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MOUNT CLEMENS

ST. CLAIR SHORES

'Just being together helps'



Kirsten Persidskis of St. Clair Shores and Elke Becker of Macomb at Saturday's Women's Day rally and march in Mount Clemens. SUSAN SMILEY — THE MACOMB DAILY

Demonstration supports International Women's Day

By Susan Smiley
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St. Clair Shores resident Kirsten Persidskis and Elke Becker of Macomb Township carried the same signs at Saturday's Women's Day March in Mount Clemens that they displayed at a similar event in 2016. Persidskis held a sign saying "girls just want to have fundamental rights" and Becker's sign said "mind your own uterus." "These signs are appropriate again, which is scary," said Becker.

Saturday's rally and march was organized by Meribeth Brocker-Querio who got the idea from her former pastor at First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens. "She couldn't go to Washington, D.C. so she decided to march here a few years ago," said Brocker-Querio. "She marched all by herself with one sign. "I decided this year I was going to get off my couch, get a dose of courage and orga-

MARCH » PAGE 4

Judge tosses all double-voting charges against two

Fratarcangli apologizes to women for difficult experience

By Jameson Cook
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All charges against a St. Clair Shores election employee and a resident related to a case of double voting were dismissed Friday by a district court judge. Judge Mark Fratarcangli threw out the charges against temporary election worker Molly Brasure, 31, and voter Geneva Oday, 42 following a preliminary examination in 40th District Court in St. Clair Shores. Several people in the courtroom gallery, including city Clerk Abby Barrett, applauded, and Brasure and Oday smiled and embraced, as Oday wept. Oday said afterward she was "very happy." "I'm going to hug everybody and call my church," she said. "My phone is probably blowing up because there was a lot on me." Brasure and Oday are the third and fourth of seven defendants — four voters and three election workers — to have charges dismissed in the case brought by the state on allegations of double voting or aiding and abetting double. Three defendants, all voters, still face charges at Macomb County Circuit Court, and the state At-

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WASHINGTON

House GOP unveil bill to avoid shutdown

They're daring Dems to oppose it

By Kevin Freking
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » House Republicans unveiled a spending bill Saturday that would keep federal agencies funded through Sept. 30, pushing ahead with a go-it-alone strategy that seems certain to spark a major confrontation with Democrats over the contours of government spending. The 99-page bill would provide a slight boost to defense programs while trimming nondefense programs below 2024 budget year levels. That approach is likely to be a nonstarter for most Democrats who have long insisted that defense and nondefense spending move in the same direction. Congress must act by midnight Friday to avoid a partial government shutdown. Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., is teeing up the bill for a vote on Tuesday despite the lack of buy-in from Democrats, essentially daring them to vote against it and risk a shutdown. He also is betting that Republicans can muscle the legislation through the House

BILL » PAGE 5

REGION

Retired officer makes special donation

Longtime Lions Club member gives antique gun, cuffs to Sterling Heights Police

By Susan Smiley
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Longtime Macomb County resident John Bingham Jr. said police officers have always been near and dear to him. Bingham served as a Detroit reserve police officer for 10 years, mostly out of the 5th Precinct, and as a police constable in Clinton Township for eight years. He remembers his early years from 1970-1980 in Detroit with great fondness. "At the time I was an insurance claims investigator and I normally worked as a Detroit Police Reserve Officer on weekends," said Bingham. "You re-

ally learned a lot about making split second decisions that your life depended on." Bingham, who recently moved from Sterling Heights to a long term care facility in Troy because he has stage 4 liver cancer, donated a 32-caliber Ward & Sons pistol, made in England in 1895 and a 1930s claw handcuff to the Sterling Heights Police Department. The items are displayed in a handmade case that can be hung on the wall. "The revolver is the same type of pocket pistol the Scotland Yard detectives would have carried in their back pocket at that time," said Bingham. "The claw handcuff was used for detectives to march a prisoner from the jail to the court and if the prisoner got too rambunctious and tried



John Bingham Jr. with Sterling Heights Police Sgt. Micheal Zawojsky, Officer Larry Reynolds, and Detective Maureen Merpi with comfort dog Toby. PHOTO COURTESY DAWN DECLARK

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