

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 7

- Berkley sneaks past Birmingham Groves, 32-29
- West Bloomfield shuts out Oxford, 21-0

Sports » B1
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OAKLAND COUNTY

County employee raises kick in

Commissioners' begin next year, some still against raises for themselves

By John Turk
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Most Oakland County employees saw a 3 percent jump on their paychecks this month following the passing of the county's budget through fiscal year 2017. But beginning this year, employees will find their salaries are only one percent above where they were in 2009, according to county officials.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved the county budget Sept. 18, and the raises kicked in for most employees at the beginning of the month.

RAISES » PAGE 5

OAKLAND COUNTY APPROVED BUDGET

General fund estimated revenue and appropriations:

- FY 2015: \$418,813,733
- FY 2016: \$422,490,699
- FY 2017: \$425,518,541

Total budget for all funds:

- FY 2015: \$802,160,013
- FY 2016: \$808,399,113
- FY 2017: \$810,530,791

(FY: Fiscal year)

Why raises were possible, per county statement:

"The county is able to return wages to just above 2009 levels because of a refinancing that took place back in April which has significantly reduced the cost of providing benefits to employees. Using lower interest rate bonds, Oakland County refinanced its Certificates of Participa-

tion, which were issued in 2007 to pay off the county's retiree health care obligation. These lower interest rate bonds render gross cumulative savings of \$171.1 million, or about an average of \$13.2 million a year for 13 years."

For more information on the county's budget through fiscal year 2017, visit oakgov.com.

WATERFORD TWP.

STORY TIME



TIM THOMPSON — THE OAKLAND PRESS

Waterford Mott's Jimmy Shadwell (left) and Kettering's Mat Wood reading to fifth graders at Haviland Elementary in Waterford. Members of the two football teams took time out to read to the students.

Kettering, Mott team up in advance of today's football game

Events highlighting camaraderie and good sportsmanship between Waterford Mott and Waterford Kettering high school students came into focus this week as the two schools prepared to play one another in football today. Mott and Kettering football players read books to elementary school students throughout the week.

The two schools faced off in cross country on Tuesday. Mott and Kettering vol-

leyball players — along with middle school players — took part in the annual Dig Pink breast cancer fundraising event Thursday at Mott.

At noon today, Mott and Kettering varsity football players take the field at Mott High on Scott Lake Road. Both high schools' bands will perform a joint half-time show, said school officials.

— Staff writer Carol Hopkins



TIM THOMPSON — THE OAKLAND PRESS

Waterford Kettering's Matt Hall (standing) and Mott's Evan Schenk read to kindergarteners at Haviland Elementary in Waterford.

REGION

Priest with Waterford ties removed from position

Brother, also a priest, under indictment over Troy church funds

By Carol Hopkins
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PLYMOUTH TWP. » A Catholic priest with Waterford ties has been ordered to step aside during an investigation of church finances — a situation nearly identical to his own brother's.

The Rev. Thomas Belczak, 60, had been pastor at Plymouth's St. Kenneth Church for 10 ½ years.

His brother, the Rev. Ed Belczak, is under indictment in an al-

PRIESTS » PAGE 5

ROCHESTER HILLS

Man charged in indecent exposure incidents

By Dave Phillips
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A 28-year-old Rochester Hills man has been arrested in a string of indecent exposure incidents in the area.

Abizer Sakarwala was arraigned Wednesday in 52-3 District Court, where he was charged with two counts of aggravated indecent exposure by a sexually delinquent person. Both felony

EXPOSURE » PAGE 5

PHOTO GALLERY

Looking back at Tonic nightclub

As Tonic awaits its last dance, we look back at the downtown Pontiac club.

MEDIA.THEOAKLANDPRESS.COM



VIDEO OF THE DAY

Rep. Gary Peters campaigns with first lady

Check out video of Rep. Gary Peters campaigning at Detroit Music Hall with Michelle Obama. TOUT.COM/MONICA_ADELE

FACEBOOK

Tonic memories

Lewandowski: "I remember when Tonic was The Velvet Lounge, was 18 just out of high school."

FACEBOOK.COM/THEOAKLANDPRESS

COMING SUNDAY

Bloomfield Township Library needs repairs

Check out a story about why the November millage is important to library officials.

