



BASKETBALL
Prep boys
basketball
district
previews
Sports » C1



SAVE BIG
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coupons
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Inside



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Daylight
Savings
Time starts
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Morning Sun



TODAY'S WEATHER
High: 37 Low: 21 PAGE A8

Sunday, March 8, 2015 \$2.00 FACEBOOK.COM/MPMORNINGSUN TWITTER.COM/MPMORNINGSUN

themorningsun.com

MT. PLEASANT

Panhandlers seeking cash

By Kelly Rocheleau
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Shane Zarbaugh, his back straightened against the mid-Michigan winter, plants his snow boots on the intersection of Mission and Pickard Streets as cars cluster at a red light.

Zarbaugh, 38, of Bay City, bundled head-to-toe on a frigid early-February afternoon, clutches his hand-written white sign, which reads: "Need to make ends meet for my daughter and I. Anything helps. God bless."

He doesn't fit the stereotype of the unemployed panhandler. "I actually have a job. I do con-

struction, I'm just doing this because one day I seen some people doing it, I came out and made some good money doing it. It helps me provide for my daughter and I," Zarbaugh said. "It's a little embarrassing. I mean, some people, it don't seem that way but it's really embarrassing."

Zarbaugh and two more sign-

holders, including Kevin Fisher of Midland, were each on one of the four busy corners, with each panhandlers rushing toward cash-holding hands from car windows one moment and ignoring faceless cries of "Get a job!" the next. Panhandling is not illegal in Mt. Pleasant, though several Michigan towns have ordinances

against it.

In August 2013, the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals determined a state law criminalizing peaceful panhandling was unconstitutional, stating the act of asking for money in a public place is protected free speech under the First Amendment.

PANHANDLERS » PAGE 7

ST. LOUIS

PIECES OF HISTORY



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID MCMACKEN

One of many historical buildings, "The Castle," currently the Boyer home, is on the north side of M-46 as you enter St. Louis from the west.

Grand old buildings stand witness to city's halcyon days

By Linda Gittleman
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Not long after the Civil War, log cabins for the most part dotted the landscape in St. Louis.

Then came the discovery of the magnetic mineral springs in 1869, believed to cure

any number of ailments, and suddenly St. Louis needed housing.

And not just any old housing.

Log cabins wouldn't do for some of the wealthiest people in the country who uncomfortably traveled innumerable miles to the St. Louis outpost to take the waters.

As visitors poured into city that was not

yet ready for the onslaught, Elias Smith opened his home, said local county historian David McMacken.

"Now located on River Court, this was the first frame house in St. Louis, built after the Civil War," he said. "Most of its parts, wood and metal, were made in St. Louis. It was

HISTORY » PAGE 2

MECOSTA COUNTY

Police still probing woman's murder

Spires died nearly five years ago

By Susan Field
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A simple but heartbreaking message was posted on Facebook in June.

Kristin Louise Spires would have celebrated her birthday June 30, and she remains greatly missed.

Spires, who disappeared in May 2010, died of blunt force trauma to her head, and law enforcement searched for almost a year before finding her remains in Mecosta County's Austin Township in late April 2011.

Family and friends continue to post on social media, and law enforcement continues to search for her killer.

Ethical rules limit what Mecosta County Prosecutor Brian Thiede can say about the case, but he noted that the investigation into her murder remains active and ongoing.

Even though it has been nearly five years since Spires vanished, no information is too little or too insignificant, Thiede said.

SPIRES » PAGE 2



Spires

CHEER

Top-ranked Huskies compete in D4 finals

The Breckenridge competitive cheer team entered Saturday's D4 finals as the favorites to win the state title. PAGE C1



HOMETOWN FOOD

March is National Nutrition Month

Kati Mora offers ideas on how to celebrate and assess eating habits. PAGE B5

OPINION

Linda Gittleman relates story of Ceo Bauer

One of the Iron Men of Metz tells account of war experience. PAGE C1

SOCIAL MEDIA

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March Community Health Classes

Are You a Candidate for Weight Loss Surgery?

Learn more about weight loss, or bariatric, surgery including treatment options, types of procedures, risks and benefits, program expectations, insurance requirements and our surgeons; **James Pilkington, MD, FACS** and **Jeffrey Bonacci, MD, FACS**; at our free educational seminar.

Thurs., Mar. 12 12 - 1 pm
McLaren Central Michigan, Conference Room E, 1221 South Dr., Mt. Pleasant. Call (989) 779-5606 to register.

Learn Exercises to Control Persistent Pain

Is chronic pain causing you to shy away from activities you enjoy? Pain that persists more than 6-months affects the way you move and how your muscles react. Even though you may not achieve a pain-free life, you can learn how to function and return to a more active life. This class, taught by **Connie Posigian** Physical Therapist and member of the International Association for the Study of Pain, will provide you with information on pain care and exercise options you can include in your daily routine.

Tues., Mar. 24 10:30 - 11:30 am
McLaren Central Michigan, FDJ Conference Room, 1221 South Dr., Mt. Pleasant. Call (989) 779-5606 to register.

Is Joint Replacement Right for You?

MCM offers an all-inclusive joint replacement program for individuals planning or considering a total joint replacement. If you would like to learn more about the joint replacement process, join us at our free educational seminar on:

Thurs., Mar. 19 1:30 - 4:30 pm
McLaren Wellness Central, 2600 Three Leaves Dr., Mt. Pleasant. Registration is required. Call (989) 779-5651.



For more information on the community classes and support groups offered, visit mclaren.org/centralmichigan or call (989) 779-5606.