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Local news in brief: Kidnapping suspect escapes from Mecosta County Jail

Kidnapping suspect escapes from Mecosta County Jail

A man who served prison time for second-degree murder and armed robbery for crimes committed in Wayne County in 1988 has escaped from jail in Mecosta County, authorities said Thursday.

Jonathan J. Good, 36, was being held on kidnapping and attempted murder charges. He got out through a skylight and onto a roof, then ran, according to a local TV station. The station said he last was seen wearing white boxer shorts, a white T-shirt and rubber shoes.

Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Casey Nemeth said in a statement released Thursday evening that Good might be hiding in abandoned housing in the Big Rapids area. Good might have obtained clothing and tried to change his appearance by cutting his hair, the statement said.

Good escaped about 10:20 p.m. Wednesday, the sheriff's department said.

Mecosta County authorities said he was being held on 30 felony charges.

Good is suspected of being the ringleader of a group of thieves implicated in a string of burglaries, according to the Pioneer newspaper.

MILFORD: Village clerk plans to retire

Milford Village Clerk Ann Collins is retiring.

Collins, who has worked in the village for 22 years, will leave in March. The Village Council is expected to accept her retirement Monday.

Collins, 62, has been the clerk since 2000. She said she plans to travel, spend time with her grandchildren and see her friends more.

DETROIT: Drug raid nets marijuana, cocaine

Investigators seized \$1.3 million in marijuana and cocaine after a tipster notified police about a drug ring operating out of northwest Detroit.

Officers from the Detroit Police Department and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives also arrested three people when they raided three homes Monday: one in the 7300 block of Dolphin, one in the 6200 block of Greenview and one other house in the northwest part of the city.

BEVERLY HILLS: Village manager contemplates cuts

Anticipating a decrease in tax revenue as housing assessments slide, Beverly Hills Village Manager Chris Wilson is beginning to take a sharp scalpel to his village's budget.

At Wilson's request, the Village Council this week gave him some direction on where to cut about \$285,000 from the \$7.3-million budget for fiscal year 2009, which begins July 1.

Among the cuts the council authorized:

- 5% from the public safety department, perhaps eliminating one of the village's 25 public safety officers.
- 20% from capital purchases of vehicles and heavy equipment.
- 15% each from the building and public services departments.
- 20% from community affairs, which hosts parties in Beverly Park and publishes the village newsletter.

BRANDON TOWNSHIP: Robbery suspect caught after search

An armed robbery suspect was arrested Thursday following searches by police dog, helicopter and officers in squad cars in northern Oakland County on Wednesday night and a manhunt in Genesee County's Burton Township early Thursday, police said.

The 23-year-old man is suspected of fleeing on foot after pulling a handgun outside a restaurant in Brandon Township, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

The robbery occurred about 6 p.m. in the parking lot of China Fare restaurant on South Ortonville Road, when two youths approached a man sitting in his car and one pointed a handgun at his face, demanding money, said Oakland County Undersheriff Mike McCabe.

Both fled, although police were able to arrest a 19-year-old Pontiac man at the scene, McCabe said Thursday.

By Korie Wilkins, Tammy Stables Battaglia, Emilia Askari, Bill Laitner and the Associated Press.
