

# LOCAL EXPRESS

## MAGOMB COUNTY

### COUNTY-WIDE

#### First 17 layoffs expected Tuesday

Up to 17 Macomb County government employees may lose their jobs on Tuesday as commissioners begin the first round of layoffs after a key union rejected a new labor contract.

Tuesday's layoffs would save the county \$857,000.

The layoffs are in response to local units of the United Auto Workers rejecting a contract Friday that calls for a two-year wage freeze, six days off without pay, higher out-of-pocket health care costs and stiffer pension requirements.

Commissioners expect dozens more layoffs in the coming months if the UAW doesn't retract and approve the contract.

The county's largest union, the 900-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 411, votes on Friday. If the contract is rejected, commissioners expect layoffs to total to reach more than 200 by year's end.

The county is facing an \$18-million deficit and hoped to save \$10 million with the revised contracts. In exchange, commissioners pledged to raise taxes to eliminate the remaining deficit.

Without contracts, commissioners said they would abandon the tax increase and cut \$18 million from the budget, primarily through job cuts that would cripple many county services.

#### Audio of commission meetings to be on Web

Residents soon will be able to keep better tabs on Ma-

comb County government after commissioners on Wednesday approved adding audio podcasts of all county meetings to the county's Web site.

Audio recordings of the meetings will be posted at [www.macombcountymt.com](http://www.macombcountymt.com) as well as officials add the technology.

Commissioners also are exploring ways to waive bonding and committee meetings.

Audio meetings of the county's Charter Commission, which is charged with re-vamping county government, already are available at the Web site.

### CLINTON TOWNSHIP

#### Driver struck by train listed in good condition

A 19-year-old towncap man was in good condition at a Mt. Clemens hospital after the rear passenger side of his train was hit by a train Wednesday, police said.

At 9:45 a.m., despite the train's whistle and warning bells, the man attempted to cross the tracks in the area of Oberliesen and North Avenue in Clinton Township. The train hit the truck's backside, township police Lt. Anthony Greene said.

There are no crossing gates at that location, police said.

Greene could not say whether the driver was racing the train. He noted that the teen was issued a citation for reckless driving.

The driver was treated at Mt. Clemens Regional Medical Center for minor injuries. *Compiled by Steve Neuringer and Christy Arbovelo.*

### INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

#### Suspect caught after mugging

Oakland County Sheriff's deputies have one man in custody and are looking for others in connection with a robbery and beating.

According to deputies, a man was leaving the Cherry Hill Lanes bowling alley about 11:40 p.m. Tuesday when he was assaulted and robbed in the parking lot by three men. The man, whose name, age and hometown were not released, got the license plate of the vehicle his attackers fled in — leading deputies to one suspect.

The suspect is believed to be the instigator of the attack, Sgt. Matt Baldes said.

The victim's injuries are not life-threatening, Baldes said. It is unknown if the knew his attackers.

### MILFORD

#### See 13 little piglets at Kensington Farm Center

There are 13 new additions at Kensington Metropark after Nataasha — a 3-year-old sow — gave birth to her third litter.

The piglets were born Jan. 27 at the Kensington Farm Center, said farm manager Debbie Cavallaro. The father is Boris, a 2-year-old boar. Nataasha gave birth to 14 piglets but one died, Cavallaro said.

The piglets are inside the center's heated barn. They are to be sold this spring to children involved in 4-H.

The piglets are on display from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at the center, 2240 W. Buro Road.

## OAKLAND COUNTY

### SOUTHFIELD

#### Women's clinic gets reprieve in trash case

If a Lathrup Village clinic remains free of convictions for six months, a charge of improperly disposing of medical records is expected to be dropped, according to the facility's attorney.

WomanCare of Southfield PC, which is owned by Dr. A. Alberto Hodari, was facing 12 counts of improperly disposing of medical records in Southfield's 69th District Court. All but one of those charges have been dropped, Victor Norris, the lawyer for Hodari and the clinic, said Wednesday.

This case stems from a March incident in which records were discovered in a Dumpster behind the clinic on Southfield Road. The facility, where abortions are performed, came under scrutiny that month after an anti-abortion group — Michigan-based Citizens for a Pro-Life Society — claimed it found baby parts of fetuses, other medical waste and the records in the trash bin.

### COUNTY-WIDE

#### Royal Oak's top cop resigns for chief job

Royal Oak Police Chief Tied Quisenberry resigned this week to become Oakland County's administrator for emergency response and preparedness.

Quisenberry, 55, of Brandon Township is to start his new job in March, county officials said.

*Compiled by Kerie Wilkins, Gisa Dameron and Bill Latimer.*

## WAYNE COUNTY

### ROMULUS

#### Driver to face trial in fatal crash

The driver accused in the hit-and-run fatality that killed Brian Generazio, 24, of Sumpster Township in September will be arraigned Feb. 18 in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Ronald Harmon, 53, of Ypsilanti appeared Wednesday in 34th District Court in Romulus for a preliminary examination and was bound over for trial. He turned himself in to Van Buren Township police on Sept. 29.

Generazio, a video store manager, was killed Sept. 19 at about 2 a.m. while riding his bicycle home from work. Police said Generazio's brother was looking for him at daybreak and found his body off Rawsonville Road.

### COUNTY-WIDE

#### Open houses to provide info on flood insurance

Wayne County homeowners can find their residences on soon-to-be published flood insurance rate maps and get information about flood insurance coverage through the National Flood Insurance Program during two open houses this month.

Representatives from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are to host the events Feb. 18 at

Wyandotte City Hall, 3131 Biddle, and Feb. 19 on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive. The open houses will be held 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.

#### WESTLAND New teachers contract is ratified through 2011-12

Wayne-Westland Community Schools administration and teachers have agreed to a new contract through the 2011-12 school year as part of the settlement agreement ratified by the school board Tuesday and last week by the teachers.

The agreement includes class size limits and raises for teachers of 1.75% this year and 1.5% for each of the remaining three years of the contract.

Teachers, however, made concessions on insurance.

They have the option of choosing insurance through the Michigan Education Special Services Association or the Health Alliance Plan. However, they will pay an additional \$200 to \$400 deductible for the MESSA plan.

Striking teachers are to have a letter of reprimand permanently placed in their file and non-striking teachers are to receive an additional four days pay. Both sides agreed to a no-strike, no-lockout clause when bargaining future contracts.

*Compiled by Joe Rousiter and Christa Hall.*

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