

**MUNCIE**

**Man accused of striking girlfriend**

A Muncie man has been accused of battering his girlfriend.

James Rayburn Ralston III, 56, 2004 S. Manhattan Ave., was preliminarily charged with domestic battery.



James R. Ralston III

The alleged victim told police that she awoke on Jan. 14 to find Ralston punching her in the face, and said he later threw her to the floor.

Ralston is set to enter a guilty plea next week in Muncie City Court, where a driving-while-intoxicated charge has been pending since December 2012. He was convicted of drunken driving in 2008.

**School safety commission meets**

The Delaware County Schools Safety Commission will meet at 10 a.m. today at the Emergency Management office, 210 S. Jefferson St.

The meeting is open to the public.

**YORKTOWN**

**Downtown plan on Yorktown agenda**

The Yorktown Town Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. today in the Town Court building, 9730 W. Smith St.

Items on the agenda for the meeting include the Downtown Action Plan presented by a consultant last week and the vacant structure ordinance that had a first reading at a previous meeting.

Other topics include the purchase of property at 8500 W. Cornbread Road adjacent to Lions Club Park, light pole replacement and appointments to the Yorktown Redevelopment Commission and the Delaware County Regional Wastewater Board.

**FISHERS**

**No one hurt as BSU bus burns along I-69**

A Ball State University bus caught on fire along Interstate 69 outside Indianapolis early Monday afternoon, causing traffic to back up along the highway.

No one was injured in the fire, which involved a bus on its way to the airport to pick up a group of cheerleaders, according to Tony Proudfoot, BSU associate vice president for marketing and communications.

The bus driver smelled smoke, pulled over and got out of the bus safely, Proudfoot told The Star Press.

The blaze was reported near the 208 mile-marker, about three miles north of the Fishers exit.

**WINCHESTER**

**Farmer Coffee Hour scheduled for Jan. 30**

The Purdue Extension Randolph County office will host a Farmer Coffee Hour Program at 8 a.m. Jan. 30 at the Randolph County Fairgrounds, 1885 S. U.S. 27.

Lisa Compton, St. Vincent farm health coordinator, and Barry Miller will present the program on maintaining farm worker health and avoiding common farm worker health issues.

Breakfast will be sponsored by First Merchants Bank. Pre-registration is requested by calling the Purdue Extension Randolph County office at (765) 584-2271.

**Randolph Corrections Board meets Monday**

The Randolph County Community Corrections Advisory Board will meet at noon Monday at Pizza Hut, 914 E. Washington St.

**Assessment appeals meeting planned**

The Randolph County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals will meet at 9 a.m. Feb. 12 on the third floor of the Randolph County Courthouse, 100 W. S. Main St.

# LOCAL NEWS

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## Alumni to be recognized Friday

Athletes from three local high schools will be honored at final Southside/Central game

By Michelle Kinsey  
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MUNCIE — Central and Southside will go head-to-head for the last time Friday in a regular season basketball game.

And if Kay Rankin has her way, many former basketball players for both teams — not to mention basketball fans — will be in attendance at the Muncie Fieldhouse to see it.

The two high schools will merge this fall, with all of the students going to Central's building. Southside will become a middle school.

Rankin, a long-time MCS educator and interim assistant to the athletic director at Central, and Kristi Ellis, an assistant to the athletic director at Southside, have been busy reaching out to former players and coaches.

"We want to recognize as many former players from Central, Southside and Northside (high schools) as possible during the game," Rankin said Monday. About 100 alum already plan to attend.

A few, she said, are coming from as far away as Florida.

All of the former athletes will be given a commemorative coin before the final game, she said.

But Rankin wants other in attendance get to take home a "piece of history." That coin will also be available for purchase during the game for \$10.

Some special plate clocks will also be raffled off, Rankin said, featuring designs by local artist and Artist Within owner Bob Hartley. There will be a Central clock, a Southside clock and a Northside clock.

The evening will begin at 6

p.m. with a match-up between the girls varsity basketball teams from Southside and Central, followed by the recognition event at about 7:30 p.m. Then the boys will take the court for warm-ups and the game.

Rankin said players will walk out according to decade, led by cheerleaders from the schools.

"I just think if you like basketball in Muncie, Indiana, then this is a night not to be missed, no matter where you went to school," she said.

That very first Central/Southside game, by the way, was in January of 1963. Central came out on top, 76 to 63.

Advance tickets for Friday's game go on sale today at the school athletic offices.

Muncie Community School Board President Tony Costello said that this pre-game event will help in the transition to one high school.

"It's very important because I think that one of the things we

**FORMER PLAYERS SOUGHT**

If you are a former basketball player for Southside, Central or Northside who would like to be involved in the pre-game event, call the Central athletic office, 747-5270, or the Southside athletic office, 747-5328.

have talked about with the unification of Central and Southside is the move toward one Muncie," he said. "The more we go back to recognize the individual constituents who make up our community, the stronger that unification will be."

He said he is hoping for a packed fieldhouse.

"There was a time when — as I understand it — that was the norm," Costello said. "It would be nice to see a return to that."

Contact reporter Michelle Kinsey at 213-5822.

## A Friendly Match With A Purpose



**MORE ONLINE**

Go to [thestarpress.com](http://thestarpress.com) see more photos and a video from the match.



**TOP:** Jeff Clark, right, and Dennis Oehler shake hands after a tennis match Monday at the Northwest YMCA. It was a way for Clark to continue with his progress after losing his right leg to cancer a year ago. Oehler became an amputee when he was 24 after a car accident. He is an award winning former Paralympic athlete who now works with the SRT National Prosthetic Center in Muncie. The center offers a free quarterly Amputee Walking School to any amputees who want or need extra help with recovery. **FAR LEFT:** Oehler moves into a swing. **LEFT:** Clark hustles for the ball. **PHOTOS BY** PATTI BLAKE/THE STAR PRESS

## More snow, drifting, wind chill expected

Frigid weather is expected to hang around a few days

The Star Press

Here's hoping you enjoyed Monday's 34-degree high and lack of additional snowfall as if it were a balmy summer day, because that was the best we're likely to see this week weather-wise.

As of Monday afternoon, the National Weather Service had bumped up its forecast for new snowfall to 1-2 inches by this morning and then an 80 percent chance of snow but with less than an inch of accumulation today. Granted, that's not necessarily a lot more snow, but gusting winds up to 30 miles per hour today means plenty of drifting by whatever is on the ground.

Local counties including Delaware, Henry and Randolph were under a winter weather advisory for snow and blowing



This semitrailer ended up in a ditch after the driver tried to turn onto 26th Street from Hoyt Avenue on Monday morning. KURT HOSTETLER/THE STAR PRESS

snow until 11 a.m. today, the NWS announced Monday afternoon.

Most days for the rest of the week other than Friday are forecast to have a 30- or 40-percent chance of snow.

What's more, daytime temperatures in the teens at their highest — and wind chills as low as negative 14 today — mean the piles of snow already adorning our landscape aren't going away

anytime soon. (Except for what blows into the neighbor's driveway.)

A hazardous weather outlook issued by the NWS warns of slick roads as a result of any new snowfall last night and low temperatures. "Wind chills below zero are expected in the mornings and overnight periods from Tuesday morning through Friday," the NWS outlook warned.

Though emergency respond-

ers were called to some accidents along local and rural roads over the long holiday weekend, many people appeared to have stayed home when roads were especially bad, helping to keep the total number of accidents lower. Those numbers could go up as many people return to school and work today amid new snowfall, wind and freezing temperatures, however.