

IN BRIEF**Sprinkler line break closes BH school**

BENTON HARBOR — A broken sprinkler line is forcing Benton Harbor Charter School to close Monday, the school reported on its Facebook page.

The break caused flooding throughout the building with the most severe damage in the front office area, the school reported. The school is at 455 Riverview Drive.

K-8 classes are expected to resume Tuesday, but the preschool Great Start Readiness Program will be day-to-day.

Wood stove blamed in Niles Twp. fire

NILES — A fire that destroyed a small, single-family house in Niles Township Thursday likely started in a wood stove, fire department Lt. Doug Myers said. No one was injured.

The fire department was called at about 3 p.m. to 2331 S. 17th St. Myers did not have the homeowner's name but said he was home at the time and got out safely.

"The fire started in the basement so we were concerned with firefighter safety because there were holes in the floors due to the fire starting underneath," Myers said.

The Niles Township Fire Department was assisted by Niles and Clay Township, Ind., fire departments. Firefighters were at the scene for about four hours.

VB terminates Antwerp meth lab

PAW PAW — Van Buren County Sheriff's narcotics officers raided an Antwerp Township house Thursday afternoon and found a meth lab and lab components.

Police went to the house on 56th Avenue at 2 p.m. Drug charges will be sought against two men and a woman, said Detective Sgt. Mick Masterson.

SH school board to maintain TV presence

SOUTH HAVEN — The South Haven school board voted this week to continue having its second monthly meetings televised on the city's cable television channel, Channel 21.

The board holds those meetings at City Hall so they can be broadcast on the cable channel.

In another personnel matter, the board voted to hire Katie Avink as a high school Spanish teacher. She had been a long-term substitute Spanish teacher for the school.

Martin Luther King Jr. celebrated at college

BENTON TOWNSHIP — The 19th annual Lake Michigan College Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Award Ceremony will be Jan. 20 at the college's Mendel Center, LMC announced.

The event is free but reservations are required. A continental breakfast will be served at 7:45 a.m.

Winners of the second Martin Luther King Jr. Student Essay contest will present their essays during the celebration. The winners are Loren Harris and Patrick Sims, both from LMC.

The college will present its 13th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Award. In addition, there will be musical selections performed by All God's Children Community Choir, Yuri Koley and the Tritones — a jazz group composed of Ivan Akansima, Brandon Yenchus and Chris James.

The registration deadline is Jan. 17. For more information or to register contact Kathy Tebell at 927-6197 or tebell@lakemichigancollege.edu.