

IN BRIEF

Free forum slated on race matters

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Constructive ways to confront racial stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination is the topic of a Jan. 20 forum at Lake Michigan College, organizers announced.

The Race Relations Council is hosting the noon-1:30 p.m. forum in the Brown Lecture Hall. The free forum is open to everyone in Southwest Michigan.

The panel will present principles for constructive confrontation and will illustrate principles with specific examples. There will be ample opportunity for questions and discussion.

The panelists will be Race Relations Council members Dr. Larry Feldman, Sandy Feldman, Rommel Johnson and Sekenah Tennison, and the Rev. Maurice McAfee, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church and president of the Twin City NAACP.

A article about the event in Friday's Herald-Palladium listed an incorrect time.

Police want public's help in solving crash

PAW PAW — State police are asking for the public's help in finding a hit-and-run driver who struck a vehicle at Complete Auto Care on M-43 in Almena Township on Tuesday morning.

The building was also damaged when the struck vehicle was pushed into it,

said state police Lt. Dale Hinz of the Paw Paw post. The damage was discovered by workers at 7:30 a.m. and the incident is believed to have occurred within two hours previously because the tracks were relatively fresh, Hinz said. Police believe the suspect vehicle was a full-size pickup truck. The public is asked to call the post at 657-5551 with information.

Van Buren officers terminate meth lab

LAWTON — Police raided a house on Morrill Street in Lawton Monday afternoon and seized meth lab parts and methamphetamine, Van Buren County sheriff's Detective Sgt. Mick Masterson said. No one was home at the time of the 3:30 p.m. raid, but drug charges will be sought against the suspects, Masterson said.

Hard luck tire leads to drug probe

GRAND JUNCTION — A flat tire and a stranded vehicle led police to meth labs and marijuana in Van Buren County on Monday night.

Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies stopped to assist a motorist stuck in the middle of County Road 384 in Columbia Township shortly after 7 p.m. with a flat tire, Lt. David Walker said. The driver, 40, of Bangor had a suspended

license, and marijuana and meth lab parts were found in the car.

Police then went to the home of the car owner, on Pine Street in Breedsville, and saw marijuana in plain view inside, Walker said. Police searched the house and found two active meth labs and marijuana. Charges will be sought.

Man sentenced in girl's 2007 assault, slaying

CENTREVILLE (AP) — A 65-year-old southwestern Michigan man will spend 30 to 60 years in prison in the sexual assault and slaying of an 11-year-old girl.

Daniel Furlong was sentenced Monday in St. Joseph County.

Jodi Parrack's body was found Nov. 8, 2007, in Constantine Township Cemetery in St. Joseph County near the Indiana state line. She had been lured into Furlong's garage and strangled.

The state police took over the investigation in 2011 and assigned a team to focus solely on finding the girl's killer. DNA taken after Furlong was arrested in a separate sexual assault case matched evidence found on Jodi.

Furlong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

Jodi's mother, Valerie Jo Gilson, told the court Monday that "Jodi is forever gone and everyone who loves her will never be the same."