

## CCA to discuss transportation funding

BY CATHERINE SWEENEY  
Pioneer Staff Writer

**BIG RAPIDS** — After 147 line items, including \$35 million in charter school allowances, were vetoed in the state budget, Crossroads Charter Academy is looking for solutions to fund athletic transportation.

While CCA's athletic department has yet to need transportation to and from games, an upcoming away game on Saturday, Nov. 16, will change that.

"As of now, transportation has been halted," Chris White, superintendent at CCA, said, adding all recent sporting events have taken place at CCA.

When the state budget was signed in late September, Crossroads was denied its usual \$240 per-pupil increase due to its status as a charter school.

This has caused issues in funding, not only for athletic transportation, but for a new bus project the district was planning on implementing as well. The project, which has been put on hold due to budget cuts, would add three buses to CCA's

SEE CCA 2A

## Recycle of Mecosta receives TC Energy grant

BY TAYLOR FUSSMAN  
Pioneer Senior Staff Writer

**MECOSTA COUNTY** — Recycle of Mecosta will be able to save money and recycle more glass products with the help of a grant from TC Energy.

Robert McInnis, Recycle of Mecosta coordinator, said the organization recently received a grant from TC Energy to purchase a glass crusher for a little more than \$11,000.

He explained the glass crusher will allow them to condense the glass before shipping it to Glass Recyclers, located in Dearborn, which will effectively cut the shipping costs in half.

In addition, McInnis said the glass crusher will make it possible for Recycle of Mecosta to ship approximately 1,800 to 2,000 pounds of crushed bottles and jars per box, versus 800 to 900 pounds of uncrushed glass to a box.

To learn more about the services offered through Recycle of Mecosta, visit [recyclemecosta.org](http://recyclemecosta.org).



Recycle of Mecosta Coordinator Robert McInnis (left) and Community Investment Representative Larry London (middle), accepted a grant from Brad Stermer (right), regional environmentalist with TC Energy. With the grant from TC Energy, Recycle of Mecosta was able to purchase a glass crusher for a little more than \$11,000. (Courtesy photo)

## MORLEY STANWOOD HOLIDAY BAZAAR

BY CATHIE CREW  
Pioneer Staff Writer



**MORLEY** - The community came out in big numbers to support the Morley Stanwood Holiday Bazaar on Saturday. The gymnasium was full to the rafters with vendor booths and shoppers, with some spilling out into the hallways.

Shoppers could choose from handcrafted decor such as woodwork and metal work, handcrafted kitchen items, homemade baked goods, jewelry and books, along with many other items. In addition, there was a silent auction with items for shoppers to bid on.

Christine Persons, vendor care coordinator for the event, said the holiday bazaar has been going on for 30 years and is a great way to kick off the holiday shopping season while supporting student groups. It gives holiday shoppers an opportunity to find unique gifts they would not be able to find anywhere else, she continued.

Along with shopping, attendees enjoyed holiday music, lunch items available in the cafeteria and a family photographer. Proceeds from the event directly benefit local students.

Shoppers came out in droves to take advantage of some early holiday shopping at the Morley Stanwood Holiday Bazaar on Saturday. In its 30th year, the event gets bigger each year, said event coordinator Christine Persons. It is a great place to find unique gift items for the holidays, and proceeds go to support local students. (Pioneer photo/Cathie Crew)



A variety of unique gift items were for sale at the Morley Stanwood Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, including wood and metal home decor, handmade blankets and many other items. (Pioneer photo/Cathie Crew)



Shoppers took advantage of the variety of items for sale at the Morley Stanwood Holiday Bazaar on Saturday to get started on their holiday shopping. Vendors sold handcrafted home decor, kitchen necessities, fine jewelry and home made baked goods, as well as many other items. (Pioneer photo/Cathie Crew)

## Big Rapids, Reed City hospitals open pediatric observation units

BY ALICIA JAIMES  
Pioneer Staff Writer

**BIG RAPIDS, REED CITY** — Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City hospitals officials said they are proud to announce success in the pediatric observation program piloted in the emergency departments over the last 18 months.

According to a press release, the program is a partnership with Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and will continue to enhance pediatric care available throughout the region.

"We are excited to formally launch the pediatric observation program in Big Rapids and Reed City," Caroline Ring, chief nursing officer for Big Rapids and Reed City hospitals, said. "What started as a conversation about how to



Over the last 18 month, Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City hospitals officials said they are proud to announce success in the pediatric observation program piloted in the emergency room departments. In partnership with Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, the program provides designated rooms for pediatric observations. (Courtesy photo)

SEE HOSPITAL 2A



### TODAY'S WEATHER

Cloudy with occasional rain showers. High 43F. Winds SW at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

### SUNDAY'S LOTTERIES

**Midday Daily 3:** 2-1-9 **Fantasy 5:** 17-23-28-35-39  
**Midday Daily 4:** 0-1-3-7 **Keno:** 14-17-23-24-26-28-8-7-0  
**Daily 3:** 8-7-0  
**Daily 4:** 1-4-4-4 53-54-56-59-63-67-70-72-

### OBITUARIES PAGE 3A

Raymond David Pointer  
Ada W. Morden  
Jack D. Turner  
Carla Elsie (Avery) DuBreuil

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## HOSPITAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

best care for patients locally has developed into a meaningful and collaborative program with our partners at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital."

The program provides designated rooms for pediatric observation. Pediatric patients who meet established criteria will be observed in the unit for a maximum of 24 hours, rather than being transferred to the children's hospital in Grand Rapids.

The local clinical care teams work in close communications with Helen DeVos Children's Hospital physicians on the care plan for each child and as needed based on the child's progress.

"This program truly puts people first," Ring said. "It respects our patients and families by minimizing the stress and financial burden of an unnecessary transfer to Grand Rapids."

In critical cases, or if a patient's symptoms fall outside the criteria to stay for observation, the patient will be transferred to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital for specialized pediatric care.

To celebrate the pro-

gression of the pilot program to a formal process of caring for local pediatric patients, a celebration of partnership will be Thursday, Nov. 7. A brief ceremony and tour will take place at 10 a.m. in the Big Rapids Hospital lobby and at 11:30 a.m. in the Reed City Hospital emergency entrance lobby.

The celebrations are open to the public, and refreshments will be provided.

"This program is about enhancing our presence in these communities while keeping as much care local as possible," Dr. Bob Connors, president of Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, said. "We are excited to be able to raise the level of care while leveraging our expertise to keep kids closer to home."

Helen DeVos Children's Hospital is a 234-bed regional referral center and teaching hospital that also houses a pediatric neurocritical care unit, the only of such kind in West Michigan. It offers advanced pediatric specialty care with more than 300 pediatric physicians who practice in more than 50 pediatric specialties and programs. Helen DeVos Children's Hospital is Michigan's largest neonatal center.



CCA will be discussing solutions for funding transportation at their upcoming board of education meeting. Funding was lost after education cuts were made in the state budget. (Pioneer file photo)

## CCA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

current two-bus fleet.

While CCA currently provides transportation for field trips, the three-bus addition would allow for the creation of bus routes to transport students to and from school on a daily basis. Before the cuts, White added the district had budgeted for about \$122,000 to lease the buses and create driving routes.

"Our intent was to

use funding to create satellite bus routes, but that has been put on hold," he said.

While CCA remains unsure of what to do about the current lack of transportation funding, White said the district is looking to see what can be done to find a solution.

Solutions for both transportation issues will be discussed at CCA's upcoming board of education meeting, which will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14.



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# Prosecutor reviewing Russia probe known for tenacity, ethics

BY DAVE COLLINS  
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The man leading the inquiry into the origins of the Russia probe is no stranger to politically sensitive investigations.

In his 41-year career as a prosecutor, John Durham, the U.S. attorney for Connecticut, has led investigations into the FBI's cozy relationship with Boston mobsters such as James "Whitey" Bulger and the CIA's use of tough interrogation techniques on terrorism suspects.

Former colleagues and defense lawyers who have squared off against him say he is unlikely to be concerned about any fallout from his findings during this new assignment.

"Whoever put him in charge, I hope they didn't expect him to be a yes man and follow the script, because he will follow the evidence relentlessly and call it as he sees it," said Hugh Keefe, a defense attorney in New Haven.

Attorney General William Barr picked Durham in May to examine what led the U.S. to open a counter-intelligence investigation of President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign. That investigation led to special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the election.

Last week, it was disclosed that Durham's administrative review has become a criminal inquiry, giving him powers to empanel a grand jury, compel witnesses to testify and bring criminal charges.

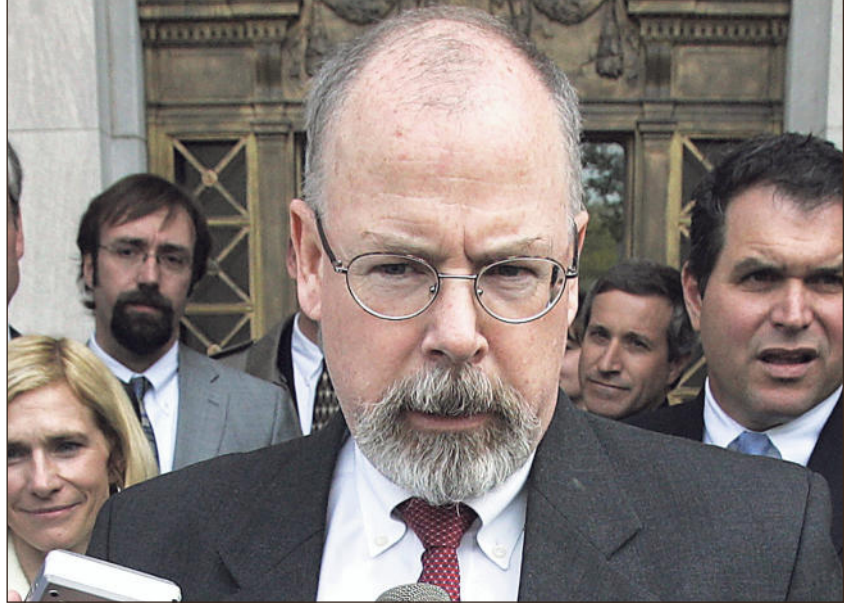
Durham is looking into whether the surveillance and intelligence-gathering methods used during the counter-intelligence investigation were legal and appropriate.

But the parameters of his investigation have never been defined for the public, making it unclear what problems or misconduct from the early days of the Russia probe he is searching for.

It's also not clear why his appointment by Barr was necessary, given that the Justice Department's inspector general has spent the past year and a half examining actions by agents and prosecutors in opening the Russia investigation, including potential political bias. That report is expected in the coming weeks.

Durham's inquiry is under intense political scrutiny. The investigation of the investigators has riled congressional Democrats, who say the Justice Department has lost its independence and become a vehicle for Trump's political revenge.

"President Trump and Attorney



In this 2006 photo, John Durham speaks to reporters on the steps of U.S. District Court in New Haven, Conn. Durham, Connecticut's U.S. attorney, is leading the investigation into the origins of the Russia probe. He is no stranger to high-profile, highly scrutinized investigations. (AP Photo/Bob Child, File)

General Barr are politically weaponizing the Department of Justice — threatening a return to its darkest days," said Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut. "Targeting law enforcers as enemies — simply because they have the spine to stand up to corrupt power — is deeply dangerous, indeed chilling. This line must not be crossed."

Trump, who is facing a House impeachment inquiry over his dealings with Ukraine, has said that there was political bias inside the FBI and that the Russia probe was part of a "witch hunt" to discredit him and his presidency. The president recently said he expects Durham's review to reveal "really bad things."

"John's got himself caught in a very difficult situation," said Stanley Twardy, a former Connecticut U.S. attorney who was once Durham's boss. "No matter what he does, he's going to have a good part of the public damning him. But the great thing about John is he's not going to care about that."

Twardy said Durham wouldn't hesitate to speak out if the findings of his investigation were mischaracterized, as Barr was accused of doing to Mueller.

Durham, 69, is a Republican who was nominated U.S. attorney by Trump and confirmed by the Senate in 2018. As in nearly all cases, Durham declined to comment on his investigation.

In Boston, Durham led a task force that investigated the FBI's relationship with mobsters. The probe led

to the conviction of FBI agent John Connelly, who was sentenced to more than 10 years in prison for protecting Bulger and other informants, including tipping them off to upcoming indictments.

In 2008, Durham was tapped by President George W. Bush's administration to investigate the CIA's destruction of videotapes it had made of its interrogations of terrorism suspects. A year later, under a directive from President Barack Obama's attorney general, Eric Holder, Durham expanded the probe to examine the agency's treatment of detainees.

He determined in both cases that criminal charges were not warranted. Durham specifically looked for potential crimes in the deaths of two detainees, including one who was shackled to a cold concrete wall in a secret CIA prison.

During his career, Durham also has taken down mobsters, gang members and former Connecticut Gov. John Rowland, who resigned in 2004 amid a corruption investigation, was convicted and served 10 months in prison.

Kenneth Gray, a former FBI agent in Connecticut who retired in 2012, said Durham was an obvious pick to investigate the origins of the Russia probe because of his history leading difficult, sensitive investigations of the government.

"He is very, very good at getting to the bottom of things," Gray said. "He's very detail-oriented, and he's very dogged about getting what he needs to get the answers."

## NMU physical geography class watches volcanic demonstrations

BY CHRISTIE BLECK  
The Mining Journal

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP) — A little bit of liquid nitrogen and some imagination can go a long way into making a physical geography class interesting.

Hans Lechner, assistant professor in the Northern Michigan University Department of Earth, Environment and Geographical Sciences, created a simulation/model of

a volcanic eruption for his Wednesday class between the Hedgcock Building and Jamrich Hall.

The demonstration involved a 55-gallon trash can, water, liquid nitrogen and small balls of different size, density and color.

Lechner said his class is doing a unit on volcanoes and volcanic eruptions, and the students are learning about the different variables that go into a volcanic eruption and how gases over-pressurize and will eventually explode. They also are learning about how the viscosity of magma modifies the eruption style and shape of the volcano, The Mining Journal reported.

One of Lechner's research specialties is working with populations in the Americas who live in volcanically active regions, and

Wednesday's demo dealt with that aspect as well. He assesses the hazards and risks involved and how the physical geography and society affect one another.

Following the two "eruptions," students looked at what spewed from the makeshift volcano, which pretty much shredded the trash can on the second try.

"They're mapping the different products that came from the eruption," Lechner said. "Then they're going to place it on a grid on their sheet, and then the index cards represent communities, and ideally, they're supposed to be thinking about how, if they were volcano scientists, how they'd be communicating the hazards to people who lived in those communities."

Sophomore Marty

Spring learned when you put liquid nitrogen, water and pingpong balls in a trash can, "it blows up."

However, he did get more out of the demonstration than simply watching the explosion.

"We were basically mapping it out by making little fake cities with the notecards," Spring said, "and then the pingpong balls were supposed to represent projectiles from the volcanoes going up and out."

The students used chalk to map out the blast radius to see how many of the cities would get wiped out, he said.

There were no big surprises for him.

"Basically, I expected a huge boom, and I got a huge boom, so I'm pretty happy," Spring said. "It was like Fourth of July during the middle of October."



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