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## Regional news: Pastors win \$400,000 in scam lawsuit

COMPILED FROM REPORTS BY BILL LAITNER, JOE SWICKARD AND MATT HELMS

### **DETROIT: Pastors win \$400,000 in scam lawsuit**

Pastors from 21 churches across southern Michigan were awarded \$400,000 on Thursday in a civil lawsuit involving what Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox has called a nationwide scam aimed at black churches.

In a default judgment against United Leasing Associates of Brookfield, Wis., and two Maryland men, Michael Morris, 40, of Waldorf and Willie Perkins, 55, of Oxon Hill, charged with criminal racketeering and fraud, Wayne County Circuit Judge Prentis Edwards awarded triple damages to the churches under Michigan's Debt Collection Practices Act.

"I think it was a pretty broad indictment of these guys," Huntington Woods attorney Willard Ducharme, co-counsel for the churches, said after the hearing. Church leaders were duped into signing leases for video terminals they thought were free, he said.

## **Club accused of having child dance is locked**

All Stars, a strip club on 8 Mile Road, will be padlocked for a year, Wayne County Chief Circuit Judge Virgil Smith ruled Thursday.

The closing -- through July 11, 2011 -- was sought by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office after authorities allegedly found a 14-year-old girl dancing at the club. Club manager Andrew Hutson awaits a July 13 preliminary examination in 36th District Court on charges of child sexually abusive activity.

**CRACKDOWN:** Michigan State Police say troopers and local officers will crack down on drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs this weekend. The effort runs from 6 p.m. today through Monday, said Sgt. Jill Bennett of the State Police's traffic safety division.

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