

Life in Lansing

How it works: State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski recently talked to fourth graders from Kenbrook Elementary School, who took a field trip up to Lansing. Raczkowski, from Farmington Hills, brought students on a tour of the State House of Representatives and presented firsthand information about how the Legislature works. The students were from the classrooms of teachers



Steve Walter, Dee Shattuck and Jeanine Donigan-Hales.

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Water leak causes blaze

The following calls were reported by Farmington Hills Police and Fire Departments this week:

FIRE

Hills Fire Stations 4 and 5 responded to a house fire on Jan. 15, on Tanglewood Trail. Crews found the homeowner had extinguished the fire, which started on a workbench in the basement workshop. An electrical outlet on the wall and some items on the workbench were burned. Investigators found the cause of the fire was water leaking into the basement wall from the outside, which caused an arc within the electrical outlet circuit breaker.

FAMILY TROUBLE

A father who lives on Indiancreek told police his 14-year-old son punched him in the head during an argument Wednesday morning. While the son had a previous arrest for a similar incident, the father asked whether the family could get some help with intervention, rather than filing charges.

LARCENY

An employee arriving at a 12 Mile Road business on Wednesday morning found someone broke into the building by prying open a door. Two Dell laptop computers were taken. Laptops were also stolen from the business a year and a half ago.

Two laptops were taken from a business on Drake, which had been closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. A number of employees were still in the building during the day, but no one reported seeing anything unusual.

A resident on Ontaga Street reported a Sony Playstation and games were taken from the house while her son had six friends over, without adult supervision.

A 25-year-old Livonia woman who was bowling with co-workers on Tuesday evening had a Coach wallet and \$160 in cash stolen from her bowling bag.

VANDALISM

A resident of Botsford Apartments told police that sometime between Jan. 16 at 10:30 p.m. and Jan. 17 at 4:30 p.m., someone broke the antenna off her car, pulled off molding and dam-

■ POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

aged the fiberglass around the tail lights.

VEHICLE THEFT

A \$5,000 cargo trailer parked behind a business on Commerce last Friday night turned up missing Monday morning. It contained a number of tools and other items, and the hitch had been locked to prevent theft.

CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

A 17-year-old woman who lives in Independence Green apartments told police she had a fight with her boyfriend Monday night, and when she went outside to have a cigarette, a man attacked her and attempted to sexually assault her. She escaped after kicking the suspect in the genitals. He is described as 5-foot, 8-inches tall, 160 pounds, with short, wavy, black hair and a medium build. He is possibly of Middle Eastern descent.

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FOOT PAIN IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Painful feet are as much a part of rheumatoid arthritis as are stiff hands. Foot problems feel worse in shoes that are too tight, and the need to step carefully, planting each foot firmly on slippery pavement increases the pressure upon already tender bones and ligaments.

The usual source of foot pain in rheumatoid arthritis is the inflamed joint where the long bones - the metatarsals - connect with the base of the toes. This point is where the maximum weight of the body rests just before you step off the foot to move forward.

Recurrent pain at this site causes the body to adjust not just your step but how you position your foot and ankle. Over time as your foot angulates you lose your arch, and even the arch devices ordered from its usual position. The result is even more foot pain and more instability in your gait.

It is not always possible for treatment of the arthritis, no matter how successful, to stop this process in the foot and ankle. The reason goes back to the fact that so much weight and force concentrates on the foot. Ligaments impaired by the original arthritis, at times, do not have enough resilience to overcome the stress upon them.

In such instances, foot and ankle surgery is valuable. Orthopedists and podiatrists have developed procedures that correct the changes of arthritis and allow you a normal pain free gait. Unlike hand surgery which is often termed salvage therapy, foot surgery can be thought of as saving therapy.

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