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Your Opinions

Surprised by ban on music players

I had to go to the Hall of Justice with a friend of mine who had business with Friend of the Court on Feb. 12. I went prepared. I know you cannot carry a gun, a knife nor your cell phone into the building. Those things are all posted for everyone to see.

When I put my coat on the conveyer to go through the scanner, the deputy approached me, asking me if it was an MP3 player I had on. I told him yes. He then became very stern to me, stating, "You have one of two choices. You can either take it back to your vehicle, or I will confiscate it and you will not get it back."

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼ I just stood there shocked. I saw that as a threat that if I did not leave right then and take my "iPod" back to my car, he would take it. I asked him why and he told me because they have had problems with kids bringing them in. I stood there wondering if this was a "rule" they had made among themselves or it was actually policy. I was in no position to argue, so I went back into the cold and took my iPod back to my car.

Is this just another incident of our rights being taken away one by one? I had no idea who gave him the authority to speak to me in such a threatening manner. I had to wonder if it was something he wanted to keep for himself. I wanted people to know so they are not put in the position I was. Or, maybe that was just the strong arm of the law. Whatever the reason, there was no cause for this deputy to behave so unprofessional.

Paula Gastian

Battle Creek

Huge pile of snow dumped in driveway

Raspberries to the private snowplow company driver in Sherwood who deliberately plowed Oliverda Road on Sunday, Feb. 10, and then plowed a *huge* pile (higher than my Jeep) *on to* my driveway on Dotson Drive.

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I could not pull any of my vehicles to get out then or in the morning.

This was not a snowdrift.

The Branch County Road Commission was not involved in any way, and did not come close to the mountain of snow in my driveway when they plowed Dotson Drive on Monday morning.

I have lived in Michigan since 1984 and have never seen any deliberate damage to my property before.

Kudos to a kind next-door neighbor who pushed the snow to the side of my yard so I could get out.

I am almost 70 years old, and recently spent a week in the hospital with flu, strep and pneumonia.

If you are this irresponsible, then you don't deserve a snowplow business license.

Nancy P. Thompson

Sherwood

Heartfelt thanks for great care

Thank you to Battle Creek Health System. My sorrow goes out to those who had a bad experience with the system. I have a different, positive and thankful experience.

I was admitted to the hospital on Jan. 22. The last thing I remember was hearing the staff saying they could not get a pressure reading and my wife's voice in despair. Thanks to the critical care staff and the fifth-floor nursing staff and additional doctors, I am still here.

My heartfelt thank you goes out to all of you for my recovery. Again, I can't thank you enough. A grateful . . .

Terry Word

Battle Creek

Grateful for help amid snow and cold

On Feb. 10, after gale-force cold winds, blowing snow and freezing digits, I lost not cold water, but my hot water. Sunday I am not thinking of calling anyone. I trudged around my house and checked my hot water heater. It was cold. But then, what do I know? I decided to call my plumber on Monday. I called Jerry Schott of Plumb-Serv. He was out on the 11th and set up some heating for me. By bedtime I still had no hot water. Tuesday, Feb. 12, another

arctic day, out comes Jerry, suited up for the North Pole. This man, bless his heart - and it's a big heart - took off skirting rolled under my house, feeling around the insulation for that iced-up pipe. God bless him, he was on the job all of three hours. When I saw him walking up my porch, I called him the Yeti, the abominable snowman. He had crawled around in the ice and snow and got my hot water running at a senior discount.

I was so blue Sunday, a little bluer on Monday. But thank God on Tuesday the blues went away. And I thank God because he said to. And thanks again, Jerry. You most certainly are a giving and good person. Bless you.

Mavis Crook

Battle Creek

Kids need love of both parents

It is time for Michigan to recognize and for citizens to demand that there be a fundamental right to parent your children within our state's constitution and family law. I implore everyone to actively support both 2008-HJR-NN the "parental rights" resolution and HB 4564 the "equal parenting bill."

Children are a part of the family and they have the right to the love of both parents and their extended family too. Allowing the state without due process of law through the courts and government child welfare bureaucracies to interrupt the child-parent relationship has destroyed many childhoods and caused untold damage to our society. Parents should have the right to decide how their children are educated and medicated as long as there is no clear evidence that these choices will seriously harm their children. Allowing parents to raise children with their values and beliefs ensures a level of diversity that makes our society strong.

In an intact family children benefit from the love and care of two parents involved significantly in their life. The state and divorce/custody industry operators create opposing parents that clash, costing large sums of money and destroying the child-parent relationship in the supermajority of cases. The state is allowed through the supposed best interest of the child criteria to pressure most fathers to relinquish custody to the mother or be denied custody in court. The standard visitation schedule averages out to four to six days a month based on age of the child and will never be changed unless the parents agree or there is clear and convincing evidence of problems in the custodial home. HB 4564 and HJR-NN will help ensure that children will have the stability and love of both of their fit, willing and able parents.

Darrick Scott-

Farnsworth

Augusta

Comments by: **Swamper**

Posted: Sun Feb 17, 2008
4:00 pm

ROjsk56

Comments by: **El Conquistador**

Posted: Sun Feb 17, 2008
3:38 pm

"There is nothing wrong with having it on your person. No one has a right to say it isn't. What is next? A woman can't carry her purse with her? A man must leave his wallet in his vehicle?"

They certainly DO have the right to tell you what you can and cannot have inside of a building like the courthouse.

This isn't taking rights away. With the combination devices out there - cell phones - Ipods - PM3 players - it should not be up to the guards to have to figure out what each device does or doesn't do - so ban them all. You are there on court business - no need for such devices.

Such devices can also be used as weapons, bomb casings, etc.

And guess what - some places don't let women carry a purse !

I've been to many concerts where this is the case - they can take a small wallet in - but not an actual purse. If you don't like it - don't go there.

Comments by: **AHS64**

Posted: Sun Feb 17, 2008
1:25 pm

I, too, have wondered why people seem to think the rest of us want to hear their personal phone conversations. I wonder if doing something like I used to do with students would work?

Sometimes I would get kids who would be talking (not whispering) about personal issues instead of doing their work. I would usually join in the conversation and put in my two-cents. It always got the desired reaction, "Why are you listening to our conversation, or why are you getting into our business etc." To which I would respond, that if they did not want me and everyone in the class knowing their personal business, then they should not talk about it in a public setting!

Comments by: **AHS55**

Posted: Sun Feb 17, 2008
7:22 am

I have seen for myself the lengths of rudeness people go to using these electronic devices. I have to bite my tongue, not to make a rude remark to people using LOUD two ways, in stores restaurants, etc. I can't imagine what it would be like in a library!!!!

It seems like we turn every new device for our convenience, and safety into something to annoy everyone, instead of its original use. I know people who carry a cell phone, and always have it on vibrate, and seem to know when they are getting a call, then excuse themselves to go apart and answer it. It CAN be done, if you have any sense of manners and good sense.

Comments by: **jsk56**

Posted: Sat Feb 16, 2008
10:20 pm

This is going to sound harsh - but I can't seem to find another way to say it.

Maybe we should ALL leave our "pacifiers" - phones, mp3 players, laptops, etc. at home when we go into public places. We seemed to survive for generations without all of these distractions - maybe it's time to turn back the clock a few years. I, for one, am very tired of listening to other people's noise, whether it be conversation, music or the beeping of car alarms being set.

Add dogs to that list to leave home, too.

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