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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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BHS out of control? Jan. 8 meeting to discuss issue

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the Dec. 18 workshop session of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, almost two hours was spent discussing discipline problems at Belleville High School.

Two days later on Dec. 20, as if to underscore the issue, there were five fights in the BHS cafeteria in one day, something of a record. Belleville Police took one student into custody.

On Friday, Belleville Police were called to BHS again for an out-of-control student. The School Resource Officer was at the Alternative Education facility helping to handle yet another discipline problem. Another student was taken into custody.

BHS Principal Sheila Brown is scheduled to present her plan to try to solve the problems and to voice her concerns in the next workshop session of the board, set for Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building. The meeting is open to the public.

"Wednesday was a bad day," agreed School Board member Keith Johnston. "It's a mess over there."

He said his son is in Advanced Placement at the high school and he's with good kids and doesn't have a problem. His daughter is in the general classes and has had some bad experiences.

"The culture of the high school has changed real fast," Johnston said last week. "It's the hoods in the school."

"I think we should kick 100 kids out of school if we have to," Johnston said, adding particular students are interrupting the education of the students who want to learn.

He said Principal Brown, who was new to the job in the fall semester, is working on it and is recommending changes to School Supt. Pete Lazaroff.

Johnston said the administration and teachers need to set the standards for everyone in the school and kick them

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This is a "fun" team picture taken at the conclusion of the South Middle School regular swim season. The girls' team was undefeated. The division meet is scheduled for sometime in January. In front is coach Aaron Lang.

Photo by Phil Hecksel

Trucker heading for EQ spills load in VBT

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A semi truck from Ohio with a load of industrial waste was looking for the EQ hazardous waste landfill on Dec. 20 and left a trail of sludge that tied up Van Buren Township traffic for more than 12 hours.

VBT Police Captain Greg Laurain said a truck from Hannibal, Ohio got off I-94 at Belleville Road at about 7:35 a.m. and, mistakenly, headed eastbound on the North Service Drive to Haggerty Road, where the driver turned around.

The truck continued westbound on the Service Drive, through the Belleville Road intersection again, until the driver realized something was wrong and stopped in front of the Holiday Inn Express.

The only problem, Captain Laurain said, was that the truck was leaking a substance all the way east to Haggerty in the eastbound lane and then back westbound, leaking in the westbound lane on the North Service Drive.

Captain Laurain said a motorist saw the truck leaking something and called 911.

He said Michigan State Police Motor Carrier division cited the driver for unsafe load and spillage.

Roadways were shut down and cleanup began, Captain Laurain said. The major Belleville Road / North I-94 Service Drive intersection was closed down until almost 8 p.m., causing large traffic snarls. The North Service Drive was closed down from Belleville Road east to Haggerty and from Belleville Road west to Quirk.

The westbound entrance and exit ramps from I-94 were closed at Belleville Road.

People who attempted to use Quirk and Haggerty roads to get to businesses on Belleville Road north of the closed intersection found bumper-to-bumper traffic throughout the morning, afternoon and early evening.

The Van Buren Township Fire Department was dispatched at 7:35 a.m. to a report of a semi leaking an unknown substance, said Fire Chief Mark Nicholai.

Fire personnel arrived and found a small quantity of what appeared to be a sludge-type product leaking out of the

rear of trailer on the I-94 North Service Dr. between Quirk and Belleville roads.

Additionally, it was discovered that the leak began on Belleville Road at I-94 and trailed from Belleville Road eastbound to Haggerty Road and then back westbound to just before Quirk Road.

The type of product was quickly researched and found to be industrial waste sludge that can be described as a solid filter cake material generated from a groundwater treatment process. The filter cake came from a press that solidifies the waste, Chief Nicholai said.

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EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the upcoming New Year Holiday, **ALL ADS** must be submitted by **NOON** Friday, Dec. 29. The office will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, 2007.