

BORDERLAND

Purse snatchings thought to be done by same man

Toledo police believe the same person is responsible for snatching purses from at least four women, tackling three to the ground in the process.

The supposed serial purse snatcher has targeted women in the Monroe Street and West Alexis Road areas.

One was tackled outside Famous Dave's restaurant, 4757 Monroe, on July 17 just before 5 p.m. On Tuesday, a woman was tackled outside Dillard's, 5001 Monroe, and her purse was stolen just before 5 p.m. The next day, two more women were attacked.

The first was about 4:05 p.m. Wednesday inside Big Lots, 3946 West Alexis. The second incident happened at 4:25 p.m. in the Sofo Foods' parking lot, 5400 Monroe.

In several of the incidents, the women were senior citizens or elderly — the woman tackled outside of Dillard's is 89 years old, according to a Toledo police report. At Sofo Foods, the woman attacked is 68 years old.

Police describe the man as a white male, about 20 to 30 years old, between 5 feet, 9 inches to 6 feet tall, weighing 150 to 200 pounds. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 419-255-1111 or investigative services at 419-245-3142.

Monroe man stabbed during home invasion

MONROE — A Monroe resident was stabbed yesterday when he interrupted two men who broke into his home.

The victim, who was not identified, was taken to Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo. No condition was available last night. Monroe County sheriff's detectives said that just after 6:30 a.m., two men broke into the home in the 15000 block of Cedar Street. The victim confronted the men and was stabbed.

The sheriff's office K-9 team and aviation unit searched the area for the suspects.

Investigators said one was white, just under 6 feet tall, stocky, and bald or with a shaved head. The other man was black, taller than 6 feet, with a thin build. No clothing descriptions were given.

Anyone with information is to call the sheriff's office detective bureau or Detective David Davison at 734-240-7530.

Fund-raiser set for child of man slain in 2009

Two years after Colin Fisher was shot and killed, his friends and family are hosting an event in his honor to help raise money for his daughter, who was born seven months after his death.

A memorial golf outing and corn-toss tournament will take place starting at 9 a.m. tomorrow at Cherrywood Golf Course in Ottawa Lake, Mich. All proceeds will benefit the Ella Fisher Fund.

Mr. Fisher, 23, was killed Aug. 4, 2009, after being shot by a man he had met earlier that night. Scott Schoch pleaded no contest and was found guilty of murder on Jan. 20, 2010.

Zoo board elects officers, welcomes new members

The Toledo Zoo board of directors elected officers and welcomed new members to its ranks at the recent annual meeting.

Elected to one year terms were Zac Isaac, president; Mary Ellen Pisanelli, vice president; Lamont Thurston, treasurer, and Chip Hambro, secretary.

New members of the board are Susan Allan Block, who has more than 20 years' experience in investment banking, sales, and real estate; Elaine Canning, chief financial officer of Phoenix Technologies International LLC; Catherine Neal, vice president and treasurer of Owens-Illinois Inc., and Clarence Smith, a retired educator and administrator with the Toledo Public Schools and director of the Clarence Smith Community Chorus.

The new board members start three-year terms.

City drops plan to buy land

By **CLAUDIA BOYD-BARRETT**
BLADE STAFF WRITER

The Bell administration yesterday withdrew a controversial proposal to spend more than \$1 million on an undeveloped plot of land, throwing its support instead behind a councilman's plea to put the money toward demolishing blighted homes.

Deputy Mayor Tom Crothers announced the withdrawal of the administration's request to buy the 48 acres in southwest Toledo known as Capital Commons during an unusually well-attended committee hearing yesterday. About two dozen community members turned up at City Hall to show their support for Councilman Mike Craig's idea of using \$650,000 to turbocharge the tearing down of abandoned buildings.

Money will be used instead to demolish blighted homes

"We understand where you are," Mr. Crothers told the gathering, acknowledging also that the Capital Commons proposal lacked support from City Council.

"With all the need in the neighborhoods, we preferred to find another way to resolve our commitment to the Capital Commons folks," he added later.

The Capital Commons proposal, part of the city's recently released capital improvements plan, would have dedicated \$350,000 annually for the next three years for purchasing the property, located at 5600 Angola Rd. The total cost, \$1,050,000, would have been more than double the value assessed by the Lucas

County Auditor's office, which lists the parcel's worth at \$426,200.

City administrators maintain the city has obligations to the property owners because the government promised them years ago to help de-



Deputy Mayor Tom Crothers announced the withdrawal of the administration's request to buy 48 acres in southwest Toledo.

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PACKING UP



▲ Trixie Mann of North Toledo leaves the Salvation Army with backpacks for her children while others wait in line for them. The North Erie Street agency yesterday gave out about 2,000 backpacks filled with school supplies.

◀ Felicia Dillard, left, and Stacey Lemley line up some of the backpacks for the annual distribution. The Salvation Army this year partnered with Hannah's Socks to also provide children with a pack of underwear and a package of socks.

■ A three-day series of back-to-school stories starts Sunday in The Blade; to see area school calendars, go to our Web site: toledoBlade.com

NAME CHANGE, CONVOCATION TODAY

Lourdes to retire college mace for university symbol

BLADE STAFF

Signs at what was Lourdes College already carry the school's new name.

Once exclusively devoted to educating Franciscan sisters, the Sylvania school has come a long way. Lourdes College will hold its convocation today at 3 p.m. at the Franciscan Center Theatre, and will officially change its name to Lourdes University. After a welcoming ceremony for students, Lourdes will retire its ceremonial mace for a new one that says "university."

There are no specific criteria in Ohio for a college to become a university, but Lourdes president, Robert C. Helmer, said the change is not a pure recruitment ploy. The word

university traditionally refers to a higher education institution that has both undergraduate and graduate programs. In recent years, Lourdes has added graduate programs, intercollegiate athletics, and on-campus housing. New master's programs start this year, and faculty increased their research efforts.

"It has to be more than just marketing," Mr. Helmer said about the shift from college to university. "That would feel inauthentic."

Lourdes has been planning the university move since 2008, when it unveiled a seven-year strategic plan that called for the change by fall, 2015. Mr. Helmer said becoming a university will add a "whole new energy to the campus."



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

Robert C. Helmer, Lourdes president, says the name will change but the mission will be the same.

Lourdes is not alone in the college-to-university name change. Several colleges in northwest Ohio have become universities during

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TPS going high tech to do more with fewer classes

Teacher demonstrates distance learning labs

By **NOLAN ROSENKRANS**
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Mike Jewell calls himself a dinosaur, but he's at the vanguard of a Toledo Public Schools technological push.

He broadcast from Woodward High School yesterday to a room full of Toledo Public School officials at Start High School, demonstrating a new program for the district this year called distance learning labs. He will be based at Bowers High School, but will teach students throughout the district.



Jewell

"It's such an exciting process for me," he said.

Toledo Public Schools will have these distance labs at all six high schools this fall. The labs allow the district to boost its advanced-placement and foreign-language courses at its high schools without having to pay for the teachers at all the schools. Students will be able to take classes such as Chinese language or AP American government.

The new rooms — still under construction at four of the schools — look more like college labs than high school classrooms. Flat-screen TVs line both front and back walls of the rooms. Long tables are lined with microphone pods, and are tiered, increasing visibility for student and remote teacher.

A teacher such as Mr. Jewell broadcasts the class from one of the six dis-

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UT set to launch early-grades science program with \$10M grant

By **JULIE M. MCKINNON**
BLADE STAFF WRITER

In the next five years, about 11,000 Toledo-area youngsters will benefit from a \$10 million grant geared toward changing the way science is taught to preschoolers through third graders by nurturing curiosity and developing an interest in discovery.

The University of Toledo recently was awarded the \$10 million grant from the National Science Foundation. It is starting a program called NURTURES — which stands for Networking Urban Resources with Teachers and University enRich Early Childhood Science — that initially will be piloted at Apple Tree Nursery School on UT's main campus, a few Toledo Public Schools buildings, and a local Head Start provider.

UT President Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo), TPS Superintendent Jerome Pecko, and others were on hand yesterday at

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