## Medical examiner refused alcohol test

Ousted medical examiner Bill G. Brooks declined to take a breath test after the prosecution decided he appeared intoxicated and unable to testify in the preliminary examination of two teenagers accused of killing a Rochester Hills couple, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

ing to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. But Brooks seemed sober and fully capable of testifying, according to Deputy County Executive Patrick M. Nowak. "He appeared normal. If I hadn't

Nowak.
"He appeared normal. If I hadn't been told he had been drinking, I never would have guessel," said Nowak, who said he talked with Prooks with 90 minutes of receiving a complaint the medical examiner was in a "drunken stupor." Regardless of whether or not prook was intoxicated, his resignation was accepted Monday, Nowak said.

tion was accepted annual said.

"He admitted having two martinis at home for lunch," Nowak said. "He may or may not have been drunk, but there's no question that his conduct was inappropriate."

BROOKS WAS scheduled to testi-ty in Pontiae District Court on Tues-day, Nov. 21, at the preliminary ex-amination of Bruce C. Michaels, 16, and Joseph A. Passeno, 17, accused

in the Nov. 8 kidnapping and murder of Wanda and Glenn Tarr. His appearance was rescheduled to the following day, and he testified the Tarrs cach died from multiple gunshets fired from .22- and .25-cal-leter pistols fired almost simulta-neously.

neously.

That conflicts directly with the argument put forth by Howard S. Arnkoff, Passeno's lawyer, who said at the examination that his client fired at the bodies of victims only after Michaels had already killed the

after Michaels had aircady killed the Tarrs.

Arnkoff said Michaels insisted his client shoot the bodies so both would have the same amount of guilt, thus reducing the chance of either becom-ing a prosecution witness against the other.

Arnkoff was quoted in a newspa-per as saying the bodies of the Tarrs should be exhumed because disclo-sures of Brooks' drinking raised questions about the autopsies he per-formed and the conclusions he reached.

Arnkoff was not available to con-firm the accuracy of the newspaper

account.
Chief assistant Oakland County
Prosecutor Gerald D. Poisson Tuesday said he is aware of Arnkoff's
complaints, but declined to comment. He said no formal request has
been made to review evidence in the

Tarr murders, including Brooks au-topoies.

Poisson contacted the office of County Executive Danlel T. Murphy about 2:30 p.m. on the day Brooks was originally scheduled to testify in district court, according to Nowak.

"POISSON SAID Brooks was in a drunken stupor, unable to testify," Nowak said. "Re said the assistant prosecutor (Pumela Maas) was shuf-incosecutor (Pumela Maas) was shuf-incosecutor (Pumela Maas) was shuf-incosecutor (Pumela Maas) was shuf-incosecutor (Pumela Maas). Brooks wouldn't have to appear. Nowak said to entire the student of the said of the sai

complaint.

"His speech was clear," said
Nowak. "He seemed perfectly sober.
I don't know what he was like at 2:30
mm, but he seemed OK then.
Oakland County Undersheriff BilJ. Nollin said deputies initially inticed that Brooks appeared to have
been drinking and advised the prosecution.

"I didn't personally see Dr. Brooks," Nolin sald, "But deputies told me his speech was slurred and his eyes were red.
"They offered him a PBT (portable breath test), but he wouldn't take it," Nolin said.

The undersheriff said deputies drove the medical examiner back to the county complex because they didn't want him to drive.

'He (Dr. Brooks) appeared normal. If I hadn't been told he had been drinking, I never would have guessed."

- Patrick M. Nowak deputy county executive

MURPHY PREVIOUSLY counscled Brooks about his alcohol consumption, Nowak said. "I don't know if he was warned, but he should have known better than to drink before a court appearance," Nowak said. "It was inappropriate behavier."

Asked if Brooks had any alternative besides resigning, Nowak said, "I can't answer that."

The medical examiner is an inde-

pendent employee working under a \$105,317 per year contract, accord-ing to Locey. While the contract is scheduled for While the contract is scheduled for, review and renewal every year, the, county maintains the option of unlilaterally canceling the agreement if the conduct of the medical examiner "does damage to the reputation of the office or the work be (or she) is expected to perform," Locey said.

.deputy to fill vacant post

A 35-year-old physician has been named to replace Oakland County Medical Examiner Bill G. Brooks who resigned earlier this week. Lynda M. Biedrzycki has been named acting nedical examiner by County Executive Daniel T. Murphy who is expected to nominate her for full-time appointment to the post-

Biedrzycki's nomination today at its regular meeting, although it will not likely review and vote on her nomi-nation until next month.

Commissioners must confirm her nomination for the \$105,317 per year

normation to the years post.

Biedrzycki, a 1980 graduate of the Medical College of Wisconstin in Milwaukee, has been with the medical examiner's office since 1985 and has been chief deputy medical examiner since 1986.

did her internship in Chicago hospi-tals with the University of Illinois and has been a resident physician at Milwaukce and San Diego hospitals. She was with the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office in 1984 and 1985.

BIEDRZYCKI REPLACES Brooks who resigned Monday amid accusations he was intoxicated when scheduled to testify last week at the preliminary examination of two teenagers charged in the Nov. 9 kill-

ings of Wanda and Glenn Tarr of Rechester Hills.
Biedrycki declined to comment
about Brooks or the conditions under
which she takes over the post.
Brooks has been unavailable for
comment, although he did testifyTuesday at the trial of Robert M.
Brooks has accused of mortering
Terry Farrell of Rochester Hills on
April 14.
Brooks reportedly declined to
comment on his resignation as medical examiner.

## County eyes turnabout in landfill plans

Officials will be switching one set of headaches for another if they abandon plans for a county-owned landfill in favor of expanded, privately operated facilities, according to comments made to Cakland County-owned landfill in favor of expanded, privately operated facilities, according to comments made to Cakland County-owned to the comments of the county-owned facilities and the county-owned facilities and the county-owned facilities and the county-owned facilities were not a dozen or so people who addressed commissioners at a meeting of the finance committee Tuesday. Although landfills were not on the agenda, Ryan and others were emphatic in their opposition to expanding existing landfills. The possibility of Cakland County-bandoning plans for a \$200 million landfill came up last week when Roy Rewold, chairman of the board of commissioners, circulated a letter saying additional work on a county-owned landfill would be put on hold for about 90 days.

THE LANDFILL was to be a ma-

THE LANDFILL was to be a major part of the county's \$470 million program for dealing with municipal solid waste into the 21st Century. Along with an incinerator, a materials recovery feelilty (MHF) and recycling efforts, the plan was to had leavest through the year 2020. But plans for the landfill have also generated the most opposition, particularly among the townships considered as the most likely sites. Addison and Oxford townships, for example, last month approved higher taxes to raise money for a legal defense fund to light any landfill within their boundaries.

Oxford, Addison and Highland

boundaries.

Oxford, Addison and Highland have five of the top sites proposed for the landill.

Revold's letter didn't say Oxkland is definitely abandoning plans for the landfill. It said, however, the landfill, along with expanded private facilities, "would place the county in the existing of along the said said.

facilities, "would place the county in the position of simply having too much landfill capacity.

"We will be discussing this matter with the private sector owners, re-viewing the countywide needs...and considering all options," Rewold

said.

Roger T. Smith, director of the county's solid waste division, explained the county is simply exploring the possibility of placing waste

this matter with the private sector owners, reviewing countywide needs...and considering all options.'

— Roy Rewold. Chairman, Oakland County Board of Commissioners

in private landfills rather than build-ing its own landfill.

Three private landfills are in the Three private landfills are in the process of expanding or seeking permits to expand. They are the Holly Disposal in Holly Township, the Marlowe landfill in Rose Township and the Eagle Valley landfill in Orion Township.

ABANDONING THE landfill would also mean the county would not need the services of Rogers, Golden & Halpern, the Philadelphia-based consultant company the county has already agreed to pay \$500,000.

While commissioners are evaluating their options, they received a word of caution from John King, a Bloomfield Township resident who frequently criticizes government policies.

olicies.

"Don't think you're getting rid of your problems by abandoning plans for a public landfill," sald King. Some people will be relieved, he said, because they won't get a landfill in their back yards.

But other residents — where existing landfills must be expanded to accommodate county waste — will be upset, he said.

"You'll be trading one set of enemies for another," King cautioned.
Another Orion Township resident, Sandra Dyl, sald she and her neigh-bors will likely oppose expansion of the Eagle Valley landfill, much like Orford and Addison township residents fought the proposed landfill.

"It worked for them and it might work for us," she said. "We'll have to do whatever it takes to keep that landfill from expanding."

## Holocaust survivor to speak at center

Dr. Leon Bass, a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council Education Committee and a witness to the liberation of Buchenwald, will speak at 7.30 pm. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Jewish Community Center, 6500 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield.

Bass' talk, "Is the Price Too High?," is sponsored by the Holo-caust Memorial Center.

Caust Memorias Center.

Bass was with the 183rd Engineers Combat Batallion near the end of World War II and was present when the Buchenwald concentration camp was liberated. After the war,

be obtained master's and doctoral degrees from Temple University. Base has lectured at numerous universities in the United States and Canada and was a delegate to the International Liberators Conference in Washington, D.C.

He has been cited for his educational efforts by numerous organizations, including the Jewish Welfare Federation of San Francisco, Brail Brith and the American Jewish Congress.

