

ALL-REGION

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR:
HURON'S LOGAN RITCHIE

SPORTS 1B

WRESTLING

COACH OF THE YEAR:
DUNDEE'S TIM ROBERTS

THE MONROE NEWS

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State House okays metal theft bill

■ The Senate is expected to send the bill — which updates a 2008 law that many say wasn't effective — to the governor today.

BY DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING (AP) — Michigan scrapyards that buy copper wire, air conditioners and catalytic converters only will be able to pay sellers by mail under a deal brokered Wednesday by legislators attempting to crack down on sales of stolen scrap metal.

The state House's 98-12 approval of legislation signaled the end of a months-long dispute over the measure intended to help law enforcement solve and prosecute cases. The Senate is expected to send the bill today to Gov. Rick Snyder, who has listed it as a priority.

"I think it's a compromise we can live with. Our cities have a good feeling about it," said the bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. Paul Muxlow of Brown City.

The agreement caps more than 2½ years of work to update a 2008 anti-scrap metal theft law that detractors said wasn't working.

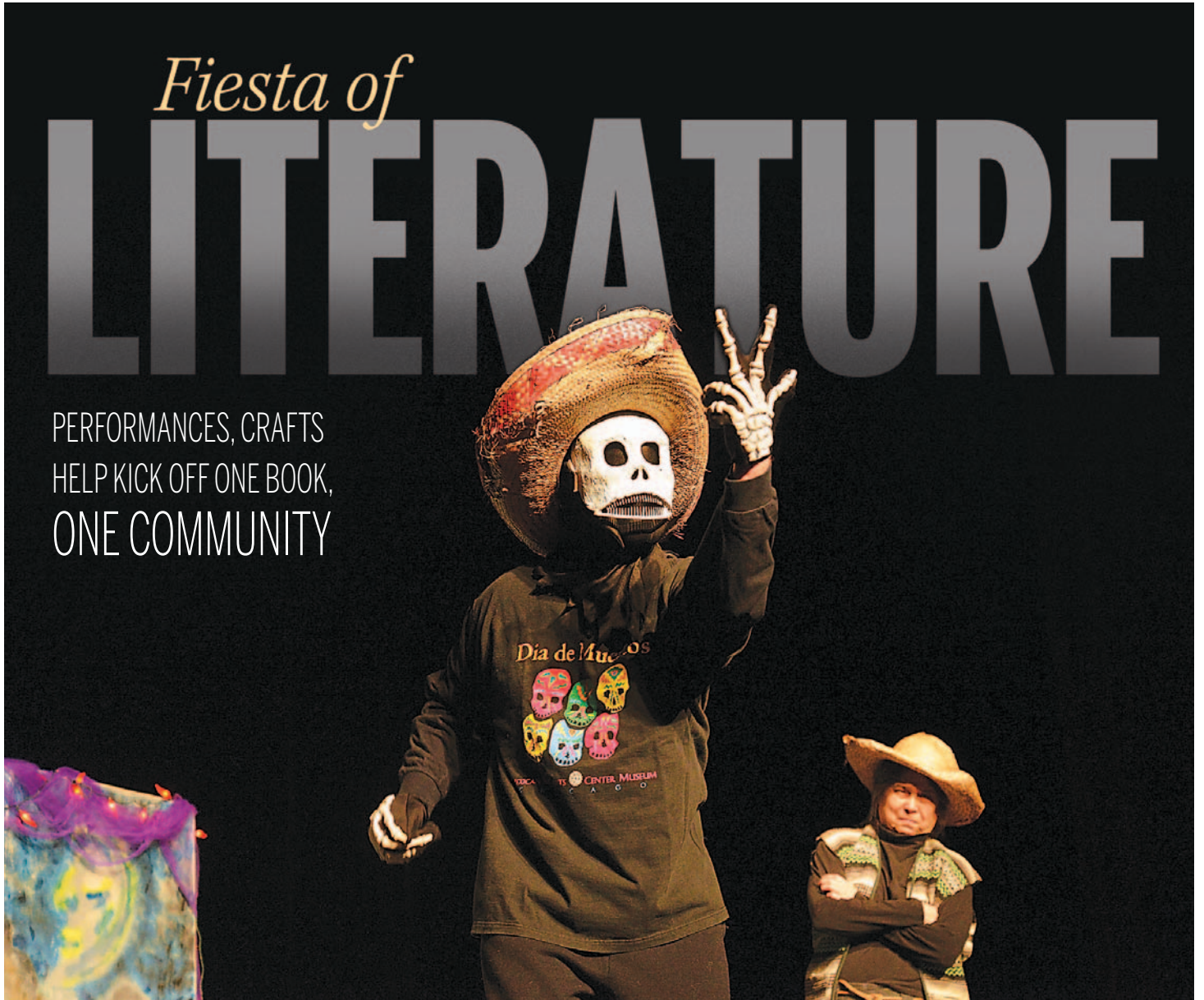
Scrapyards will have to take photos or video of metal they buy and the seller under the legislation. Sellers could be paid only by check or money order, or they could redeem their money at an onsite ATM.

Knowingly selling or buying street light poles, guardrails, traffic signs, cemetery plaques and railroad equipment generally will be off limits, too.

The sticking point had been a proposal to make people wait for payment for copper wire, air conditioners and catalytic converters.

The House in October approved a three-day waiting period. The Senate, though, voted to make delayed payment unnecessary.

See METAL, Page 7A



A unique performance by Magical Rain Theaterworks celebrating Mexican lore and culture highlighted the One Book, One Community kick-off event at the La-Z-Boy Center Wednesday. Attendees took in a book swap, crafts, Mexican food and other entertainment and give-aways in the spirit of this year's community reading selection, "The Distance Between Us," a memoir of an immigrant's experience by Reyna Grande.

— Monroe News photo by KIM BRENT

BY CAITLIN VANOVERBERGHE
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A hum of conversation filled the atrium of the La-Z-Boy Center at Monroe County Community College and the aroma of spicy foods wafted through the air as community members gathered Wednesday night for the kickoff fiesta of One Book, One Community of Monroe County.

The walls were decorated in a colorful garland, and each small table had its own bright centerpiece. In a corner of the room, the "Coming to Monroe" exhibit told the immigration stories of Monroe County residents.

If people are talking, One



► Residents share their 'Coming to Monroe' stories. — Page 3A

Book, One Community is doing its job. Cheryl Johnston said the month-long affair is all about sharing thoughts on a story.

"You get a lot of opinions on the same topic," Zach Douglas, a second-year student at MCCC said of why he enjoys participating in One Book, One Community (OBOC) through the college. "Books are more valuable when you talk with someone about it."

Mrs. Johnston, who is the co-chairman of the OBOC committee and a faculty member at MCCC, said this year's story, "The Distance Between

Us" by Reyna Grande, touches on a wealth of subjects — from politics to sociology to literature.

In planning the kickoff fiesta, the committee tried to incorporate each of those topics while giving a slight preview of other OBOC events, all with a Hispanic flair.

"We centered (our programs) on family issues, immigration, reading and the power of education," Mrs. Johnston said. "Our kickoff is reflective of that."

"We like to do different (programs) for different people," she said. "The idea is to bring the community together, and we have to do it in different ways because people are inter-

See BOOK, Page 7A

Coast Guard cutter to break ice jam

BY DEAN COUSINO
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A Coast Guard ice breaker was expected to arrive today to help ease an ice jam near the mouth of the River Raisin that pushed levels of the river almost 3 feet above flood stage Wednesday in the city.

The ice cutter Neah Bay was to assist with flood mitigation efforts after being requested by Monroe County and City of Monroe authorities. The cutter-tug

boat with a reinforced hull will attempt to break the ice jam and open a flow of ice and water into Lake Erie, which still is mostly ice covered, said Mark Hammond, director of the county Emergency Management Division.

"We have to get coal boats to the DTE (Energy) plant," Mr. Hammond said Wednesday. "The ice doesn't have anywhere to go."

He said the cutter will come in from the north and make a pass in the turning basin at the Port of Monroe and then go back out

into the lake and open the mouth of the river beyond the plant.

"It will get up as far as they can," he said. "The lake is still 80 to 90 percent ice-covered."

The river's level was 11.68 feet at the city water filtration plant just east of Soldiers & Sailors Park Wednesday afternoon, due mainly to the ice jam that was backing up. Flood stage is 9 feet.

Earlier Wednesday, water from the river spilled over onto Hel-

See CUTTER, Page 7A



— Monroe News photo by TOM HAWLEY

An ice jam clogs the River Raisin at the Winchester St. bridge resulting in flooding just east at Hellenberg Park.

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TODAY'S OBITUARIES Details, 7A

PRISCILLA D. BEAUBIEN, 94, of Monroe
BURNIS HOPPER, 93, of Monroe
ELWOOD E. KRZYSKE, 90, of Huron Township
WILLIAM C. LONGNECKER, 89, of Petersburg
CLARENCE W. MARIETTA, 68, of Newport

JOYCE S. PEBLEY, 86, of Monroe
SUZANNE T. PETERSON, 71, of Newport
EMIL J. PREKOP, 87, of Temperance
JOHN A. RICE, 77, of Carleton
MARY M. SAUM, 86, of Monroe

WEATHER Details, 6A

TONIGHT
Clear



25°

FRIDAY
Rain likely



44°

► FROM PAGE 1A



— Monroe News photo by TOM HAWLEY

Hellenberg Field by the River Raisin flooded Wednesday morning and closed a stretch of E. Front St.

Cutter (cont.)

lenberg Field with as much as 2 to 3 feet of water, swamping the playground and pavilion there. Floodwaters and ice floes also approached homes along E. Front St. and the Winchester St. bridge over the river. Elm Ave. under the Telegraph Rd. bridge flooded late Wednesday.

Jerry Oley, chairman of the county Board of Commissioners, and Monroe Mayor Robert E. Clark requested the Coast Guard's help to clear the ice jam and prevent as much flood damage as possible.

Mayor Clark said the two entities wanted to take whatever steps needed to alleviate property damage along the river, particularly in areas most prone to flooding.

"Working together and sending a clear message to our federal partners has helped provide this assistance," the mayor said.

Book (cont.)

ested in different kinds of activities."

On Wednesday, community member were treated to refreshments, music and a book swap. Children were taught to make flowers using tissue paper and pipe cleaners, and Magical Rain Theatreworks acted out stories and folklore from Latino culture. But an educational undertone was always intact, and conversations circled around Ms. Grande's story.

While community members young and old attended Wednesday's kickoff, the event was popular among community college students.

Many of MCCC's students are required to read the book through their English classes.

"My students have loved it," said Carrie Nartker, an English department faculty member. "The book touches on issues that spread across cultures — that's something my students have taken from it. These aren't just Hispanic issues."

Joanna Sabo said she routinely sees students with "The Distance Between Us." But after the kickoff, she is not sure how many would have

Metal (cont.)

sary if the scrap/recycling industry instead created a real-time database of each purchase of the pertinent items.

Under the compromise, scrapyards only will be able to buy copper wire, air conditioning components and catalytic converters by mailing a check, money order or ATM-like card to sellers unless payment is under \$25. The database still could be established, but it won't be required.

In Michigan, especially Detroit, thieves are targeting abandoned dwellings, construction sites, railroads and utilities to strip copper wiring, air conditioners and other metal.

Sewage plant has discharge

The swollen River Raisin also was flowing high upstream near the Dundee and Grape dams.

The Village of Dundee Wastewater Treatment Plant issued an advisory Wednesday that the plant had a "discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage." The diluted, bypassed portion of the discharge had received "seven treatment processes and is blended with the plant's final effluent," the advisory said.

The treatment meets all of the plant's federal permit standards and "overall, the discharge quality is good," Dave Rigel, plant superintendent, said in the news release.

been granted citizenship to the United States.

Since "The Distance Between Us" follows Ms. Grande's struggle as an illegal immigrant, Dr. Sabo, a political science professor, was assisting at the fiesta by giving a quiz of questions commonly found on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization test.

Many people didn't do so well, she said. The most missed questions included naming current government officials such as the vice president and state representatives; what month presidential elections are held in, and the term length of certain elected officials.

Dr. Sabo said immigration is a commonly discussed topic in the political science and international relations classes she teaches, so she has been able to incorporate the book into her lessons.

"My favorite thing about (One Book, One Community) is that it can be taught across the curriculum and students are able to see a common thread through all these topics, no matter what they are studying," she said. "It's not just something they read in English class."

Monroe County has had its share of scrap thefts, too.

The state had the ninth-highest number of insurance claims for metal theft in the United States in recent years, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Metropolitan Detroit ranked fifth-worst among urban areas.

Despite existing requirements that dealers maintain records and sellers show a driver's license, law enforcement officials have said successfully prosecuting cases is difficult.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said the House vote was "great news" for his city and other communities struggling with illegal scrapers.

► DEATHS

Emil Joseph Prekop

Oct. 26, 1926-March 19, 2014

Emil Joseph Prekop, 87 years, of Temperance, MI passed away Wednesday, March 19, 2014 in Evansville, IN at the home of his daughter, Sharon Rawski.



A welder with Meilink Safe Company, he retired in 1988 after 3-1/2 years, and previously he worked for Bingham Stamping for 43-1/2 years. The son of Joseph S. and Elizabeth (Tima) Prekop he was born October 26, 1926 in Toledo. He served his country in the U.S. Navy Sea Bees during WWII.

Emil was the widower of Vilma (Korotny) Prekop and Anna (Luther) Prekop. Emil enjoyed golfing, square dancing, and ballroom dancing. He was a member of the Eagles Aerie #197, Bedford Senior Citizens, UAW Local #12, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

He is survived by his loving children, Joseph (Lin-

da) Prekop, Sharon Rawski, Diane Marie Prekop; and 6 grandchildren Greg (Lindsey) Rawski, Correy (Chad) Adams, Audren (Andy) Nichols, Shannon (Joshua Foster) Rawski, Teddy Prekop and Hillary Prekop and 4 great grandchildren, Lanna Adams, Ava Adams, Isabella Rawski, and Jackson Rawski. He was also preceded in death by sisters, Loretta Miller, Irene Procey, and son-in-law, Greg Rawski.

Visitation will be Friday, March 21, 2014 from 6 PM until 8 PM in Urbanski's Bedford Funeral Chapel 8300 Lewis Avenue Temperance, MI.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 11 AM in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church where he will lie in state after 10 AM. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery. Military Honors conducted by Lambertville VFW Post #9656.

Online condolences may be shared at www.bedford-funeralchapel.com.

Mary M. Saum

Aug. 30, 1927 - March 18, 2014

Mary M. Saum, 86, of Monroe, passed away at 1:39 a.m. Tuesday at Windhaven Elder Care.

Private services and burial have taken place at St. Joseph Cemetery, Monroe. The Rupp Funeral Home assisted the family with the arrangements.



Mary was born Aug. 30, 1927 in Maybee. She was the daughter of Edward and Gladys (Cousino) Hoffman. She married John Albert Saum Sept. 6, 1947 at St. Charles Church in Newport; he preceded her in death May 15, 1987.

She was a bus driver for Airport Community Schools for 25 years, retir-

ing in 1989.

She was a member of St. John Church. In her younger years she enjoyed bowling and gardening.

Mary is survived by her children, John A. (Deborah) Saum, Jr. of Newport and Margaret (Arthur) DeSmet of Maybee; three grandchildren, Nevin (Jessica) Saum, Alexander DeSmet and Nicole DeSmet and a great-grandchild, Harper Saum.

In addition to her husband she is preceded in death by two brothers, James E. and Thomas L. Hoffman.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Online condolences may be sent through www.rupp-funeralhomeinc.com.

Priscilla D. Beaubien

Dec. 11, 1919 - March 17, 2014

Priscilla Dorothy Beaubien, 94, of Monroe, passed away at 5:15 p.m. Monday at Goerlich Center, Sylvania, Ohio.

Friends may call from 9:30 a.m. Saturday until a Mass of the Resurrection at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Church. The Rev. Louis Lapeyre, associate pastor of the church, will officiate. Private burial will take place at St. Joseph Cemetery, Monroe. The Rupp Funeral Home is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Priscilla was born December 11, 1919 in Maybee. She was the daughter of Walter and Eleanor (Burger) Wess. She married Victor J. Beaubien June 26, 1946.

She was a 1937 gradu-

ate of Monroe High School and a member of St. Mary's Church, the Altar Society and the Resurrection Choir.

She is survived by her husband Victor J. Beaubien of Monroe; three children, Sue A. (Bart) Gale of Clarkston, Mary K. (Larry) Yonovitz of Ann Arbor and Mark J. Beaubien of Monroe; five grandchildren, Maureen Yonovitz, Michael Yonovitz, Cara Yonovitz, Bradley Gale and Stacy (Jeff) Campbell.

She is preceded in death by her son, Robert J. Beaubien January 2, 2014; an infant brother, Donald and two sisters, Rosemary Curran and Beth Ann Assenmacher Benoit.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Goerlich Center 5320 Harroun Rd. Sylvania, Ohio 43560.

Online condolences may be sent through www.rupp-funeralhomeinc.com.

Suzanne T. Peterson

Aug. 14, 1942 - March 10, 2014

Suzanne T. Peterson, 71, of Newport died at 10:45 p.m. March 10 at Mercy Memorial Hospital. She had been in poor health for two months.



Friends may call from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday March 22, 2014 at the Rupp Funeral Home, where a memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Rev. Lawrence Detruf, pastor of the First Church of God, will officiate.

Born August 14, 1942 in Monroe, she was the daughter of Irving and Anna (Pietrowski) Emerick. She married Axel C. "Pete" Peterson on Nov. 25, 1966 in Newport. He preceded her in death on July 13, 2012.

Suzanne worked for

many years as a desk clerk at Knight's Inn, Monroe and was a 1960 graduate of Monroe High School. She enjoyed cooking, the Detroit Red Wings and spending time with her grandchildren.

Surviving are her children, Deborah A Peterson of Toledo; Christine M. (Ryan) Knapp and Karen L. Peterson, both of Monroe; grandchildren Melissa A. Standifer, Allison M. Standifer and Claire K. Knapp; great-grandchildren Gabriel D. Bunch and Natalie L. Kerrigan; sisters Sharon (Gary) Cooper of Lambertville and Jean (Donald) Ford of Monroe.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and a grandson Patrick J. Standifer.

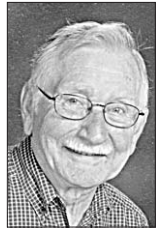
Online condolences may be sent through www.rupp-funeralhomeinc.com.

Elwood E. Krzyske

March 17, 1924-March 19, 2014

Elwood E. Krzyske, age 90, of Huron Township, passed away on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 in the comfort of his home.

Friends may visit in the Arthur Bobcean Funeral Home, Carleton Chapel today from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm and on Friday, March 21, 2014 from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Funeral Services will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 10:00 am. He will lie in state from 9:00 am until time of service. Rev. Dr. Kurt S. Taylor will officiate the service. Burial will be in Michigan Memorial Park, Huron Township, Michigan.



Born on March 17, 1924 in Waltz, Michigan, he was the son of Emil and Minnie (Brandes) Krzyske. On May 11, 1946 he married Arlene Chambo in Tabor Lutheran Church, Detroit, MI.

He was a retail lumber dealer for Krzyske Brother Lumber Company for 50 years until retiring in 1987.

Elwood was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Gideon International, Carleton VFW Post 4093, American Legion Post 231 New Boston, former Rotary Member and former member of the Huron School Board. He gave over 500 Lectures for Gideon International on how important Bible study is through out the world.

He served in the U.S. Army during WWII, helped liberate the 1st prison camp in Germany under Gen. George S. Patton and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 5 Bronze Stars.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, daughters, Judy and Karen, brother, Lyle, sisters, Norreen Williams and Donna Butcher, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Surviving is son, Kevin (Nina) Krzyske of New Boston; 3 daughters, Linda (Ross) Ernest of Cincinnati, Penny Cothran of Las Vegas and Pamela (Todd) Hamilton of Waltz; 2 brothers, Emil (Constance) Krzyske, Jr. of Waltz and Elden (Barbara) Krzyske of Waltz; 2 sisters, Nelda Rousselo of Monroe and Mildred Geiermann of Monroe, 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; Special Friend for the past 10 years, Betty Dean.

Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church or Gideon's International.

Condolences @ www.arthurbobcean.com

► FUNERALS

William C. Longnecker

Additional information has been received for William C. Longnecker, 89, of Petersburg, who died Tuesday. He will lie in state Friday from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral service at Capaul Funeral Home, Ida.

The date of the funeral service was accidentally omitted in his obituary in Wednesday's Monroe News.

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