search was completed with negative results. It was later determined that entry into the building was unsuccessful and no items were missing. No suspect information is available at this time. The case is still under active investigation.

Unadilla Township Police

3/12 ~ Assist to EMS and Unadilla Township Fire Department for medical emergency, Graves Road
3/13 ~ Domestic dispute, Church Street
3/14 ~ Malicious destruction of property to mailbox, Wasson Road
~ Car vs. deer property damage accident, Doyle Road
3/15 ~ Assisted Unadilla Township Fire Department with funnel cloud spotting, E. M-36
3/16 ~ Suspicious person, Bowdish Road
3/17 ~ Intimidation/stalking, Arnold Road
~ Assisted Pinckney Police Department with missing child investigation, E. Unadilla Street
Pinckney Village Police
3/11 ~ Intimidation/Stalking, S. Howell Street
~ Drunk and disorderly persons at Little Caesar's Restaurant, E. M-36
~ Criminal trespass of house being vacated by tenants, N. Dexter Street
~ Ordinance violation, open burning, Ashton Street

3/12 ~ Assisted Hamburg Township Police Department with traffic stop and detention of hit and run driver, E. Main Street
3/13 ~ Assist to EMS and Putnam Township Fire Department for medical emergency, Fairwood Dr.
3/14 ~ Threats/intimidation, Putnam Street
~ 22-year-old Unadilla Township man arrested and released for driving while suspended, W. Main Street
~ Home invasion and larceny of lawn ornament, W. Hamburg Street
3/15 ~ 56-year-old Putnam Township man arrested for driving under the influence of liquor, Pearl Street
~ Assisted Hamburg Township Police Department with apprehension of suspects breaking into building and attempting to steal copper pipes and K-9 interdiction of illegal drugs, Chambers Road
3/17 ~ Loud music disturbance, Town Trail
~ Car vs. concrete barrier accident at BP, E. Main Street
~ Barking dog disturbance, Coleman Street
~ Missing child investigation, E. Unadilla Street
~ Assist to EMS for medical emergency, S. Howell Street

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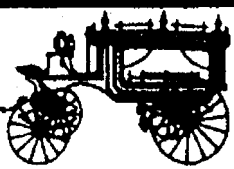
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Are You Prepared for Long-term Care Costs

Submitted by Edward Jones

Like everyone else, you hope to remain physically and financially independent your entire life. But the future is not ours to see, so you'll want to be ready for as many contingencies as possible — one of which is the high cost of long-term care.

In 2011, the national average rate for a private room in a nursing home was more than \$87,000 per year, according to the 2011 MetLife Market Survey of Long-Term Care Costs. If you needed a few years of nursing home care, the cost could devastate your financial independence and place a burden on your family.

Fortunately, you can find investment or protection vehicles designed specifically to help you meet long-term care expenses. Your financial advisor can help you pick the option that's most appropriate for your individual situation.

You may never need any type of long-term care. But it pays to be prepared.

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MPA PUBLIC NOTICES

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Board of Education Minutes of March 12, 2012. President Goodlock called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Board approved/discussed the following: Scheduled a public bullying policy hearing to be held at the April 16 meeting. Approved the minutes of the February 13, 2012, meeting. The district will continue to operate a school district pupil transportation fleet for the 2012-2013 school year, as the lowest cost transportation alternative. Administration was directed to present cost review data in February 2013 regarding participation in the Ingham County Pupil Transportation Consortium beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. Accepted the grass mowing bids for the 2012 and 2013 mowing seasons, as reflected below, and that all other bids were rejected. Appleton Lawn Care - Howlett Elementary - JMELC - High School and Heritage Elementary - Allen's Quality Lawn Care - Middle School and Smith Elementary - Greenville - Katz Elementary - Regrettfully accepted the resignation of Superintendent Bruce Brown, effective in 16 months on July 31, 2013. Authorized the posting of a vacancy for Superintendent and to conduct an internal superintendent search accepting applications from current Stockbridge School District employees. Approved a contract with the Michigan Association of School Boards to manage the superintendent search process with a June 30, 2012, timeline for a final selection decision. The Board was given copies of the following proposed policies that will be presented at the April meeting for first reading: 1030 - Membership - Term of Office; 3120 - Public Disclosure and Reporting; 8250 - Sex Offender Registry - Criminal Convictions; and 8260 - Bullying. Approved the invoices in the amount of \$673,800.09 and payroll transfers in the amount of \$775,709.87 totaling \$1,449,509.96 for the month of February 2012. President Goodlock adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Connie Risner, Recording Secretary. Complete minutes of the Board of Education meetings are posted on the district's website at www.panthernet.net.

UNADILLA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Unadilla Township Regular Meeting Minutes - March 8, 2012 - Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. Pledge to flag. Present: Walker, Topping, Weiland, Cowan, Cox. Absent: none. Motion Walker support Topping to approve the agenda as amended. Carried. Motion Walker support Cox to approve the minutes as amended. Carried. Motion Topping support Weiland to approve the bills as presented. Carried. Call to Public: Tom Ash candidate for sheriff introduced himself stating his platform. Drain Report by Ken Recker deputy drain commissioner, they will be having a public hearing on March 15th here at the township on the proposed drain levies. Recreation Report by Cowan they will begin meeting again in April or May, they are looking into solar lighting for the gazebo in Unadilla. Planning Report by Cox, public hearing held on outdoor burners, no decisions made. Police Report by Chief Cook. Fire dept. absent, received a request from Judy Williams representing Stockbridge Area Education Foundation to offer a ride in a fire truck as part of their festival of tables raffle. Motion Walker support Cowan to approve pending they coordinate with the fire department on times and dates. Carried. Motion Walker support Topping to close regular meeting and open budget hearing at 7:55 p.m. Carried. Topping went over budget funds income and expenditure expected. Motion Topping support Walker to approve budget as amended. Carried. Motion Walker support Topping to close budget hearing and reconvene regular meeting at 8:03 p.m. Carried. Motion Walker support Weiland to approve chloride bid from Michigan Chloride. Carried. Motion Walker support Weiland to approve resolution to pay off extra Principal on Patterson Lake Sewer. Roll Vote: Yeas: Cowan, Cox, Walker, Weiland, Topping. Nays: None. Resolution approved. Final call to the public: Adjourn. Motion Walker support Cowan to adjourn meeting at 8:16 p.m. Carried. Linda Topping, Clerk.

Chelsea Milling Employees Helping Co-worker with ALS

By Mike Williamson

Chelsea Milling employees (makers of Jiffy Mixes) are calling it Cash For Cuts, a fundraiser that was set up to help fellow employee Matt Tengman and his family.

Tengman was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a disease that strikes the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement and eventually causes the body to shut itself down.

Cash For Cuts was started by Tengman's coworkers Dean Rowe and Jeff Cammett when Cammett made a comment to Rowe that he would get a mohawk for \$300 and it turned into a fundraiser and rolled from there.

The donations by Chelsea Milling employees have far exceeded expectations as coworkers have donated more than \$6,000 in less than two

weeks, with hopes of raising more.

For the fundraiser, Rowe and Cammett started a list of volunteers who would sign up and for every \$100 raised, someone would have their head or beard shaved or hair dyed.

All the hair cuts are being done by Tengman himself, who jokingly might be ready for a second job as a military barber.

There is a board on the wall in the plant with pictures of the employees who have had their hair shaved or colored. Below the board someone has placed a sign that says "We work together as a team, but we care as a family." Jiffy employees have shown that comment is true.

Several other fundraisers are being set up for Tengman and his family.

The first is a pancake breakfast Saturday, April 14 at the Federated Church in Grass Lake from 8:00 AM to noon.



Chelsea Milling employee Matt Tengman shaves coworker Terry Hawleys head during the Cash For Cuts fundraiser for Tengman, who has been diagnosed with ALS.

Chelsea's Company C Holding Fun-raiser

Chelsea High School's popular performing group, Company C, will be performing to raise money Wednesday, March 28, from 5-8pm at the Arctic Breakaway restaurant located in the Arctic Coliseum, 501 Coliseum Drive in Chelsea. All proceeds go toward the spring

show taking place in May.

The event features the Company C singers dressed in retro costumes performing some of the songs from their spring show One Voice: Motown Soul. There will also be a silent auction, games and special drawings. "This is such a fun event for the kids," said Company C and Chelsea High School Choir Director, Steve Hinz. "The money we make helps cover our costs to put on our spring show. And this year's show with the Motown theme will be spectacular."

Co. C is a group of choral students from Chelsea High who combine high-energy music and dance routines to entertain audiences in Michigan and the Midwest.

There is no cost for the event. Company C will receive a portion of the tips and food receipts from the evening. "This event seems to get more and more popular each year," said Hinz. "We hope everyone can come out at their leisure and dine as they watch some truly amazing Chelsea kids perform the hits of Motown right at their table."

For more information about the event email Cindy Mahalak at cynthia.mahalak@tema.toyota.com.



Chelsea Milling employees are taking part in a Cash for Cuts fundraiser for a co-worker that has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Over \$5000 dollars has been raised in less than 2 weeks to help their fellow coworker and his family.

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Sports By Mike "Willie" Williamson



Stockbridge COMMUNITY

Panthers Season Ends In Regional Semifinals

The post-season run by the Stockbridge basketball team came to an end in the Regional semifinal at Lumen Christi High School Monday night when the Panthers fell to Marshall 52-47.

The game was close throughout with the Panthers leading 13-12 after the first quarter and 25-23 at halftime.

The second half was much the same with Marshall tying the game at 37 after three quarters.

Stockbridge took the lead early in the fourth, but Marshall rallied

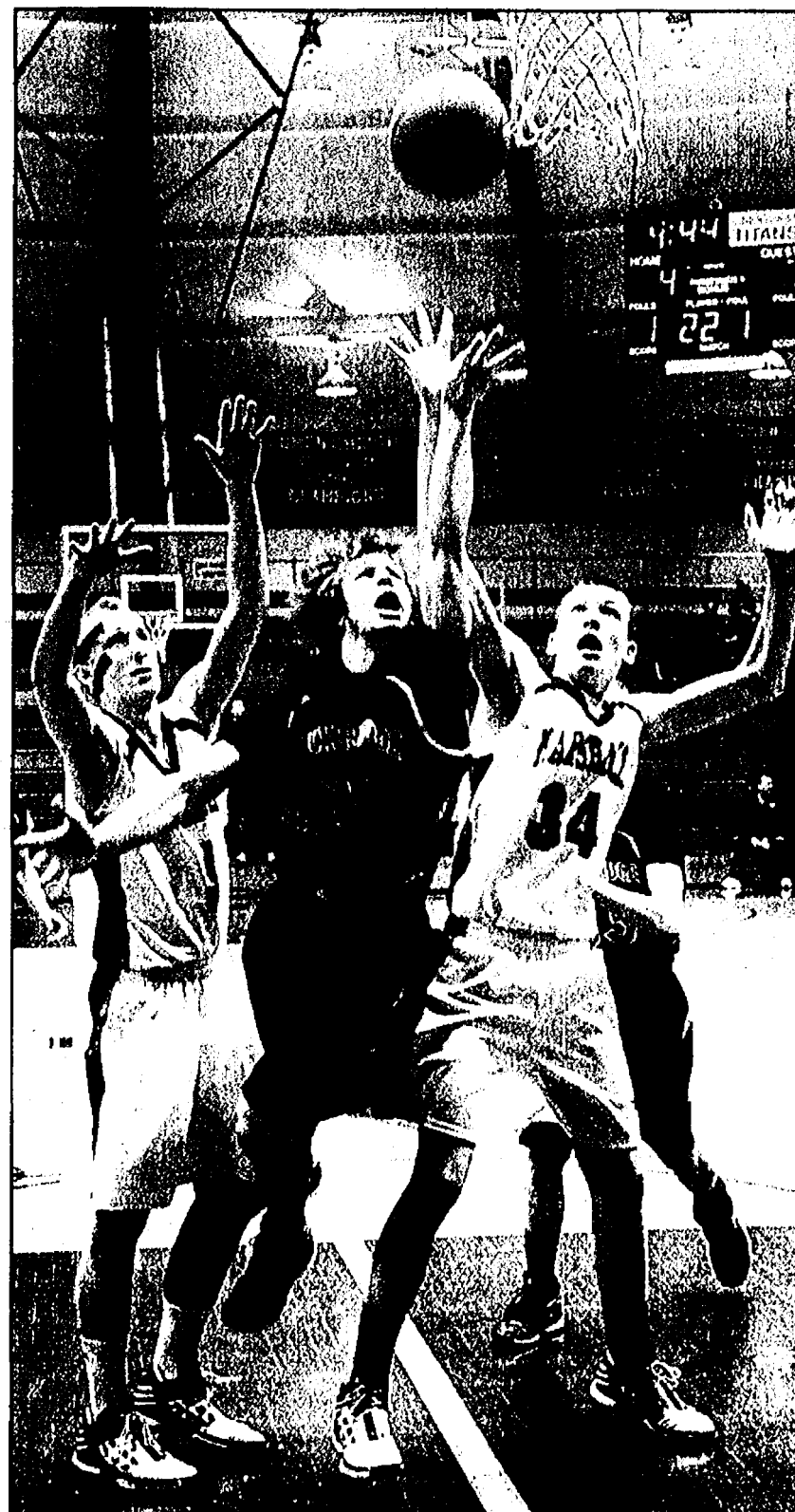
due to a Panther cold spell that left them outscored 15-10 in the final quarter.

David Campbell led the Panthers with 14 points and nine rebounds, while Devin Allen also scored 14.

Marcus Prigge had a big night with a double-double of 10 points and 16 rebounds.

Kaleb Grammer finished with seven points and two assists, while Joel Trego scored two.

The Panthers finished the season with a 7-16 overall record.



Devin Allen drives to the basket during the Panthers 52-47 loss to Marshall in the Class B Regional semifinals last week.

Photo by Dawn Miller



Marcus Prigge takes the shot. Photo by Dawn Miller

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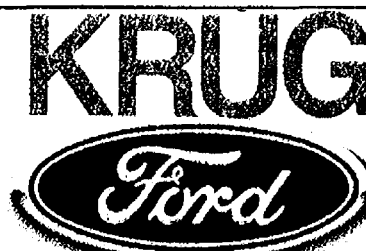
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Stockbridge 5th Grade Silver Team Red Cedar League Champs



The Stockbridge Silver Team took 1st place in the Red Cedar League through Stockbridge Community Education February 18 and 19 at Leslie. Coach Dan Wilson led the boys: Kail Youngblood, Nick Talbott, Devin Snider, Carson Robinson, Hunter Risner, Kinyon Nottingham, PJ Loso, Hunter Fee, and Cody Culver through an undefeated season.

Photo courtesy of Mary Wilson



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Spring Sports Seasons Kick Off This Week

The amazing warm weather the state has been having recently has everyone outdoors enjoying the sun, and that goes for high school spring sports teams as well since contests begin this week for area schools.

Most teams will not open until next week, but several will see action this week.

Dexter teams that will open this week are the girls water polo team that hosts its opener Wednesday night at 7:00 PM.

Girls' soccer will travel to Pinckney Saturday, while girls tennis will open at the SMCC Invitational Saturday as well.

The boys' lacrosse team will open Tuesday, March 27, while baseball and softball start up Thursday the 29th.

Pinckney teams will open with the girls' soccer team hosting Ann Arbor Skyline Wednesday night at 7:00 PM.

The tennis team will hit the floor Friday against Fowlerville, while the track teams will start at the EMU Huron Relays Saturday.

Baseball and softball start against Dexter Thursday, March 29.

Stockbridge teams will not open until next week.

Baseball, softball and girls' soccer will all kick out Tuesday, March 27, while the track teams will take part in the MSU/Playmaker Relays Wednesday, March 28. The boys' golf team will

start April 11, following spring break.

Chelsea teams will open with girls' tennis Friday, March 23; golf Tuesday, April 10; Lacrosse Tuesday, March 27; the track teams Saturday, March 24; baseball and softball Tuesday, April 10; soccer Tuesday, March 27; and the women's water polo Thursday, March 22.

Going to the Chapel... LaFontaine/Powell Announce Engagement



Jerry and Wendy LaFontaine of Gregory and Dave and Debbie Powell of Stockbridge announce the engagement of their children Cara Mae LaFontaine and Chad Stewart. The wedding will take place on August 25, 2012 in Houghton Lake, Michigan. Congratulations on your upcoming nuptials!

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Coming Events

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CALENDAR!

March 23: 4th Friday Free Community Scalloped Potatoes & Ham Dinner, First Presbyterian Church, Stockbridge from 5:30-7pm.

March 23: Stockbridge Senior Luncheon Menu: Macaroni & Cheese, Tomato Medley, Coleslaw, Wheat Bread, Cranberry Orange Jello Salad.

March 24: Chelsea Spring Fling FREE Clothing Swap! Optimum Nutrition 114 N. Main Lower level of Sylvan Bldg, from 10am-2pm. Bring in any clothing that doesn't fit you and swap them for something that does!

March 24: The Clothes Closet & Food Pantry, Church of Christ, 4783 S M52 from 10am-1pm.

March 25: Swiss Steak Dinner, 1st Waterloo UMC, Territorial & Parks Rd at 12pm until food is gone. Free will offering.

March 26: Visit the Biscuit!, Stockbridge Library at 11am. Biscuit, the popular puppy will be on hand to visit during a special storytime. Especially for 3-5 yr old kids.

March 27: Jackson Pheasants Forever Kick-Off meeting for new chapter at Hankerd Hills Golf Course, 10251 Resort Road in Pleasant Lake from 6-8:30 pm. Public invited as Pheasants Forever elects officers and socialize over refreshments. Call (517)316-5106 for more information.

March 28: Company C Fun-raiser, Breakaway Restaurant from 5-8:30pm. Silent auction & raffles to benefit Chelsea HS Company C Show Choir.

March 29: Soup & Bread Supper, Pinckney American Legion. \$5 per person, includes dessert. Portion of proceeds to the National Monument for Military Families. For more info call 734-878-0882.

March 29: Annual Spring Soup & Salad, First Presbyterian Church, Stockbridge from 11am-1pm. All you can eat! Adults-\$7, ages 5-12-\$3.50, under 5 yrs-FREE. Take outs available 517-851-7015.

March 30: 136th Annual Egg Supper, North Lake UMC, N. Territorial in Chelsea from 5:30-7:30pm. Free will offering. Funds for camp & mission scholarships.

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THE OPEN AIR MARKET IS BACK!!! OPENS May 4, 2012 from 4pm-7pm. There will be a vendor's meeting on Sunday, April 22 at 2pm, Stockbridge Middle School cafeteria. Call Suzi for more information regarding the meeting at 517-851-7437. The market will again feature produce, artisan breads, honey, hummus & MUCH MUCH MORE! Music will be provided by the Stockbridge Friends of the Library. Join us at the market!

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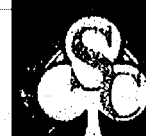
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Disaster and Recovery in Dexter

Continued from Front Page
The most concentrated destruction occurred in and around Huron Farms subdivision where more than 200 homes were damaged.

One resident said it was like Armageddon, "You could hardly see anything because there was so much junk in the air and it's true, it really does sound like a train coming at you."

With all the damage and destruction it is miraculous that there were no serious injuries. Thanks, in large part, to public awareness and the early warning sirens located within the community. This may serve as a

wake-up-call for those communities that are without early warning devices.

The audible warning that alerts the community of potentially hazardous conditions many times is the only warning some people will receive. The outpouring of help, donations and hospitality of the surrounding communities has been tremendous. Hundreds of people and businesses have stepped forward to offer any assistance they possibly can. Their support and generosity in the aftermath of the storm is outshined only by the residents of Dexter themselves as they pull together, help each other and moved forward.

By Lynne Beauchamp

During a special meeting of Dexter Township board members last Sunday, officials from several departments presented plans and provisions for the recovery effort after an EF-3 tornado touched down March 15.

Township Supervisor Pat Kelly complimented and credited the Dexter Area Fire Department, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), Michigan State Police (MSP), DTE, Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC), Dexter Community Schools and State Representative Mark Ouimet for a job well done during and immediately after the storm.

Dexter Fire Chief Loren Yates, who acted as incident command through the storm and rescue efforts, indicated the current role of the fire department is to continue checking on the welfare of community members and pass out water and trash bags in the ongoing clean up process. He said the fire department is now just about back to business as usual.

WCSO, along with MSP, indicated their main focus was Dexter-Pinckney Road between N. Territorial and Island Lake Road which is expected to remain closed until at least the end of the week following the twister.

Police are being especially watchful of vandals and scrap metal thieves. Only local residents and work crews are allowed in the area.

DTE had power restored to the majority of the area, by Saturday.

Jim Harmon, Director of Operations with WCRC, said his department remained on a 24/7 schedule to clear roads. Their main concern was stabilizing Dexter-Pinckney Road (a paved primary road) and clearing debris.

Dexter Community Schools, back on schedule by Monday, became the community's headquarters for donations, lost and found items and a destination for family gathering and kid's fun as the community regroup and clears the mess.

Superintendent, Mary Marshall, advised residents to come into Creekside Elementary on Baker Road for food, clothing and toiletries that have been donated. The school district continues to offer counseling services for children. "Kids need to tell their story," said Marshall.

A Dexter Tornado Relief Hotline has been established through the American Red Cross. That number is 734-961-3009.

Southern Baptist Convention

Dexter Officials and Emergency Departments Plan Recovery After Tornado Hits Dexter



The Dexter Village Car Wash and Laundry were in the direct path of the EF-3 tornado.

Photo by Dawn Miller

Disaster Relief Representative, Winford Williams, announced the church will continue to provide help with clean up to any resident who needs it. Williams added the service is free and volunteers helping do not accept donations on site. His office number is 810-231-1955.

Kelly asked State Representative Mark Ouimet if Dexter Township had been declared a disaster area.

Ouimet indicated the area had not, but state money may be available for public property. However, according to Ouimet there is only \$200,000 available for disaster relief for the entire state in one fiscal year. He advised village and township officials to continue to seek federal and state financial assistance.

"This is the time for governments to step up because people can't do this on their own," Ouimet added.

The township board unanimously voted in favor of allocating an additional \$200,000

toward clean up efforts in the township expressing the belief this was just and proper use of tax dollars. The clean up dollars would be limited for use to clean up natural debris in public right of ways.

Board members also voted in favor of waiving zoning permit fees for residents replacing shingles, siding and windows. However,

permits are required for repairs of structural damage.

Other plans include having porta-johns in needed areas, establishing a list of volunteers and organizing donations.

Dexter Township's regularly scheduled meeting set for Tuesday March 20 has been rescheduled to Thursday March 22.



Winds of up to 140 miles an hour violently slammed through Dexter. *Photo by Robert Nester*

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Ray eats small, balanced meals.

What will your next step be?

It took a wake-up call from his doctor to get Parma resident Ray Glessner thinking more seriously about his health. The 43-year-old's blood pressure and cholesterol had been high for years and he was overweight.

To kick-start a healthier life, Ray began eating smaller meals throughout the day, including more fruits and vegetables and taking his lunch to work.

Within six months, Ray's consistent steps helped him lose weight, gave him a lot more energy to play with his son and helped lower his blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Visit MyStepByStep.org to learn more about the Community Wellness Challenge.



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Uprooted and broken trees will plague Dexter for weeks to come. *Photo by Robert Nester*



Houses in the path of the tornado were reduced to rubbish. *Photo by Robert Nester*



An erie calm settled in immediately after the twister blew through. *Photo by Dawn Miller*

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Chelsea Coalition Poised to Present Plan for Funding

Continued from Front Page

Malinoski and other coalition members clarified the list of potential interventions as more "a wish list" backed by much research. At this point, funding is not guaranteed.

Malinoski, a board member of Chelsea Community Kitchen—an organization devoted to creating a healthy, local and sustainable food culture through education and counseling—has a heart for the "eat better" component of the foundation's mission.

She, along with members of her sub-group that include dietitians, farmers market coordinators, and other Chelsea Community Kitchen members, plan to present a Healthy Restaurant Initiative along with a Healthy Grocery Store Initiative to the foundation. The former involves collaboration with locally-owned restaurants to highlight and increase healthy choices on menus. The latter involves connecting marketing consultants with local grocery stores, including Polly's Country Market and local convenience stores, for the purpose of strategically marketing healthy food choices. "Everyone will get involved eventually with this particular initiative," Malinoski hoped aloud, including the four other communities participating in the Five Healthy Towns Initiative: Dexter, Stockbridge, Manchester and Grass Lake.

The "eating better" sub-group also hopes to launch a community read on healthy eating through Chelsea District Library, as well as facilitate the use of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, at local farmers markets. This particular intervention would "hit a portion of the population other things wouldn't," noted Malinoski.

The "move more" sub-group, striving to put a significant dent in the statistic indicating 50% of Western Washtenaw residents are overweight or obese (2010 Health Improvement Plan Survey), hopes to implement two national programs within the school district. Fuel Up For 60, a nationwide movement focused on fighting childhood obesity through in-school nutrition and sixty minutes of physical activity per day, will likely come before the foundation's board for approval. Safe Routes to School, a national program aimed at providing students with more opportunity to walk or bike to school, especially those in surrounding townships, will also be presented as worthy of funding. "We're trying to find already

established interventions," said Malinoski.

Coalition members also hope to use Chelsea First website as a significant vehicle to get people to move more. Members are pushing for recreational opportunities and events offering physical activity, whether on-going or isolated, to be listed on the website (chelseamich.com), a central hub for the goings-on within the community.

It is Chelsea's SRSly (text language for seriously intervention, a community coalition established in 2008 designed to help youth turn away from alcohol and drugs, that seems to be the jewel in the community's crown. The coalition of youth, parents, teachers, neighbors, coaches, doctors, pastors, police and others have worked to help cut youth alcohol use in half from 2007 to 2010, according to Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) 2010 survey results. Having had a higher rate of youth alcohol use than the surrounding county in 2007, Chelsea School District ranked lower than the county average in 2010. "There are a lot of different moving pieces, but we'd like to believe SRSly has had an impact," said SRSly Program Coordinator Jesse Kauffman. SRSly is looking forward to April when MiPHY 2012 survey results will be released.

Truly a grass-roots organization that emerged out of the community in response to youth alcohol-related tragedies, Chelsea Wellness Coalition members will simply request further financial support of SRSly from the foundation in line with the mission of avoiding unhealthy substances. "We don't want to duplicate what's already there," said Kauffman.

Finally, Trinh Pifer, Director of Chelsea Senior Center and member of the wellness coalition's sub-group focusing on facilitating healthy connection with others, sees connection as the cornerstone of the coalition's efforts. "Mental and emotional wellness is a huge component of overall health," she reiterated.

Pifer and other members share a vision for a staffed Wellness Coordinator to support interventions of the entire coalition. "Our mission as a sub-committee [of connecting with others in healthy ways] is to connect all other sub-committees to support and help coordinate resources," she clarified, describing the role of the hoped-for "point person" as leading and caring for the whole process. Still in the conceptual stage, Pifer explained, the individual would be in service to the entire coalition's efforts.

"That's how grass-roots efforts are successful," members agreed.

Pifer also foresees utilizing Chelsea First website to create a volunteer portal where a database of all non-profit groups in the area that use volunteers can be viewed. The plan would allow people to view listings of volunteer opportunities in their own community quickly and easily. "It's about volunteering where you live and work," said Pifer. "It's about connecting individuals to organizations, and individuals to individuals within the community."

Malinoski, Kauffman and Pifer all emphasized the coalition welcomes new members and encourage feedback from the community. "This is not a closed system," said Malinoski. "The more people behind it, the more successful it's going to be."

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Appraisals at the Chelsea Antique Mall Reveal Treasures and Trinkets

By Lucy Silverio

David Dornan was out in the parking lot with some antique fishing rods and a box of tackle, his mother was already inside. Karen and Vic Trigo came to the Chelsea Antiques Mall with their friend

Deborah Myers, Deborah and Karen were carrying two framed pictures and Vic held an old chair with inlay work and a padded seat. The items had been appraised and they were headed back outside.



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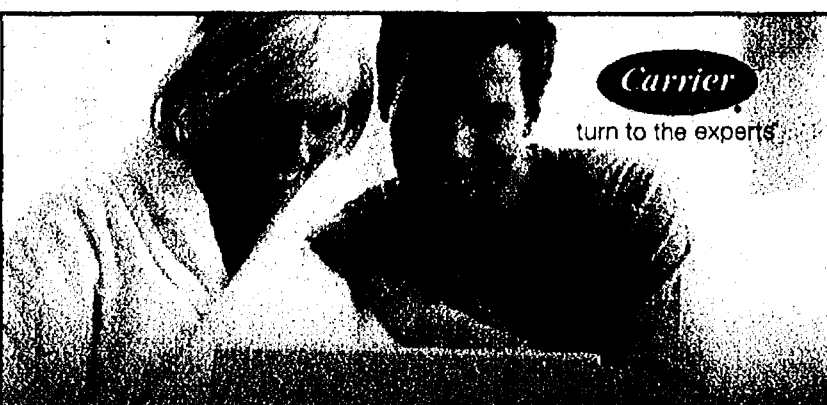
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Appraiser Joe Merkel examines an antique inlaid jewelry chest as the owner looks on. "This object could be a highlight on the Road Show," he commented. Photo by Lucy Silverio

Myers was pleased with the appraisals that she received. "He was able to tell me right a way where the items came from and what the value would be in an antiques store."

According to Myers the appraiser said the chair could sell for about \$120, it would have been more but there was some damage to the inlay. "He said the chair is Victorian from the late 1800s and that was something that I had trouble determining because some of this mahogany furniture was made in the 50s. I was pretty sure that it was made in the 1800s but I just needed an expert to tell me."

Ed Greenleaf, owner of the Chelsea Antiques Mall was working the counter while two appraisers worked next door. "This is the first time we've tried appraisers since we opened September 15, 2010," said Greenleaf. They seem to be doing well - there are a lot of people who've come through here."

There are just over 40 dealers at the Chelsea Antique Mall. They meet together monthly. Some of the dealers had been to similar appraisal days in Detroit and it seemed like a good idea.

Vicky Wurster, who was key in organizing the event, contacted several antique experts and was able to schedule two appraisers, Joe Merkel and Larry Guenther. Larry is owner of the Stockbridge

Antiques Mall and Joe is an appraiser and an auctioneer.

Business was steady throughout the day, without an appointment the wait was about an hour. "It has been very successful and will hopefully become a regular thing," said Vicky. "I have seen people come out of here who are happy that they found out that this little piece from Grandma meant something, and that is the good stuff."

Joe Merkel has been an appraiser for 26 years. His interest in antiques started when he was a young boy by going to farm dumps where people threw things away years ago and finding old canning jars. When he found out that they were collectible and had value, he began hunting them more seriously. Later he went with his father to auctions and his passion for old things grew from there.

Merkel, who went to school to become both an auctioneer and an appraiser, saw multiple objects throughout the day. Not everyone was lucky; a small glass jar and lid that Merkel looked at was declared to be pressed glass and not significant. He became quite excited however over a small chest of drawers; he said, "This object could be a highlight on the Road Show. It could be on TV. This is that good a piece. It is extraordinary - museum quality."

The owner also had the papers



Deborah Myers visited the antique mall with friends Karen and Vic to have their treasures appraised. Photo by Lucy Silverio

where the maker of the chest had made sketches. Merkel emphasized how important that was to the value of the piece and said documentation about a piece should be labeled as such and always kept with the object, otherwise years down the road someone who doesn't know could just throw the papers away without realizing it.

Regarding going to appraisal school Merkel was somewhat dismissive, "School is school but you learn by doing, by research, and experience. It is also very important to say when you don't know."

Merkel lives by his words, earlier in the day, to the owners dismay he said he did not believe the tapestry in question was either

very old or valuable. Merkel was pretty sure, he has studied the area, he knows about looking at thread counts and dye lots, but he didn't present himself as an absolute expert, and he advised the owner to take the cloth to the Toledo Art Museum where there is a tapestry expert if he wants more information.

The Chelsea Antique Mall will host an Antique Auction June 16 which will take place at the Chelsea Fair Grounds across Old Manchester Road from the antique mall. Those interested in selling antique items should bring them to the fairgrounds by 8:30 am. The auction begins promptly at 10 am.

More information about the auction is available at <http://merkelauction.com/>

Unadilla Township Police Searching for Suspect After Home is Burglarized

Information Submitted by Chief William Cook

Police are looking for the person or persons involved in a home invasion, Sunday March 18. The homeowner reported to Unadilla Township Police that sometime over the weekend, while he was away, someone entered the home and stole a laptop computer, a play station game console and prescription medications.

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Bruce Wm Brown

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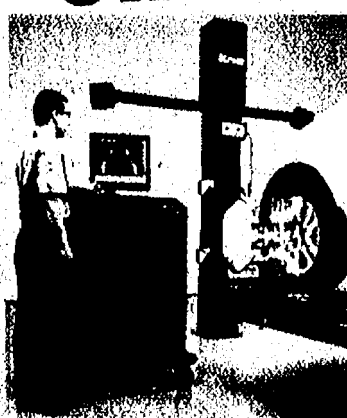
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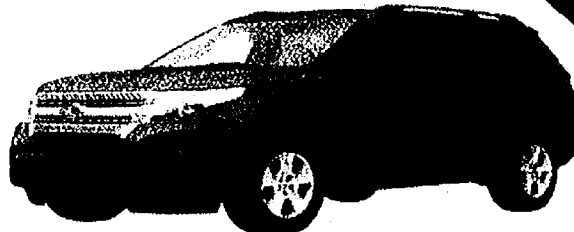
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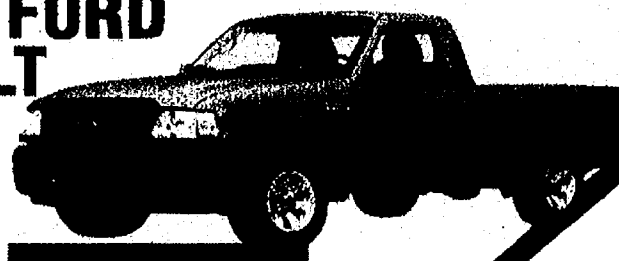
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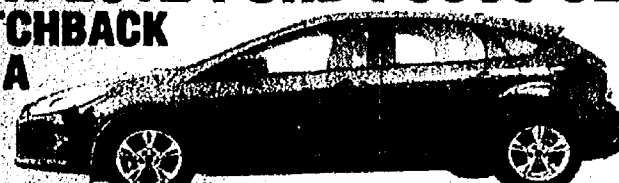
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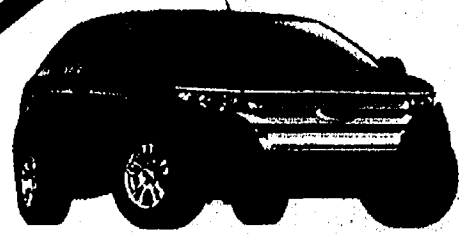
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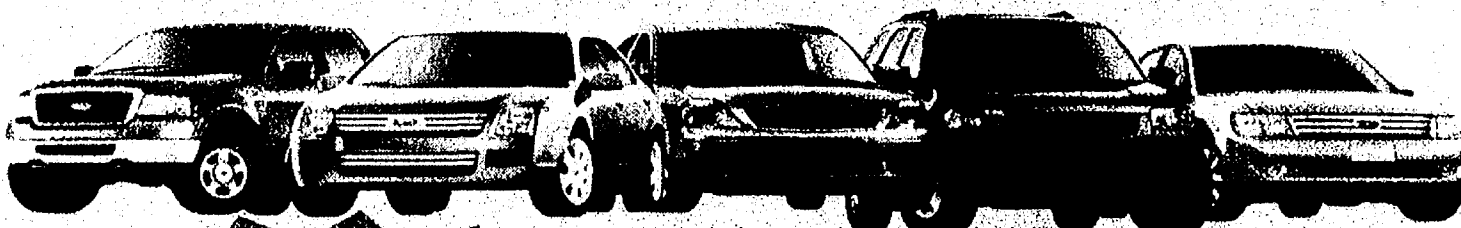
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