

IN BRIEF

Horticultural Days set for Feb. 1-2

BENTON TOWNSHIP — The Michigan Grape Society and Michigan State University Extension in partnership with Lake Michigan College will host the annual Southwest Michigan Horticultural Days conference Feb. 1 and 2 at LMC's Mendel Center, 2755 E. Napier Ave., the extension announced.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. both days and all educational sessions begin at 9 a.m. Discussion of production issues will be led by MSU Extension agents, fruit growers and university researchers.

There will be sessions on tree fruits, vegetables, blueberries and grapes on both days. The event features a trade show. Restricted-use pesticide recertification credits have been requested.

Registration is \$60 per person at the door and includes lunch for both days. Early registration is \$45 per person and must be postmarked by Jan. 13. Mail registration to: Michigan Grape Society, P.O. Box 151, Baroda, MI 49101, Attention: Allen Zelmer. Make checks nav-

able to Michigan Grape Society.

Registration forms are available for download here at <http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/swmrec>. For registration information only, call Zelmer at 269-870-5265. To view program details go to <http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/swmrec> after Jan. 11.

LaSata sets staff, releases contact info

LANSING — State Rep. Kim LaSata has opened her Lansing office to serve the 79th District, her office reported.

People can contact LaSata, R-Bainbridge Township, by calling 517-373-1403; mail correspondence to N-1098 House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514; or by email at kimlasata@house.mi.gov.

Arthur Havlicek of Bridgman and Gabriella Reihanian of Muskegon will serve as LaSata's legislative aides.



LaSATA

Additionally, LaSata will release a schedule of local office hours to give area residents a convenient opportunity to speak with her directly.

First elected in November, she represents northern Berrien County.

Griffin issues contact info for state office

LANSING — State Rep. Beth Griffin, R-Mattawan, has opened her Lansing office to serve 66th District residents and announced key contact information.

People can contact Griffin at 517-373-0839; mail correspondence to S-1085 House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI

48909-7514; or by e-mail at bethgriffin@house.mi.gov.

Griffin is planning regular local office hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to speak directly with her. The district covers Van Buren County. She was elected in November to her first term.

Man to stand trial in woman's slaying

GRAND RAPIDS (AP) — A judge has ordered a man to stand trial in circuit court in the slaying of a 34-year-old woman on the Grand Rapids Community College campus in western Michigan.

Marcus Bivins' preliminary hearing was held Thursday. The 19-year-old Bivins is charged with first-degree murder.

Jeanne Huntoon of Muskegon was beaten and stabbed to death in April.

Her body was found near bushes at the school.

A witness reported seeing a man dragging what appeared to be a body near a main building and parking ramp.

Law protects cities in slip-and-fall cases

LANSING (AP) — It's likely to be harder to sue local governments in Michigan over a fall on a defective sidewalk.

Gov. Rick Snyder this week signed a law that gives local governments some extra protection: the so-called open-and-obvious defense that's long been available to private businesses.

Under the defense, a local government can argue that a defect in a sidewalk or other public property should have been "open and obvious" to the person who was injured.



GRIFFIN

