

WEST LIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢



Western follies



North Olmsted High School students performed "The Will Rogers Follies" last weekend at the high school. Left: Will's father Clem Rogers (Dexter Brooks) holds baby Will and is joined by Will's "six single sisters" (clockwise from left): Julie Bonfempe as Theda, Mary Bridges as Zulecki, Kelly Angle as Anna, Amie Draper as Waite, Erin Ryan as Virginia and Megan Marie Hillman as Cora. Above: Will (Matthew Juergemeister) shows off his skills with a lasso. (West Life photos by Larry Bennet)

Recreation legislation expected in May

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

City officials expect to have more answers for residents and themselves in May on a proposed new \$18 million recreation center for the city.

Mayor Thomas O'Grady last Thursday told another large audience at a council recreation, buildings and facilities committee meeting discussing

the administration's proposed recreation master plan for North Olmsted that he will be presenting council with legislation for the proposal in May. The plans were among many items discussed as many city residents in the crowd of more than 100 people again showed their displeasure with the current proposal. Much of the anger again focused on having the YMCA run the proposed new center and deleting an ice rink from the proposal.

O'Grady said later he realized the time frame is tight if the city wants to get a proposal on the November ballot for a one-eighth percent income tax to fund the city portion of the new facility. He said he expects to have negotiations concluded with the YMCA for running the facility as well as providing its \$5 million portion of the facility. He also said work should be concluded with Fairview Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic for being partners in the agreement.

"We know that we have to keep it moving," O'Grady said. "We will have legislation ready for council to consider in May. This would allow three readings in council without suspension in time for it to be submitted for the ballot."

To go on the November ballot, any legislation must be given to and approved by the Cuyahoga County

See **REC PLAN**, p. 19

District's bond rating upgraded

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

Just a year-and-a-half ago, the Board of Education voted to cut all extracurricular activities if an operating levy did not get voters' approval.

The November 2006 levy passed, and high school sports and students clubs were saved.

Now comes word that two key financial analysis companies have upgraded

the district's credit rating.

Without solicitation from the district, representatives from Moody's Bond Rating and from Wachovia Securities approached the district about upgrading its bond rating from A3 to A2.

Treasurer Ryan Ghizzoni said the upgrade shows just how far the district has come in establishing its financial health.

"This increase in bond rating clearly demonstrates what the board of educa-

tion and superintendent have been communicating to Fairview Park residents — that for the first time in years, the district has continual financial stability for years to come," Ghizzoni said. The A2 rating reflects the district's moderately growing and medium-sized tax base, stable financial position evidenced by the district's healthy general fund balances and above-average debt

See **CREDIT**, p. 19

Term lengths will not go to ballot

By Ben Saylor

ROCKY RIVER

The Charter Review Commission will not place amendments changing the term limits of elected officials on the ballot, according to a vote taken by commission members at the body's April 17 meeting.

Commission members John Urban,

Laurence Snyder and Larry Rodgers were not present for the vote, but the six members present voted unanimously to not place these items on the group's ballot list.

"We decided not to do it because I think primarily six years ago we tried to do it and it was defeated by a sizable margin," Bartolozzi said. The Charter Review Commission that convened in

2002 put amendments on the ballot that would have extended the terms for law director, mayor and City Council members from two years to four. For mayor, the amendment was defeated by a total of 5,253 votes against to 2,715 for; for City Council, the tally was 5,746 against and 2,072 in support, and for

See **REVIEW**, p. 16

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