

curve, went off the road and struck a telephone pole. Holland was pronounced dead at Anne Arundel Medical Center.

BALTIMORE FEDERAL COURT

Drug dealer gets 10-year sentence

A federal judge in Baltimore sentenced a city drug dealer yesterday to 10 years in prison as part of a case in which one of the area's most violent repeat offenders was apprehended.

U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett imposed the prison term on Michael Wise, 36, followed by five years of supervised release for distribution and possession with intent to distribute cocaine base.

As in a similar case Wednesday involving an often-charged but rarely convicted drug boss, the judge increased Wise's sentence upon finding that he is a career offender based on two prior state convictions for drug felonies.

According to court papers filed at his guilty plea, Wise was a lieutenant in a drug organization, led by one of Baltimore's most violent repeat offenders, Maurice Mouzon, that distributed large quantities of cocaine and crack cocaine, principally

HONORING JURORS

Retired Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan reads a program for Juror Appreciation Day at the Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. Courthouse in Baltimore. Kaplan was among the first to arrive for the event yesterday.

in the Westport area of Baltimore.

Mouzon, 27, of Cherry Hill was sentenced Wednesday to more than 20 years in prison for possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

[MATTHEW DOLAN]

HEALTH

Lead-tainted jewelry again found in city

Lead-tainted jewelry that was part of a national recall two years ago has been found again in the city, Baltimore health officials announced yesterday, prompting a second recall of the items.

The three rings, which have designs of small dice and horseshoes and were being sold in city vending machines, had about 5 percent lead by weight, about 100 times the limit for

lead in paint, according to the city Health Department.

After city health officials spotted the rings March 27 and tested them, they ordered the items off the market.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission then investigated and found that the rings had been recalled in July 2004 as part of a recall of 150 million pieces of children's metal jewelry. A second recall was announced this week by the commission, city health officials said.

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, the city's health commissioner, said yesterday that the discovery of the recalled rings being for sale again raises questions about federal enforcement.

Also yesterday, city health officials announced the recall of a turquoise ring sold at the Bi-Rite Grocery store on Belair Road,

ANNE ARUNDEL MAYO

Resident killed in morning fire

An elderly resident of a two-story house in southern Anne Arundel County was killed in an early-morning fire yesterday, a fire official said.

Neighbors in the 3900 block of Germantown Road in Mayo called 911 after 1 a.m. to report the blaze at the home on Bear Neck Creek, across from the YMCA Camp Letts.

Lt. Shawn Jones, a county fire department spokesman, said firefighters found the home engulfed in flames.

Jones said the medical examiner's office had not identified the victim, but property records indicate that the home is owned by Helen Parris.

The cause of the fire is being investigated.

[GUS SENTEMENTES]

Parents, officials discuss school safety plans

BY BRENT JONES
SUN REPORTER

A semester-long class concentrated on conflict resolution. An in-school room to send disruptive kids, staffed by a police officer. Requiring students to address administrators as "ma'am" or "sir."

About 50 parents and community leaders offered those and other suggestions last night to Baltimore school officials, who are completing a systemwide safety plan.

The safety plan was written in response to a requirement handed down last summer by the Maryland State Department of Education. It focuses on parent and community involvement to help formulate policies in discipline and suspension intervention.

Schools officials have held two forums this week and say they

will incorporate information from parents garnered during the work sessions into the plan's final version. Another forum is scheduled for the middle of next month.

Last night, attendees were split into four work groups, each focused on one of four topics: curriculum, youth development, school/family engagement, and discipline and suspensions. The latter is an issue that participant Lamont White said has affected his household.

White said he has a 21-year-old son who, at age 16, was frequently suspended from school. He said he now has two fourth-graders and wants to avoid the problems he faced with his son. White advocated for a class dedicated to teaching conflict resolution.

"I want to see more structure, more discipline, more so than easy suspensions," White said. "Why would you suspend a kid

three days for cutting class? There has to be a plan in place and help for parents."

White and about a dozen others, including two school police officers and three students, attempted to come up with suggestions for correcting behavior during their one-hour session on the topic.

Amy Neill, president of the PTA at Woodhome Elementary School and the mother of a seventh-grader, recommended in-school suspensions rather than sending students home.

"The easiest solution is to have a suspension room inside the school," Neill said. "The idea is not to just punish children, but let the village raise the child."

Neill said discipline starts in the classroom and with interaction between teachers and students. She said she would like one school in the system require that children address teachers and administrators as "ma'am and sir"

to increase respect.

"And it goes both ways," Neill said. "Teachers shouldn't be allowed to say whatever they want to kids."

The system's safety plan calls for reducing suspensions, expulsions, arrests and truancy by focusing on initiatives to prevent violence.

System officials — who included \$700,000 for in-school suspension plans in middle schools in next year's budget — said they want to get away from a zero-tolerance policy that requires automatic suspension or expulsion for fighting in school.

The budget for the next school year contains an additional \$1 million for more school police officers and \$1.8 million for more hall monitors. It also allocates \$300,000 to implement and coordinate efforts outlined in the safety plan.

brent.jones@baltsun.com

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