



PHOTO PROVIDED

Above is a photo of the 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun that was used to shoot and kill Kevin Johnson in November 2018 in Flowerfield Township. The weapon was recovered in a marsh on 96th Avenue just west of Maple Road in Van Buren County, according to testimony provided by Sgt. Brandon Dahl of the St. Joseph County Sheriff's Department on Friday, Jan. 10 in St. Joseph County Circuit Court. Defendant Theron Hunt reportedly told police where the gun could be found, and after multiple attempts to locate it authorities found the weapon, which was loaded and partially hidden.

Hunt trial testimony continues with expert witnesses, lab reports

By Alek Haak-Frost
 Managing Editor

CENTREVILLE — Testimony in the trial of Theron Phone Hunt, 41, of Dowagiac continued Friday in St. Joseph County Circuit Court as jurors heard from expert witnesses and were briefed on lab reports from the Michigan State Police Crime Lab.

See HUNT TRIAL, page 3



COMMERCIAL-NEWS | ROBERT TOMLINSON

Fabius Township Supervisor John Kroggel (right) presents a certificate of appreciation to longtime Planning Commission member Bill Hokanson (left) during Wednesday's meeting.

Fabius Township recognizes Hokanson for service to township

By Robert Tomlinson
 Staff Writer

FABIUS TOWNSHIP — The Fabius Township Board recognized longtime planning commission and Zoning Board of Appeals member Bill Hokanson for his service to the township during their meeting Wednesday.

The recognition came at the end of the report from Township Supervisor John Kroggel, who said Hokanson has done many things for the township in his many years of service to the area.

"A lot of times, it's easy to summarize

on one of these certificate things I make up, "Thank you for your X number of years of service with the planning commission," or "Thank you for your time served on the township board," Kroggel said. "But in Bill's case, I think I would have needed a collage for all the things he's done for this township."

Kroggel said Hokanson drafted all of the township's original ordinances when they were updated many years ago, helped put together the township's master plan, and has been a "key member" of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

To commemorate Hokanson's service, Kroggel handed him a certificate of appreciation, thanking him for his service to the planning commission, the ZBA, "and in so many other ways."

Hokanson thanked Kroggel for the recognition and joked a little bit. "I've enjoyed doing it, and I'm glad it's over with," Hokanson said.

Rebecca Shank, who served on the ZBA, then known as just the Zoning Board, from 1999-2003, said being with Hokanson on the ZBA was "an education."

"Here's a retired military officer, an educator at Harvard Business School," Shank said. "Serving on the zoning board was an education for the benefit of Fabius Township."

Shank then read of a list of all the numerous accomplishments the ZBA had with Hokanson, and said Hokanson helped lead a survey of the township when developing the 2020 Master Plan.

"There were mailings sent out to all of the property owners in the township requesting their input on the future of the township, and it was a record response with very high percentage, over 90 percent of the people responded that they wanted Fabius Township to remain a rural community," Shank said. "That was all under this guy's leadership. It was a terrific experience, not just for me, but for all of [the board members] too."

Trustee Cliff Maxwell said he appreciated Hokanson's work with the ZBA and the master plan as well.

"I appreciated everything we had to deal with," Maxwell said. "You had the building blocks for the whole thing."

In other business...

See FABIUS TOWNSHIP, page 3

Women on the Go Profile: Casey Schnepf

By William A. Baltz
 Special to the Commercial-News

Name: Casey Schnepf

Age: 41

Status: Married, four children

Occupation: Housewife and volunteer

Avg. hours exercise per week: 7-8

Motto: NEVER skip a Monday workout! (because then you skip Tuesday, etc.)

Ryan Schnepf waited patiently. He held a bouquet of red roses in one hand while keeping a careful eye on his four children—waiting not so patiently in the large crowd of spectators—while they gazed down the last leg of the Kalamazoo Marathon with anticipation.

May 5, 2019. Wife and mother, Casey, was en route to completing her first marathon — 26.2 miles — a major goal and achievement in her life.

See SCHNEPP FAMILY, page 3



The Schnepf family after Casey crossed the finish line at the 2019 Kalamazoo Marathon.



COMMERCIAL-NEWS | ROBERT TOMLINSON

Erin Garbine (left) and Lisa Cripe (right), nurses in Three Rivers Health's employee health and infection control departments, helped administer flu shots during TRH's first public flu clinic Friday.

Three Rivers Health hosts first public flu clinic

By Robert Tomlinson
 Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS — With flu season underway, it is still not too late for people to get their annual flu shot, with many places offering the flu vaccine to local residents.

Three Rivers Health was one of those places helping out the cause by offering their first-ever public flu clinic Friday in the St. Joseph Room at the hospital. Friday was the first day of the clinic; a second opportunity will occur in the same spot on Monday, Jan. 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Erin Garbine, a nurse at Three Rivers Health who also works in employee health and infection control monitoring, said the shot is a preventative vaccine, and is important to get to stay healthy at the beginning of the new year.

"It's a preventative vaccine, so anybody that has any other illnesses, it would benefit them to come in and get the vaccine to help prevent them from getting the flu, which could complicate their co-morbidities, as we call it," Garbine said.

Garbine said Three Rivers Health is

seeing a lot of influenza B, one of the two strains of the virus, in the community, which she said is "flip-flopped" from what happens in a typical flu season.

"There are different strains of the virus, and each strain can have a subset of strains. They categorize them as influenza A, which you see in the first part of the year, and influenza B, which you see in the second part," Garbine said, adding that the strains of influenza A and B can change from year-to-year. "It's flip-flopped, since we're still in the beginning of the season, and we're seeing a lot more Bs than we have As."

Garbine said the clinic offers both the regular flu vaccine and the high-dose vaccine, the latter of which is made for people over the age of 65. The nasal spray for the vaccine will not be available. People can register for the shot at the clinic, provide their insurance, sign a consent form, and get their shot.

"If the insurance doesn't cover it, the hospital waives that fee for them," Garbine said.

Vaccines are first-come, first serve. Robert Tomlinson can be reached at 279-7488 ext. 23 or robert@threeriversnews.com.

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