

# Grand Jury Action Still Pending In Alleged Rape Of Lansing Student

No grand jury indictments have yet been filed on multiple felony charges brought against Lester L. Bailey involving two counts of first degree rape and misdemeanor charges of endangering the welfare of a child purported to be a Lansing student, according to Tompkins County District Attorney George M. Dentes.

Reached at his office last Wednesday, Dentes said that he is prohibited by law from revealing if the case has already gone to a grand jury. He did say, however, that indictments, if any, must be filed within one week of Grand Jury action.

Upon his Dec. 11 arrest, Bailey was arraigned before Ithaca Judge Clarence Larkin who set cash bail at \$10,000 for the felony charges. On Dec. 17, Lansing Town justice William Burin released Bailey from custody pending trial on a \$500 cash bail on the misdemeanor charges.

Since then, community discussions have tried to understand the sequence of events leading to Bailey's release in light of the seriousness of the charges.

Under New York law, said Burin, a defendant facing felony charges has the right to a preliminary hearing within 144 hours (6 days) at which the DA must present evidence as to why the defendant should be held. The DA's only other options are to

present the case to a Grand Jury within the 144 hour timeframe or to release the defendant on his personal recognizance (ROR) without cash bail being required.

"I did not reduce bail," said Burin last week. "I ROR'ed the person because the DA was not ready to present evidence at the preliminary hearing but preferred to present evidence at a later date to the grand jury."

At the time of Bailey's Dec. 17 hearing, Mr. Dentes was not prepared to go to a Grand Jury because all the evidence had not been processed. In addition, said Burin, Dentes wanted to spare the victim the experience of testifying at a formal preliminary hearing.

As a result, bail on the misdemeanor charge was set at \$500 and the defendant was placed under an "order of protection" which prevents him from having any direct or indirect contact with the victim or her family.

As to the status of the rape charges, DA Dentes explained that all defendants are entitled to a "speedy trial." Accordingly, Dentes must have his indictment and advise the court no later than June 11 that he is ready for trial.

More information will follow as available.

## January 21 Stress Relief Workshop

A free clinic on stress relief management will be held 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 21 at the office of Dr. Robert Brown at 15 Auburn Road.

"Stress is widely recognized as a contributing factor in a number of serious health problems," said Dr. Brown. "It's vitally important for everyone to know more about how to handle this silent health risk and to

restore good health and well-being."

Dr. Brown will cover the major signs of stress, the effects of stress on overall health and proven techniques to minimize stress.

There is no charge for the workshop although reservations are required. For additional information and to make reservations, contact the Lansing Chiropractic Office at 533-4231.



**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD** - At the annual meeting of the Lansing United Methodist church held last Thursday evening Joel Brock, Ray Buckley, Sharey Travis, Martha Cockram, Kate Payne, Paul Southard, Hillis Wilson (all standing) and Rev. Marti Swords and Bronwyn Losey were chosen to lead the church throughout the coming year.

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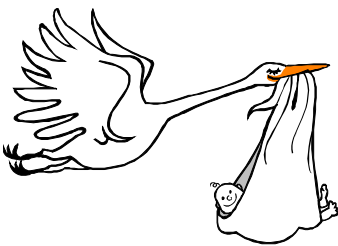
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*The community extends its sympathy to Lansing teacher Mrs. Letha Henry on the recent loss of her mother Daisy M. Borocool, of Groton.*



Connor Joseph O'Neil, of Murfield Drive, is pleased to join the Lansing community following his December 17<sup>th</sup> birth at the Cayuga Medical Center. His parents, Thomas and Susan (Gapski) O'Neil are doing well, thank you.



**CONCENTRATION** was the name of the game for nearly 90 boys and girls from Tompkins County who came to Lansing on Saturday to participate in the 25<sup>th</sup> Elks "Hoop Shoot" contest. We look forward to their return next year.

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