

BALTIMORE COUNTY

DIGEST

Four charged in death of Essex man

Three men and a 14-year-old boy have been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of an Essex man, county police said yesterday.

The four are charged in the Dec. 17 death of Marquel Smith, 32, who was shot several times in front of his home in first block of Rumelia Circle.

Police said one of the men charged in the killing, Michael Anthony Banks, 19, of Altoona, Pa., is a member of the Bloods gang.

Smith "was not a random target," said Cpl. Michael Hill, a spokesman for the Baltimore County Police Department.

Also charged with murder were Troy Wesley Smith, 24, also of the first block of Rumelia Circle, Tavon Martez Mouzone, 21, of the 4600 block of Park Heights Ave. in Baltimore, and James Edward Smoot, 14, of the first block of Moline Circle in Essex.

Smoot has been charged as an adult, county police said.

All four have been denied bail and are being held at the Baltimore County Detention Center to await trial, authorities said.

[NICK SHIELDS]

COCKEYSVILLE

3 sought in restaurant burglary

Baltimore County police were searching for three people suspected of burglarizing a Cockeysville restaurant.

The burglars pried open the front door of Patrick's of Cockeysville, in the 500 block of Cranbrook Road, between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Tuesday, county police said. They broke into a safe and a desk and stole an undisclosed amount of cash, then fled, police said.

A video camera captured the three walking around the restaurant several hours before the burglary, county police said. The suspects were wearing camouflage pants and coats, police said.

Anyone with information about the burglary is asked to call Baltimore County police at 410-307-2020 or Metro Crime Stoppers at 866-7-LOCKUP.

[NICK SHIELDS]

CRIME

Traffic stop leads to drug bust

Two men were arrested after police found 100 pounds of marijuana in the trunk of car that had been pulled over for a traffic violation on Interstate 95 in Baltimore County, Maryland Transportation Authority Police said yesterday.

The driver of a 2007 Chevrolet Malibu was pulled over for following another vehicle too closely about 1 p.m. Wednesday, police said yesterday. Nearly 96 pounds of marijuana, which had been bought in New York and was bound for Norfolk, Va., was found during a search of the vehicle, police said.

Richard Nathaniel Edmonds, 23, of Norfolk, and Antonio Kipland Evans, 33, of Chesapeake, Va., were charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and other charges, police said.

Both were being held in lieu of \$1 million bail at the Baltimore County Detention Center, authorities said.

[NICK SHIELDS]

EDUCATION

Eastern Tech wins competition

Eastern Technical High School students recently won first and second place in the Baltimore Chapter of the American Society of Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Engineers competition, school officials announced yesterday.

It was the school's sixth win in seven years, school officials said.

Three teams of Eastern Tech computer-aided drafting and design students competed with teams from two other counties in Timonium this month.

The first-place team was made up of juniors Brad Myers, Ian Jones and George Hess.

Second place went to a team composed of juniors Amanda Carrigan, Collin Stewart and Caitlyn Alfred.

This year's competition required the students to calculate various loads on a building, respond to questions related to mechanical engineering and complete a comprehensive layout and cost estimate for an air-handling system.

The school also announced yesterday that Eastern Technical High management students recently took first place in the Maryland ProStart Student Invitational Culinary and Management Competitions at Howard Community College.

Eastern Tech's management team was one of five from the state to compete. The team was made up of seniors James Morgan, Keisha Wilson, Tracie Schrack and Lauren Busky.

The team advances to the National ProStart Management Competition which will be held in Charlotte, N.C., April 20-22.

Events or news items for the Baltimore County Digest may be submitted to baltco.news@baltco.com. Information should be sent at least 10 days in advance of the event.



Mary Barton, a member of the board and the renovation committee; Ann Brooke, who is helping lead the capital campaign; and Brant Hart, executive director (front to back), stand where a new dining room will be built as part of a \$23 million renovation.

CHIAKI KAWAJIRI [SUN PHOTOGRAPHER]

Retirement community in \$23 million makeover

Pickersgill adding auditorium, dining rooms

BY JOSH DOMBROSKIE
[SUN REPORTER]

Corridors are closed off and workers in hardhats scurry about, but the folks who live at Pickersgill Retirement Community don't seem to be bothered.

"Getting to the meeting room is a little inconvenient, but that is a temporary thing," said Sanford Disney, a resident of the Towson retirement community. "It's exercise, and it keeps you walking."

Pickersgill, which describes itself as Maryland's oldest retirement community and the second-oldest in the nation, is in the midst of an extensive renovation. The retirement home is working to raise money to help pay for the construction, which is being done in three phases and is scheduled for completion by March 2009.

"The renovations are vital," said Ann Brooke, who is helping lead the capital campaign.

Pickersgill is hoping to raise \$1 million in contributions toward the \$23 million project by January. A donation of \$250,000 from Joe Willard and his wife, Kathy, whose mother was a resident at Pickersgill, was announced at the kickoff event for the capital campaign in January, and contributions total more than \$700,000, said Donna Reid, a spokeswoman for Pickersgill.

The France-Merrick Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization, has said it will contribute \$50,000 when \$950,000 has been raised.

Pickersgill Retirement Com-

munity provides independent living, assisted living and nursing care. The community can now accommodate 87 people living independently and 169 in assisted living. The renovations will make room for eight more in assisted living, said Wilma Zimmerman, a member of the all-female board of directors.

Pickersgill was founded in 1802 as the Impartial Female Humane Society, a philanthropic group dedicated to helping widows and abandoned wives, said Brant Hart, the community's executive director.

Hart said the community is named after Mary Pickersgill, the Baltimore woman who made the large American flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to write what would become the national anthem.

Pickersgill was an early leader in helping destitute women in Baltimore and was president of the Board of Lady Managers when the Aged Women's Home opened at West Lexington Street and Franklin Square, according to a history of the retirement community.

In the late 1950s, the home needed considerable repairs and was moved to Towson along with its counterpart, the Aged Men's Home. It was renamed after Pickersgill in the early 1960s.

The board at Pickersgill has traditionally been made up of women, a tradition of which Pickersgill is proud.

"The dedication of these women over the years has been phenomenal, and I feel honored to follow in their footsteps," said

Zimmerman.

"There's no reason to exclude men, but we've always had women, and they've always done a terrific job," said Fran Saybolt, chairwoman of the renovation committee. "Since 1802, there's been a little board of women, and they've kept it organized and adapted to change to make things work. We always seem to be a little bit ahead of the curve to meet the needs of the residents."

A facelift of three dining rooms and the construction of an auditorium were recently completed in phase one of the renovations. The second phase is scheduled for completion by the end of the summer.

"The residents love this. It's really an upbeat thing for them," Saybolt said.

The renovations include enlarging bathrooms in the nursing care area to allow easier accommodation of wheelchairs, tearing down wings of the assisted-living section and replacing them with larger units, and building more dining areas.

"I think the renovations that are going on are a great idea," said Mary Buzby, a resident who occasionally portrays Mary Pickersgill at events.

The renovations are the first at Pickersgill since a section of apartments was added in 1993.

"We are simply evolving to meet today's needs and desires," Brooke said. "People work hard all of their lives, and they should be able to retire with the most comfortable living arrangements and amenities available to them."

MARYLAND

Change sought in school-use gauge

BY BRENT JONES
[SUN REPORTER]

Members of the state committee that recommends funding for school construction praised yesterday a proposal that would account for community services in determining how many students a building can accommodate.

Although a vote won't be taken until April 29, committee members spoke favorably of changing the state's space calculation formula, a move that could decrease the number of schools the city school board would need to close next year.

With room for tens of thousands more students than are enrolled, the city school board is reducing its operating space by 15 percent over three years. The state has threatened to cut off money to the city for school renovations if the system does not operate more efficiently.

Any change in the calculation formula would not be made in time to factor into next week's planned city school board vote on the second of three annual rounds of closings.

David Lever, executive director of the state's public school construction program, said during yesterday's meeting that using schools for community services is a "terrific concept." Community schools provide social services to students and families in the same complex.

"It's one way to use the capital investment more efficiently," Lever said.

The proposal was submitted by City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke on behalf of community school advocates.

This school year, 27 city schools are operating as community schools. If the committee approves the proposal, the change will be voted on by the state Board of Public Works.

"We really ought to be encouraging these school uses," com-

mittee member Tim Maloney said during the meeting.

brent.jones@baltco.com

DATEBOOK

TODAY

ENERGY CHOICES // The Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland will offer a program, "Energy Conservation: Wise Choices for Using Energy," for manufacturers at 8:30 a.m. at Loyola Graduate Center, 2034 Green-spring Drive, Timonium. Tickets are \$25. 410-771-8111.

CASUAL CONCERT // Pianist Victor Goldberg will perform as part of Villa Julie College's Friday Casual Concert Series at 1 p.m. in the Inscape Theatre, 1525 Green-spring Valley Road, Stevenson. Tickets are 443-352-4481.

BLACK HISTORY // The Wood-lawn High School PTSA will be host to the Baltimore chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers at 6 p.m. at the school, 1801 Woodlawn Drive. Tickets are \$2. 443-790-2731.

BASKET BINGO // Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland presents "Chocolate Bingo!" at 7 p.m. at Rosedale Gardens, 8037 Philadelphia Road. Tickets are \$20 for 20 games. Reservations required, no tickets sold at the door. 410-558-0932.

TOMORROW

FITNESS HIKE // Marshy Point Nature Center will hold a fitness hike at 9 a.m. at the center, 7130 Marshy Point Road, Dundee and Salt-peter creeks. 410-887-2817.

BLOOD DRIVE // The Shops at Kenilworth will sponsor a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 800 Kenilworth Drive, Towson. 410-321-1909.

BIRD WALK // Cromwell Valley Park is planning a bird walk from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Willow Grove Farm, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road. 410-887-3014.

TAX HELP // The AARP offers free help with preparing income tax forms at the library beginning at 10 a.m. Saturdays through April 15 at the Arbutus library, 1581 Sulphur Spring Road. Call for an appointment. 410-887-1451.

FEBRUARY FONDUE // Boordy Vineyard offers a sampling of fondues and toasting marshmallows at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the vineyard, 12820 Long Green Pike, Hydes. The cost is \$12 for adults; \$6 for children. 410-592-5015.

HOMEMADE SYRUP // Marshy Point Nature Center offers an opportunity to make maple sugar and candy from homemade syrup at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the center, 7130 Marshy Point Road. 410-887-2817.

PANCAKE SUPPER // Salem United Methodist Church will hold a pancake supper at 4 p.m. at the church, 7509 Windsor Mill Road. The cost is \$6 for adults; \$3.50 for children ages 4-11. 410-655-4063.

BLUEGRASS BAND // The Gordon Center For Performing Arts will present the Seldom Scene bluegrass band at 8 p.m. at 3506 Gwynnbrook Ave., Owings Mills. Tickets are \$19. 410-356-SHOW.

ART EXHIBITION // Towson University's Asian Arts and Culture Center will present Japanese dance and music at 8 p.m. at the Center for the Arts, Kaplan Concert Hall, Osler and Cross Campus drives. Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$12 seniors and students; \$10 for AA&CC members; \$5 TU students with valid ID. 410-704-2787.

Events for the Baltimore County Datebook may be submitted by e-mail to baltco.calendar@baltco.com. Information should be sent at least 10 days before the event. Cancellations should be sent as soon as possible.



[a&e today]

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