





# LIFESTYLES

## Collaring a porcine 'perpetrator'

On May 9, an unusual call came in to central dispatch at the Michigan State Police Post, Negaunee.

"I beg your pardon? Could you say that again please? Yes, ma'am. Yes. Ye... Just the facts. I understand. Yes. We'll send an officer immediately."



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The incident was taking place in Chocolay Township near Harvey. Central Dispatch called the Chocolay Township Police Department where Mary Kratzke picked up the phone.

"Say what?" Kratzke paused, listening intently. "Yes, I thought that's what you said." She'd never received a report like this. "I've got it, yes. The 100 block of Lakewood Lane. Yes! Right away! Chief Zybur is right here."

Greg Zybur, Chief of the Chocolay Township Police Department, listened carefully as Mary relayed the report. His eyes grew wide in amazement. Nothing like this had ever happened in Chocolay Township, and no back-up officers were around.

Zybur checked his side arm, his taser, reviewed his supplementary equipment and climbed into the patrol car. He headed for Lakewood Lane — alone!

En route he reviewed the report, still finding it hard to believe. The words of the policeman's creed came to mind: "To Protect and Serve!" There were no qualifications to what that implied. He drove on.

Slowing the cruiser as he approached Lakewood, his eyes searched the area. This was the 100 block. The re-



**Chocolay Township Police Chief Zybur gains control of "Zeus," a runaway pig, with several dog leashes. Zybur retrieved the errant pig after it made its "getaway" from a Lakewood Lane home in May. (Chocolay Township Police Department photo)**

port was only a few minutes old and this was the place. Slowly, cautiously he ... wait! What was that? He only caught a glimpse but to his trained eye the description fit. There he was! The perpetrator hadn't seen his approach. What's the next move?

Let me bring you up to date: Zybur has been Chocolay Police Chief since 1986. At 28, he was the youngest Police Chief in the State. He has never been found wanting in courage, self-discipline or the will to succeed.

On the other hand, he was raised in Detroit and unfamiliar with the personalities and habits of individuals in our free-wheeling Upper Peninsula.

He wasn't quite sure of what his approach ought to be in this situation. What was the character, the mood

of this individual? When confronted, what might this perpetrator do? What defenses might this perpetrator have? What were his strong and weak points?

Taser in hand and constantly aware of the side arm at his hip Zybur approached. With a sudden snort the suspect spun around, aware he had been discovered. They faced each other. Seconds seemed to stretch into hours. The situation was tense.

Here was a 180-pound policeman, trained and armed, face to face with — a 400-pound pig. Zybur may not have been aware that a pig's bite is a formidable weapon. A snap of those jaws is capable of severing a man's leg. The two adversaries faced each other.

In the cruiser were some doggie biscuits for animal control calls, and Zybur offered some to the pig. The

pig considered this offering then wagged its tail — in fact its whole hind quarters.

The next move was control. Zybur strung three dog leashes together and slipped a loop over the pig's head — that's when the fun began. Picture a medium-size build policeman attempting to control a 400 pound pig with a dog leash.

A cell phone call to Julie Frasier at Willow Farms Stables brought much-needed assistance; she arrived with a horse trailer. One of the spectators had graciously provided a large bowl containing milk, cereal and table scraps.

The pig was lured into the trailer and the tailgate quickly closed. Mission accomplished, well, almost. The pig was incarcerated at Seeds and Spores Organic Farm in Green Garden.

An hour or two later a call came in from Cheryl Moore of Lakewood Lane, who had just returned home from work and was looking for her pig. This is how the pig happened to be living on Lakewood Lane:

Moore is the mother of United States Marine Walter Moore, who was away on active duty. The pig, "Zeus," was Walter's pet. When Walter left for active duty, his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mather of Deerton, agreed to look after Zeus.

The Mathers had taken a short vacation and their daughter, living on Lakewood Lane, agreed to look after the pig for a few days.

The story ended happily, with Zeus back in Deerton awaiting Walter's return.

Chief Zybur, I understand, is being considered for a citation — something about "saving someone's bacon?"

**Editor's note:** Ben Mukkala is a local author whose books, including his latest book, "Thoughts Along the Way: Secrets of a Happy Life," are available in bookstores and gift shops or through his Web site: [www.benmukkala.com](http://www.benmukkala.com). Readers may write to him at [bmukk@chartermi.net](mailto:bmukk@chartermi.net)