

# Muskegon Chronicle

LOCAL / A4

## MICHIGAN'S BEST TACO NAMED



LOCAL / A3

## MUSKEGON HIGH SENIORS GRADUATE

### TODAY'S MUST-READS

MUSKEGON

#### Woman arrested on child, animal neglect charges

A Muskegon woman has been charged with child neglect and animal neglect after police officers allegedly found her home in "deplorable" conditions earlier this week.

Karen May Lennox was arrested Tuesday after police officers went to her home to discuss truancy issues involving her 14-year-old child, said Muskegon County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Timothy Maat. **Details, A3**

MUSKEGON

#### City's drinking water is tops in taste test

Forget about bottled water, even if it has a fancy French name, and turn on the faucet in Muskegon to find the tastiest drinking water.

When it comes to taste and clarity, the Muskegon Water Filtration Plant is producing the best in the region according to a "Drinking Water Taste-Off." **Details, A3**

LANSING

#### How lawmakers voted on minimum wage

See the entire list for the Senate and House votes on a bill that passed both chambers and was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder Tuesday. **Details, A11**

MUSKEGON

#### Student wins National Merit Scholarship

A Reeths-Puffer High School student has won a coveted National Merit Scholarship award.



Danielle L. Schugars is the recipient of a scholarship sponsored by Michigan State University. She is one of 2,500 winners of the college-sponsored scholarships announced by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. **Details, A3**

### DAILY QUOTE

“She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace.”

GUY JOHNSON, MAYA ANGELOU'S SON, SPEAKING ABOUT HIS MOTHER, WHO DIED WEDNESDAY. **DETAILS, A10**

### FIRST OF TWO PARTS

MUSKEGON COUNTY

Difficult combination strains inmates, jail system

## Pregnant, jailed, addicted

By Heather Lynn Peters  
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Jessica Marshall is a heroin addict. She also is an expectant mother at the Muskegon County Jail who recently was sentenced to a probation violation to another 200 days behind bars.

Marshall, who is detoxing in the county jail, isn't alone.

The overcrowded, aging jail that is being renovated and expanded has a new problem: heroin-addicted mothers.

Officials said one of every three pregnant inmates at the Muskegon County Jail comes in as a heroin addict.

Marshall, 27, is among at least four other pregnant inmates now lodged at the jail. Some have been there for months; others are waiting to be sentenced.

In Marshall's case, she will remain there until close to her October due date — a decision made by Muskegon County Circuit Court Judge Timothy Hicks, who sentenced her May 19 for a probation violation.

The judge said he felt the baby was better protected in the confines of the county jail than if Marshall was back on the streets faced with temptation to use drugs again.

Marshall can't dispute that logic.

This is her second in-jail pregnancy. The first time she came to jail pregnant, just over a year ago, she had to detox in the jail until she was released. It wasn't a pleasant experience, she said.

"I was in here for a good amount of my pregnancy. I got out three weeks before he was



Jessica Marshall waits for sentencing before Judge Timothy Hicks in Muskegon County's 14th Circuit Court on May 19 for a probation violation on a retail fraud charge. Marshall, who is pregnant and a heroin addict, is an inmate at the Muskegon County Jail. (Ken Stevens/MLive.com)

#### COMING SUNDAY

Handling pregnant inmates creates legal, financial stress for county jail.

born. I kept praying, please get me out before I have this baby," she said.

For this pregnancy, she is taking methadone to fight the demons involved with heroin. She found out she was pregnant shortly before being jailed on the most recent probation viola-

tion and after testing positive for heroin while on tether from a retail fraud offense.

The young mother has two other children — the oldest no longer in her care.

"I need help," she said. "I think God intervened at the right time. I'm not in the streets and not around that lifestyle."

#### AN ADDITIONAL PROBLEM

Heroin addiction is one of many issues involving the care of pregnant inmates, according

to county jail officials.

"We get a lot of girls who come in here who are far along in their trimesters and they haven't been to a doctor," said David Lopez, an LPN who is the Muskegon County Jail Health Services administrator.

"Another big problem with some of the inmates is the illicit drug use while they are pregnant. They are on heroin and take methadone when they

SEE INMATES, A6

MUSKEGON HEIGHTS

## Shooting victim described as 'happy-go-lucky'

Body of Robert Lee Dawson Jr. was found in the street Wednesday morning

By Heather Lynn Peters  
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Grieving family members of Robert Lee Dawson Jr., known as "Rome" by his friends and family, met at the Muskegon Heights Police Department early Wednesday to speak with investigators about his death.

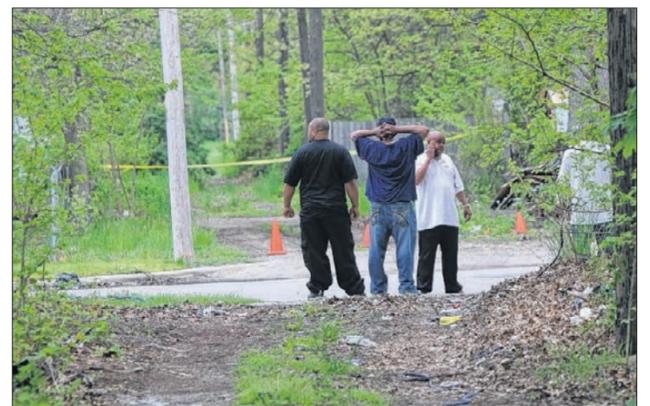
As of Wednesday, the shooter or shooters remained at large, but Muskegon Heights Police Chief Lynne Gill said detectives were interviewing witnesses and

neighbors in the area in an effort to identify a suspect.

Dawson, who was a parole absconder at the time of his death, was found Wednesday morning near his father's house at Wood Street and Delano Avenue. He was shot at least once, police said.

Hours later, investigators still were trying to piece together information about what might have led to the shooting, Gill said. "We don't have a motive."

Officials from multiple police departments and the Muskegon Heights Fire Department were called about 6:50 a.m. to Wood Street and Delano Avenue.



People gather at the scene where Robert Dawson Jr., 26, was found fatally shot Wednesday along East Delano Avenue between Wood and Manz streets in Muskegon Heights. (Ken Stevens/MLive.com)

SEE SHOOTING, A2

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### FEEDBACK

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