



CLINTON TWP.
Gearheads assemble for Gratiot Cruise
Local » A3



U-M FOOTBALL
Moore could be punished in sign-stealing investigation
Sports » B1



REGION
Area woman critical after motorcycle collision
Local » A5

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MACOMB TWP.

Township wins another legal battle with ex-official

Federal appeals court agrees Thomas Esordi's claim unwarranted

By Jameson Cook
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Macomb Township has again won a round in its legal dispute with its former attorney and human resources director.

The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday affirmed U.S. District Court Judge Sean Cox's March 2023 ruling that threw out a violation of due process claim by Thomas Esordi, the former Macomb Township attorney and hu-

man resources director who was fired in late 2020 by the Board of Trustees.

This is the third judicial ruling in favor of the township in Esordi's two lawsuits against the township and two officials in state and federal court.

Township officials called the ruling a "signifi-

cant step towards closing out an era of dysfunctional governance in Macomb Township," in a press release Tuesday. Concern and wrangling over Esordi's positions and his claims generated controversy in the township around the time leading up to his firing.

"Three different courts have now ruled that his employment contract was invalid," said township Supervisor Frank Viviano in the release. "I knew from my first



Esordi

TOWNSHIP » PAGE 4



U.S. COURTS PHOTO

Pictured is the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

ST. CLAIR SHORES

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, 'I DO!'

'Runaway Bride Fun Run' couple will renew their vows before the event



PHOTOS COURTESY OF A BEAUTIFUL ME

Wearing a black tutu for a previous Runaway Bride Fun Run to benefit A Beautiful Me is Rachele Parrott, back center, who was going through a divorce at the time. This year, she and her husband will renew their vows before the run, which brings about a nice ending to the fundraiser's bridal theme.

By Gina Joseph
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"The Runaway Bride Fun Run" presented by ADVIA Credit Union will feature its bridal theme one last time. The 5k run and 2-mile walk to support the charity and mission of A Beautiful Me starts at 8 a.m. Aug. 10 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Port Huron and follows a route along the St. Clair River.

The first year Rachele Parrott participated, she ran in her white wedding dress.

The second year, she was going through a divorce.

So, she wore black.

This year Parrott is not only running in a white dress, but she and her husband reconciled. So the start of the run will feature her and Ryan Parrott renewing their vows, which is a befitting end to the fun-raising theme.

"She likes to run and she has always supported our mission," said Karen Palka, founder and executive director of A Beautiful Me, a nonprofit that provides programs and workshops for young girls in Macomb,

Oakland and St. Clair counties, which promote self-esteem and confidence.

It was after last year's race that Parrott told Palka about her history with the race and her proposal.

"Her idea is a great way for us to conclude the theme of our fun run," Palka said, noting that it's interesting how everything worked out this year. "You just can't make this stuff up."

As for what the new theme will be?

That's still up for debate. If you have a suggestion by all means pass them along to event organizers.

To celebrate what has become the "Almost Runaway Bride" run, trophies will be handed out for best-dressed bride, best-dressed couple, and best-dressed wedding party. This year's celebrity judges include Josh Chapman, YMCA executive director, and Tracy Willard, executive director of Hunter Hospitality House.

Palka said most people get dressed up and every year there's always an element of surprise, like a runner who showed



Runners participate in a previous Runaway Bride Fun Run presented by ADVIA Credit Union. All proceeds from the chip timed 5K or 2 mile walk fundraiser Aug. 10 at 8 a.m. go to support the charity and mission of A Beautiful Me.

BRIDE » PAGE 4

WARREN

Child, 2, finds gun, shoots himself while being babysat

By Mitch Hotts
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A toddler from Warren remains hospitalized today after he shot himself in the stomach while being babysat, according to police.

Warren police said the shooting took place about 6 p.m. Saturday at a house on Edgemont Street, in the area of Stephens and Hoover roads. Police and fire units were dispatched to respond to reports that a 2-year-old boy had sustained a gunshot wound to his abdomen.

"The child was quickly rushed to an area hospital by the Warren Fire Department, with several Warren police officers blocking intersections along the way," police said in a news release.

As of Saturday night, the child was reported to be hospitalized in stable condition. Police said at last check, the boy was responsive and alert.

According to the release, a 42-year-old woman who lives at the Edgemont address was babysitting and had a pair of handguns at the house. She is a CPL holder, police said.

"While babysitting, it is believed that the babysitter left the

SHOT » PAGE 4

EASTPOINTE

Panel approves Sheetz site plan

By Susan Smiley
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The Eastpointe Planning Commission gave unanimous approval to a special land use permit and site plan for a Sheetz gas station, restaurant and convenience store to be constructed on Nine Mile Road where an Office Depot currently exists.

The recommendation of the planning commission will go before Eastpointe City Council for a final vote on the proposed project.

Sheetz Engineering Permit Manager David Bruckelmeyer gave a presentation at the Aug. 1 Planning Commission meeting outlining the plan to demolish the existing Office Depot building and add landscaping, outdoor seating for the restaurant, a restaurant and convenience store building that will be smaller than the Office Depot building, and gas pumps.

Bruckelmeyer said Sheetz expects to create between 30 and 35 full-time jobs with this investment.

"We are meeting all of the city's ordinances for lighting and we are adding extra landscaping as a buffer between SHEETZ and the

SHEETZ » PAGE 4