

Construction crew finds missing janitor during BHS pool excavation

Chase Braidwood
Photo Editor

Brighton High School has been upgrading the school since the school year of 2013-2014. Ever since the construction has started they have been finding weird things buried in the ground where the pool is going. Items such as old sports trophies, empty old pop cans and a couple of dead, withered away possums. But on April 1st they found something out of the ordinary.

The construction crew found a barrel with what appeared to be a dead body inside. According to the authorities the body was identified as that of Edith Smith, an old janitor, who "retired" back in 1984. What some of the people who knew her said was she actually wasn't going to retire but they heard she was afraid of something, which scared her into retirement.

"Authorities believe that what may have scared her into retirement may have been what killed her and put her into the barrel," Brick Tobro said.

"Brighton City Police department will be interviewing every janitor and staff member who have been staying after school since construction has started and will be checking all the security cameras that are near the construction sight," teacher Janice Maxey said.

The police have had their work cut out for them during this cold case. With the digging of the pool, it was

like opening up an old wound, but now the families of Smith may actually be able to get some closure with the 30-year old case.

"Parents have actually been emailing me wondering what is going on and when will the police find out who killed this kind lady," teacher Jeffery Beane said.

Finally a janitor who was on vacation has stepped forward to lend a hand, perhaps hoping to clear a guilty conscience. Phyllis Dort, the janitor on vacation, showed up and was puzzled with what happened, but seemed to know too much about the case. When police questioned her on if she disliked Edith she started to cry.

She said that she and Edith liked to play tricks on each other and try to scare each other all the time.

"One time Edith hid in the girls locker room and then ran out and scared me while she was mopping," Dort said.

When the police asked her how Smith would have ended up in the barrel with the lid on and then underneath the pool she broke down and told the truth.

"She made me do all the hard work," Dort said.

Dort said she told Smith to get into the barrel as part of an April Fool's Day trick she wanted to play on the other janitors. Smith got into the barrel and Phyllis locked the lid down and rolled her outside and then buried her. Officer Meldrum arrested Dort and took her to jail.

Leith Lake to be used as new Brighton High School pool after unexpected set back

Emily Harrington
Feature Editor

Up until April, the new pool's renovations have gone quickly and smoothly, but now construction faces a major set back. A construction truck was not set in park and ended up driving into the pool, cracking the concrete that formed the basin, setting back construction for months.

The situation of getting the truck out of the pool is still being contemplated. Several workers have tried driving the truck out of

the pool, only to find they have hit the side and cracked more of the basing.

"It's a shame that the basing got hit, but we have a solution for where students can swim. Leith Lake will open up as the new pool next school year," Principal Henry Vecchioni said.

On April 17, Leith Lake was announced to be used as the new pool for next year until further notice on the actual pool's construction. Brighton High students will use the lake for both gym class and swim meets.

"It's advised to wear full body suits when swimming in the lake, it's not the cleanest place around," Vecchioni said.

The only renovation Leith Lake will have is a swim platform with a diving board placed in the center. The lakes pH levels were at a five when tested and have been confirmed that the lake is safe to swim in, but it is highly advised not to drink. If consumed, the water may cause Mucous Membrane Irritation.

If the lake water is consumed it can lead to neurological and

reproductive problems, such as seizures and hearing loss. This is due to the high amounts of lead in the lake.

Overexposure to the water may cause nausea and vomiting due to the high Zinc and Copper levels in the water. The school will send out a schedule for how many times a week one can swim in the lake without the experiencing these symptoms. Students will also be given a punch card, for every time they swim in the pool to keep track of their exposure to the water.

Construction for the actual pool

will resume once the truck is removed and the basin is redone. The matter for how to get the truck out of the pool is still in question, and will be the top priority until removed.

"Due to what happened, our actual pool won't be finished until long after I'm retired, which won't happen for a while," Vecchioni said. Many people are disappointed that the new pool won't be built any time soon, especially because of the parking issues.

Students should be excited about swimming in Leith Lake because

BHS Times closes its doors to readers

Carson Campbell
Sports Editor

In 2015 the classes will look a little different due to the closing of the school newspaper, the BHS Times. They are shutting down due to lack of funds and the lack of interest in the actual paper. They did not have enough sponsors to sustain the printing of the paper. The teacher of the class, Todd Day, made the decision to shut down the paper and it was the hardest thing to do in his life. Day is ex-military who

served in Vietnam from 1968-1970. "Vietnam was tough but this is the hardest thing I've ever had to do. My heart is broken. My life is now incomplete," Day said.

Day started heading the newspaper in the school year 2004-2005. He had been wanting to live his dream of heading the newspaper class ever since he was a little boy playing catch with his dad. Day has a passion for writing and he felt the newspaper would fulfill those ambitions.

Next year will be a different story

as the class will be shutting down for good. The interest of the school paper has gone down exponentially over the years as the articles got worse and worse. Day's heart could not take it anymore so he arrived at the decision to close the paper's doors.

"The kids just don't care anymore. It makes me cry a bit to see this happen to a great paper like the BHS Times. Its the real love of my life and these kids took it away from me," TeDay said.

The question that remains is will

people miss the BHS Times? While some people enjoy reading the newspaper most people just don't have the time to read the paper. It is only a monthly paper and some people just don't care about reading it anymore.

"I won't miss the paper. I barely even knew it was a thing," Senior AJ Anderson said.

While AJ gives a blunt description of the newspapers relevance it will be missed as a way to get the students ideas and views out into the real world. Some people actually

did enjoy reading it.

"I read it when I got really bored in class. I mean like super bored. Other than that I didn't really read it," Senior Corey Richardson said.

This passion for the paper really reflects the impact of people without it. What are people going to do when the paper finally closes its doors? People will never enjoy the great writing that were featured in the BHS Times. At this time there is no funding to bring back the BHS Times to continue in the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.



Several articles that do not make it into *The BHS Times* are online at *The Brighton Patch*.

Follow at patch.com/michigan/brighton

(This is not a joke!)



Photo by Shane Hillier

New mandatory drug testing for all Brighton High School students

Tim Mason
Staff Reporter

Starting next year, there are going to be a lot of big changes around Brighton High School. These changes could have a lot of positive potential, whether its bringing in more students here or getting the old ones to change. Mandatory drug testing will take BHS to a whole new level in academics and athletics.

There are going to be drug test for all students and faculty every month. Many students many not think its a good idea because of the constitution. Many parents are going to be fighting this too, and do have a choice to change schools if necessary.

Senior Austin Cook felt differently about the drug testing.

"I have gone here for three full years and I have never heard of a school that did that before. I think its really stupid that they are testing everyone here just to go to school, but then again I am a senior so, do I really care what's going to happen to the people who fail next year?" Cook said

This isn't the first time where schools have done mandatory drug testing for the students. The first few times it happened were in the 1980's in New York.

The testing was extremely successful during the first year, but after that then they had problems with kids bringing in fake urine

and kids getting water poisoning because they were drinking way too much water to flush out all the toxins in their bodies. The second year at the school they had four different water poisoning deaths and over 30 people arrested for the possession of fake urine and charged with fraud. After the deaths, Mayor Wilson of New York made the school change their policy and they went back to only mandatory testing for athletes.

"I don't really care that they are drug testing, I don't do drugs, but I think next year is going to be a lot funnier when all the kids around me are dropping off like flies," junior Evan Cameron said.

Whether one thinks it's right for the city of Brighton to drug test students to go to their school, or it's a good idea that they are finally cracking down on drug use among teenagers, it's going to be a good test to really see what the school system here at Brighton can do when everyone is off drugs and focusing on grades to help their future.

All seniors are going to be having a laugh when they hear that their little brother or little sister and suspended for failing one of the mandatory drug test.

The testing is a dramatic part of how students really want BHS to be in the future. Many are hoping this will carry far into the future for the school's reputation.

Illegal chemicals hidden beneath BHS parking lot

Alison Fiorini
Staff Reporter

Seniors Austin Neumeyer and Jennica Long discovered an underground experimentation laboratory under the staff parking lot on April 23rd. Students are punished and urged to avoid parking in staff lot, but no one quite knew why until Thursday when Long hit a pothole in the asphalt and fell, car and all, into the lab. Neumeyer happened to be driving behind Long at the time and rushed to help.

The two were more stunned that the ground collapsed under them

than the secret headquarters under the parking lot. When the two got their bearings it was a surprise to see the slick tile floors and the men and women in white lab coats staring.

"I didn't know what was going on. I almost completely forgot about my car because I should not have fell through the ground," Long said.

Brighton High School is holding imported chemicals, illegal elements and high levels of nitrogen in the lab. Administrators refused to give any information on the secret "classroom" and are contacting the attorney who will be defending them incase Long decides to press charges along with the Brighton

community who was kept in the dark about the lab.

Last year the Brighton Area Schools passed an 88 million dollar technology bond that was going to be used for retouching the school and providing brand new sports facilities for the community. There has been skepticism about the bond.

"My mom was freaking out. Where are her tax dollars actually going? If it's to support this secret room for the district then she is going to be angry to say the least. Hopefully she doesn't press charges," Long said.

Long's car was recovered from the hole and staff lot is now blocked

off for everyone including the administrators until the ceiling of the lab is fixed.

"The teachers brought this on themselves. Telling students to not park in staff lot is just going to make them want to do it more. I guess there was a reason for it even though none of us knew that there was a weight limit for the lot," Neumeyer said.

The student body is outraged by the lot. If this was a secret, what other secrets are being kept by administration?

An anonymous staff member in the lab leaked to The Paw that in the most recent years a group of

educators discovered a higher level of learning with the use of rare elements and illegal chemicals. The lab was meant to perfect the lessons before being introduced to the student body.

Professionals were brought underground to keep any harsh smells or toxic fumes away from the student body.

Faculty members refuse to be interviewed until after they discuss with the head of the experimental workshop what should be shared with the community.

As of April 23rd, the lab has been shut down and no further testing will occur under staff lot.

Gas leaks deadly poison into BHS school water

Emmerson Marlatt
Staff Reporter

Due to the recent development of Brighton High School's new swimming pool, a lot of construction has been happening around the school. However, not everything about the new pool is positive, and there is one thing in particular.

A gas leak has caused unhealthy levels of certain toxins in the school's drinking water. Not much about these toxins is known, besides the high levels of carcinogens the

gases are carrying. This makes the toxins potentially deadly and an immediate danger to all the students and faculty at the school.

"I think it will be a good to weed out some of the stupid people," senior Nate Wasylk said.

Many, including the School Board are very concerned about the potential disaster surrounding the student at Brighton High School. They are currently looking into hiring professionals to take care of the issue, but with so little information about the toxin it is difficult to make a decision.

"I just drank from the school drinking fountain five minutes ago, it tasted extremely similar to a Mountain Dew Kickstart," junior Kristin Barcenias said.

The Mountain Dew flavor definitely seems to be a sign that something has indeed changed in the water. After all, Mountain Dew is one of the most popular drinks. Many of the administrators are very concerned that the enhanced Mountain Dew flavor will actually attract students to the unsafe water.

"I know it's potentially life threatening, but I just can not

stop to take a drink of water in the hallways, people begin to wonder what else is not safe. Many of the school's adults are attempting to calm the students out of their current state of Mountain Dew paranoia.

No group of young adults has ever been tested like this in the past, and many are skeptical as to whether or not the BHS population will be able to resist the sacred temptation of the Dew. One can only hope that the entire group of consulted experts can resolve the issue before it is too late.

Watch out for the new issue of Brighton High School's literary magazine *Taurus Canis* coming out at the end of May!