



September 4, 2009

Oakland County news briefs: Appeals court grants stay in school closure

COMPILED FROM REPORTS BY KORIE WILKINS, BILL LAITNER AND L.L. BRASIER

An emergency stay was granted Thursday by the Michigan Court of Appeals in the case of a closed elementary school in the Bloomfield Hills school district, according to a statement from district officials.

The district requested the stay after Oakland County Circuit Judge Michael Warren ruled last month in favor of a group of parents and residents who sued following the closure this year of Pine Lake Elementary School in West Bloomfield. The judge ruled the school should be operated only for Bloomfield Hills' students; the Board of Education voted Monday to move the district's alternative high school to Pine Lake.

Because the stay was granted, those students will no longer move to Pine Lake, according to the district.

The district leased Pine Lake to the Waterford school district, which was running a program for special needs students there. Those students will stay in Pine Lake.

The district also has filed an appeal to Warren's decision. District officials say former Pine Lake students in grades K-3 will begin school Tuesday at Lone Pine Elementary; grades 4-5 will attend West Hills Middle School.

PONTIAC: Smoke alarm giveaway at Arts, Beats & Eats

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office and the American Red Cross are to give smoke detectors away at this weekend's Arts, Beats & Eats in Pontiac.

To get a free smoke alarm, visitors to the four-day street fair should stop by the Red Cross tent, have a family member color a fire-safety picture and get Red Cross fire-safety information to go home with an alarm, sheriff's office spokeswoman Mandy Andrews said.

Detroit Red Wings forward Henrik Zetterberg donated 175 smoke detectors. The Red Cross tent is to be on Saginaw Street between East Pike and East Lawrence. The festival opens at 11 a.m. today ending at 10 p.m. through Sunday and at 8 p.m. Monday.

LATHRUP VILLAGE: Closing arguments today in Rib Rack trial

Closing arguments are expected to begin today in the trial of Deandre Sturges, 19, charged with first-degree murder in the robbery-turned-homicide of a restaurant manager in Lathrup Village last

October.

The arguments come after a week of trial, in which Assistant Prosecutor Rob Novy argued that Sturges of Beverly Hills joined Jerome Hamilton, then 15, and Brandon Davis, 20, in a plan to rob Catherine Blain, 21, the night manager of the Rib Rack restaurant on Oct. 15.

Blain was shot as she tried to flee the parking lot. Sturges, in a taped interrogation, admitted that he drove the car that night, but denied planning a robbery or murder.
