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CLINTON TWP.

BARNES CONVICTED OF MURDERING EX-GIRLFRIEND

Killing happened in front of couple's child

By Jameson Cook
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A 25-year-old Clinton Township man was convicted of second degree murder, weapons charges and domestic violence for the shooting of his ex-girlfriend in front of their child outside of his residence. Jaion Barnes was found guilty after a Macomb County Circuit

Court jury deliberated less than three hours Thursday morning following a six-day trial in front of Judge Matthew Sabaugh in the county courthouse in Mount Clemens. When he is sentenced March 26, Barnes faces a minimum of 25 years in prison due to his status as a fourth habitual offender. During pretrial court proceed-

ings, Barnes was offered a deal to plead and serve 30 years in prison. During closing arguments Wednesday afternoon, Assistant Macomb Prosecutor Elizabeth Abbo told the jury that Barnes wrote in a text to Barnes one week before the shooting: "On my son, I will never put my hands on you again." At about 4:30 p.m. Jan. 15, 2024, he fatally shot her, according to Macomb County prosecutors. "He didn't put his hands on her, did he?" Abbo said. "He shot her

multiple times. Not once. Not twice. But three times. And as you saw, two were right to her face. "It was execution style, quick, fatal, left to die by herself with her crying baby by her side." Barnes shot Ross, 23, once in the stomach and twice on the side of her face and head in front in the hallway of the apartment building where he resided at Peachtree Apartments in Clinton Township. Ross brought the child in a car seat to the residence to drop him off as part of their co-par-

enting. She was going to a class at a cosmetology school. Before the drop-off, the pair argued in text messages over how Barnes would receive the child, Abbo said. She wanted Barnes to come to her residence and pick him up. "It's 50 bucks, bro," she told him in a text message, according to Abbo. Ross rode in an Uber with her son and his accessories, including diapers and milk, that she carried

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Immigration



Sterling Heights Mayor Michael Taylor at Tuesday night's city council meeting refused to apologize for his public criticism of ICE agents. "Doing what is right is always right," he said. **SCREEN GRABS OF STERLING HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor won't apologize for criticism of ICE tactics

By Mitch Hotts
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Sterling Heights Mayor Michael Taylor squared off against a handful of residents over U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement policies and refused to apologize over his previous comments criticizing the federal agents. The showdown took place at Tuesday's City Council meeting where some residents condemned the mayor's comments at a January council session. "I will not apologize," Taylor said. "I am proud of what I said. I stand 100% behind it. I won't retract it. I don't care what it costs me. "Doing what is right is always right." At issue was Taylor's remarks at a Jan. 20 meeting, where he proposed severing partnerships between the city's police force and federal agencies and alter traf-

fic stop policies due to repeated clashes between ICE agents and American citizens in states such as Minnesota. While city officials said the department recently "clarified" its policy to "re-emphasize" traffic stop protocol, a police spokesman told The Detroit News the revamped directive simply reiterates what officers have done for decades, and that no changes are imminent. When asked about the mayor's comments about his proposed changes, Sterling Heights Police Capt. Mario Bastianelli last month told a reporter: "That's not going to happen." Taylor's comments made national headlines. On Tuesday, the mayor said he has viewed "hundreds and hundreds" of online videos and TV news coverage of ICE officers confronting "helpless" people during federal immigra-

tion enforcement incidents. He accused the agency of "regularly" violating human rights and constitutional rights. "You want me to open my arms and welcome them into our community, let them run roughshod over 30,000 or 40,000 of our foreign-born residents we have living here," he said. "No thank you." During the public comment portion of Tuesday's meeting, a man wearing an ICE baseball hat who didn't identify himself denied ICE acts outside the Constitution. He said the mayor's remarks should offend the city's longtime Middle Eastern and Balkan residents as federal authorities goes after individuals with "violent and serious criminal history." "What a slap in the face it is that you prioritize illegals over legal immigrants," the man said.

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STATE

Nessel launches ICE activity tracker, warns of public safety risks

AG: 'We will not tolerate illegal actions against our state residents'

By Fuad Shalhout
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel on Wednesday, Feb. 4, unveiled a new "Federal Agents Tracker," urging residents to report encounters with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Border Patrol while warning that aggressive federal immigration actions could endanger Michigan residents and violate state law. "In Michigan, we do not and we will not tolerate illegal actions against our state residents," Nessel said. "I will not hesitate to uphold the law, and that includes prosecuting unlawful actions perpetrated by federal officers." Nessel made the remarks during a two-hour roundtable discussion Feb. 4 at Cadillac Place in Detroit's New Center area, where elected officials, law enforcement leaders, clergy and immigrant advocates described fear, confusion and legal risk stemming from stepped-up deportation efforts under President Donald Trump. Among those addressing the group was Maria Klosowski, a Detroit resident and Sister of Mercy who volunteers with an interfaith group that visits immigration detainees at the Monroe County jail. Klosowski said conditions inside the jail and access to detainees have changed as detention numbers have increased. "These are people who have been here 30, 35 years," she said. "They're business owners, parents of U.S. citizens. They feel powerless." Klosowski said detainees are harder to reach, religious materials are now limited or require payment, and many of the men she meets are long-time Michigan residents caught up in the immigration system after routine check-ins or paperwork issues.

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Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel on Wednesday, unveiled a new "Federal Agents Tracker," urging residents to report encounters with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Border Patrol while warning that aggressive federal immigration actions could endanger Michigan residents and violate state law. **FUAD SHALHOUT — MLIVE.COM/TNS**

HARRISON TWP.

Disciplinary measures likely if students hold protest

L'Anse Creuse High School officials: Walkout would disrupt learning environment

By Mitch Hotts
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A rumored anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement protest at L'Anse Creuse High School has school officials warning of disciplinary action if students walk out of classes

Friday to participate. L'Anse Creuse administrators and school board members said a social media post earlier this week indicated a group of students is planning a walk-out at the Harrison Township school to protest the Trump administration's aggressive immigration enforcement. The protest is not school-sponsored and is not endorsed, organized, or encouraged by staff in the school or district, according to Superintendent Keith Howell.

"(L'Anse Creuse Public Schools) respects student voice, civil engagement, and students' First Amendment rights; however, our responsibility during the school day is student safety, supervision, and uninterrupted learning," Howell said in a statement issued Thursday. Howell said the district operates as a closed campus and students are expected to remain in class unless authorized to leave. He added students may express their

views in ways that do not disrupt instruction or compromise safety, including outside of school hours and off campus. "Any student who leaves class or campus without permission will be addressed under the Student Code of Conduct and attendance policies," Howell said. Similar student protests have taken place elsewhere around the country, including Ann Arbor and Berkley.

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WEATHER FORECAST

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