

Muskegon Chronicle



SPORTS / B1

WINGS HEADED TO GAME 7

LOCAL / A3

CHILD RAPIST SENTENCED

TODAY'S MUST-READS

MUSKEGON

Man sentenced in death at Charity Lodge

Lamarcus Deshon Calvin has been sentenced to jail and probation for driving away after fatally running over Jalisa Love as deadly bullets flew outside Muskegon Charity Lodge #1397. Muskegon County Chief Circuit Judge William Marietti on Monday ordered Calvin to serve six months in the Muskegon County Jail, with work release allowed, and to spend two years on probation. **Details, A3**

MUSKEGON

City expects big savings with new IT contract

Muskegon County is abruptly switching IT contractors, a move the county administrator said will save more than \$1 million in taxpayer money over the next three years. After a closed session with an attorney Thursday, the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners moved to immediately terminate its contract with Information Systems Intelligence LLC, also known as ISI. A new contract was awarded to Muskegon-based NeXt I.T. **Details, A2**



The city commission meets at 5:30 p.m. today to consider a zoning amendment. (MLive.com files)

MUSKEGON

Officials mull allowing sales of garden produce

Sales of produce grown in community gardens and commercial farms in the city of Muskegon would be allowed under a new zoning amendment the city commission will consider this week. The amendment will be considered by the commission when it meets at 5:30 p.m. today in the commission chambers. **Details, A3**

DAILY QUOTE

“It’s overwhelming. It’s too much to think about.”

A MAN MOURNING PARENTS LOST IN THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE. **DETAILS, A10**

MUSKEGON

St. Jean’s Catholic Church to close permanently

By Michelle D. Anderson
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The historic Catholic institution established in Muskegon County almost 160 years ago has closed for good.

The Rev. Matt Barnum, of Our Lady of Grace and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic churches in Muskegon, said in a bulletin published during the April 25-26 weekend that St. Jean Baptiste Parish will not reopen after being shuttered for

the winter.

Barnum also made a brief announcement on Facebook. Both statements highlighted two studies conducted by Rockford Construction and GMB Architecture + Engineering Inc. that revealed “the extensive repair needs of St. Jean Baptiste Church precludes (it) being reopened.”

“Undoubtedly, we have all been quietly anticipating this day,” Barnum said.

The church, in downtown Muskegon, was established in 1856 and re-established in 2012, according to the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids.

Diocese spokesman Carl Apple said in December the church was being closed for the winter to save money.

Apple had said the church was old and energy inefficient, and parish members had received letters at home about the closure, along with

announcements from Barnum.

“The goal is to continue to be good stewards of our financial resources while fulfilling the pastoral needs of the community,” Apple said at the time. “Discussions about the future of St. Jean’s church building are ongoing, and there will be a re-evaluation in the spring.”

Apple said then the Diocese considered the building a

SEE **CLOSE, A2**



“The Taste Maker,” a falcon sculpture, stands tall Monday at the Muskegon Farmers Market site. Created by Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein, five sculptures titled “The Realist,” “The Great Spirit,” “The Scold,” “The Tourist” and “The Taste Maker” were installed Monday at five locations downtown. (Andraya Croft/MLive.com)

MUSKEGON

Avian avatars arrive

Birdlike sculptures installed

By Brandon Champion
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The birds have arrived in Muskegon for the summer.

Not the run-of-the-mill robins, cardinals or blue jays, though. Five, massive bird-like sculptures named The Avian Avatars arrived in Muskegon via flatbed truck Sunday afternoon.

After the art spent the night at the Muskegon Museum of Art, crews began installing the figures at five downtown Muskegon sites Monday morning. Created by sculptors Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein, the sculptures are titled “The Realist,” “The Great Spirit,” “The Scold,” “The Tourist” and “The Taste Maker.”

The sculptures are made from maple saplings, wire ties and

found objects. They range from 18 to 26 feet tall. Muskegon is the first city other than New York City to host the pieces of public art.

The sculptures will remain in Muskegon until May 1, 2016. The sculptures are located at the Lakeshore Museum Center, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce and Muskegon Farmers Market.

An informal ceremony at 3 p.m. today will be held to dedicate the birds at the MMA. Executive Director Judy Hayner said she is hopeful the artists will be in Muskegon sometime in September for a full presentation.

More than \$22,000 was raised by community members and organizations to bring the birds to Muskegon, Hayner said.



Crews begin to install “The Tourist,” a Victoria crowned-pigeon sculpture, at the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce in downtown Muskegon on Monday. (Andraya Croft/MLive.com)

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FEEDBACK

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MU DAILY