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Local news in brief: Law school dean headed to Ohio

FEBRUARY 14, 2009

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The dean of University of Detroit Mercy's law school is leaving to head a small independent college in northwest Ohio.



UDM law dean Mark Gordon

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Mark Gordon, 48, who has headed UDM law since 2002, will become president of Defiance College, a liberal arts school with about 1,000 students.

Under Gordon, the Detroit law school nearly doubled to more than 730, and it drew national publicity after launching a mobile law clinic for veterans. And in January, its students won a national moot court competition in Houston.

Gordon, who said he was drawn to the school in Defiance in part by its emphasis -- much like at UDM -- on service learning, replaces Gerald Wood, who stepped down as Defiance president in 2008.

Space heater suspected in fatal fire

A space heater may have started a morning house fire that killed a man as he slept on Detroit's north side Friday morning, according to the city's fire department.

The home at 1031 W. Lantz St., in the neighborhood northeast of 7 Mile and Woodward Avenue, was totally engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived at 7 a.m.

Another man who lived at the home had already escaped when crews arrived, senior Detroit Fire Capt. Michael Votta said. But the fire started in the room where the man who died was sleeping, and he might have been overcome by smoke, Votta said.

Investigators are trying to determine whether a space heater in his bedroom may have malfunctioned, Votta added.

WARREN: Assistant city attorney arrested

A Warren city official was arrested early Friday on suspicion of drunken driving, according to the city's police commissioner.

Jeff Schroeder, 33, of Warren was stopped about 2:30 a.m. near Van Dyke and Toepfer, said Commissioner William Dwyer. A Warren police officer administered a sobriety test and determined

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that Schroeder was intoxicated.

Schroeder is immediately suspended for five days without pay and will be reassigned when he returns because his duties as assistant city attorney now include prosecuting drunken-driving cases, Warren Mayor Jim Fouts said.

BAY CITY: Power shut-off warnings still being received

A utility continues to mail winter shut-off notices despite pledges by Bay City officials to end the practice after a 93-year-old man froze to death in his home.

The Bay City Times reported that Bay City Electric Light & Power mailed a notice earlier this month to a resident demanding she pay \$660 by Monday to avoid losing service.

Mayor Charles Brunner said he isn't sure why notices are still being mailed, but said no one will lose power or have their service restricted.

Marvin Schur's body was found Jan. 17, days after utility workers restricted electricity to his home.

REGION-WIDE: Offices to be closed for Presidents' Day

U.S. government offices, financial markets and most banks will be closed Monday in observance of Presidents' Day. There will be no mail delivery. State offices will be closed.

In Oakland and Macomb counties, the clerks' offices and courts will be closed.

In Wayne County, the clerk's office will be open. Wayne County Circuit and 36th District courts will be closed. City of Detroit offices will be open.

Compiled by Robin Erb, Tammy Stables Battaglia, Amber Hunt, Jocelyn Faniel-Heard and the Associated Press.

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