

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY *Since 1932*

Vol. 75, No. 41 October 11 — October 17, 2007

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

## Republicans Not Warming to Slots Bill, Special Session

By **KATE PRAHLAD**  
*Capital News Service*

**ANNAPOLIS** - Maryland Senate Republicans said they will not support a slot-machines bill if it comes up in a special session, saying such a session aims to push through an “unnecessary” and “massive tax increase” on Marylanders.

Lawmakers need time to fully analyze the extent of Gov. Martin O'Malley's proposals, said Senate Minority Leader David Brinkley, something that is not provided in a special session.

“We want to get the package in front of us and deal with it in a regular session,” said Brinkley, a Carroll County Republican, standing outside the State House. “There's enough time to wait.”

The senators' announcement came one day after House Republicans said they would not support a slots bill until O'Malley puts state spending in check.

The GOP holds only 37 of the 141 seats in the House and 14 of the 47 Senate seats, but Republicans said they were expecting support from conservative Democrats would strengthen their opposition to slots.

Spokesmen for the governor did

**See REPUBLICANS, Page A7**

## Elderly Care in Jeopardy

### Maryland Shorted \$49 Million in Medicaid Reimbursements

By **MICHAEL WALSH**  
*Capital News Service*

**WASHINGTON** - Maryland was shortchanged \$49.8 million for nursing home care by Medicaid in 2007, according to a report released by the American Health Care Association. Actual care in Maryland nursing homes costs on average \$8.88 more than Medicaid pays per patient, per day, resulting in the shortfall in 2007.

By comparison, Illinois loses the most money in nursing home care, dropping \$526.2 million in 2007, \$30.21 per patient, per day.

Nationally, the nursing home shortages totaled \$4.4 billion in 2007, down from the \$4.6 billion states were forced to make up in 2005. The gap between cost and reimbursement in Maryland has dropped 4 cents since 2005, according to the report.

The disparity has some

politicians warning of Medicaid's end. “If you don't pay for something, it will disappear,” said Rep. Steve Kagen, D-Wis., at a press briefing.

David Hebert, vice president of government relations for AHCA, said Medicaid operates at an inherent shortfall, which could result in a lack of care providers. “Long-term care operates with a 2.5-negative margin,” Hebert said. “That could affect the ability to hire quality staff.”

Georgia was the only state that profited from Medicaid reimbursement in 2007, making \$1.41 per patient per day.

Maryland has taken steps to narrow the gap, passing a law designed to tax larger nursing homes and help the state cover the Medicaid money shortage.

The law requires nursing homes with more than 45 beds to pay 2 percent of their total

**See ELDERLY, Page A7**

## Stream Health Tested at Watkins Regional Park



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN WALD

The surveyors are, left to right, Kerl Hellmann, Andrew Becker, Michael Depow, Jay Gerber, Patrick Ciccotto and Michael Kashiwagi.

By **KENNETH R. FLETCHER**  
*Capital News Service*

**UPPER MARLBORO** - The line of six men swept small metal hoops through the murky waters of Western Branch, sending an electric current from beeping packs on their backs across the stream.

A twitching, snakelike brook lamprey

floated to the surface and was quickly scooped up in a net and dropped into a bucket, where it would swim around unharmed before being released.

The brook lamprey is a rare species, precisely what the fish-shocking biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources were looking for in Watkins Regional Park.

### Streams List

#### *The Top 10 Stronghold Watersheds in Maryland*

The following streams are ranked in order of biodiversity

1. Zekiah Swamp (Charles)
2. Casselman River (Garrett)
3. Deer Creek (Harford and Baltimore)
4. Youghiogheny River (Garrett)
5. Corsica River (Queen Anne's)
6. Upper Chester River (Kent and Queen Anne's)
7. Rocky Gorge Dam (Howard and Montgomery)
8. Western Branch (Prince George's)
9. Potomac River (Montgomery and Frederick)
10. Tuckahoe Creek (Talbot, Caroline, and Queen Anne's)

*Capital News Service. Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources stream surveys taken from 2000 to 2004.*

Each year, the biologists fan out to 250 stream sites around Maryland to count the aquatic life that indicate stream quality. The data is used to make recommendations to local governments on watersheds that the biologists say are critical to the well-being of the Chesapeake Bay.

**See STREAM, Page A7**

## Mikulski Takes Stand For First Responders' Right To Fair Wages, Working Conditions

*COURTESY SEN. MIKULSKI'S OFFICE*

**WASHINGTON** - Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) has joined other senators in co-sponsoring legislation to guarantee collective-bargaining rights for public safety officers. The Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act provides basic fairness for our first responders, while at the same time promoting public safety.

“The federal government has a responsibility to protect our protectors. If you are willing to put your life on the line every day, you should know the government



*“If you are willing to put your life on the line every day, you should know the government stands behind your rights on the job.”*

**Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.)**

stands behind your rights on the job,” said Mikulski. “This bill stands up for our first responders.”

The act gives first responders and public safety officers the

right to bargain over wages, hours and working conditions, and would ensure these rights are can be enforced in state court. It also provides a dispute resolution mechanism for labor-manage-

ment conflicts to prevent strikes and lockouts.

The bill establishes the same rights to collective bargaining already enjoyed by most private sector workers and by public safety officers in 29 states and the District of Columbia.

The legislation would only affect the 21 states that don't already provide their public safety officers with the right to bargain collectively.

These states can also choose to establish their own collective bargaining systems and may ask for guidance from the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

## BRAC Officials Stress Imporance of Providing House Hunting Assistance

By **DAN LAMOTHE**  
*Capital News Service*

**ANNAPOLIS** - Even with the already-record use of its mortgage assistance programs, Maryland must continue to promote its ability to keep homes affordable as flocks of families

move to the state to work on expanding military installations, the state's housing secretary said.

Raymond A. Skinner, secretary of housing and community development, said the programs are vital to insure newcomers can afford homes as

demand for them increases. Struggles in the sub-prime mortgage market prompted homeowners to seek a state-record 3,900 mortgages totaling \$750 million in fiscal 2007, more than double any year before, he said.

“We had a record year (last

year), and we're looking to do more in the future,” he said. “Our task is to get the word out, and I think once we do that, they'll come running.”

The comments came during a presentation to

**See BRAC, Page A7**

### *Improved Services for Nearly 70,000 Children Top Goal*

## MD Child Providers Vote To Form Union

*Courtesy SEIU*

**BALTIMORE** - Nearly 6,000 home-based child care providers across Maryland now have a united voice for their profession, after voting in a statewide election to form their union with SEIU Kids First.

Ballots were last week by the American Arbitration Association and results announced this morning. Providers voted to join together in SEIU Kids First by more than 75 percent.

“This is an exciting day for family child care providers and the kids and parents who depend on us,” said Madie Green, a provider in District Heights for more than 25 years. “Now we have the strong voice we need to stand up for affordable, quality child care in Maryland.”

The nearly 6,000 providers receive part of their pay from the state, through the Department of Education's “Purchase of Care” program, which helps parents afford child care so they can work and support

their families. But the rates at which providers are reimbursed are so low, and payments so unreliable, that many cannot afford to stay in the profession. Since 1994, Maryland communities have lost nearly 3,000 licensed family child care providers.

“Parents trust child care providers every day to do what's right for our kids,” said Donya Paul, a mother from Wheaton who uses family child care. “With a united

**See KIDS FIRST, Page A7**

## INSIDE



PHOTO FEDERAL REALTY INVESTMENT TRUST

### BUSINESS

#### **Bowie's Free State Re-Opens**

Bowie High School Marching Band kicks off the festivities for the community and neighbors.

A5

### COMMUNITY

#### **Foulois Enhances Learning**

Morningside elementary school to host Renaissance Program groundbreaking aimed at making students well-rounded in many areas of study.

A3

### OUT ON THE TOWN

#### **‘Elah’ Anxiety on Film**

Follow actor Tommy Lee Jones as he walks through a father's nightmare.

A6

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## Clinton Conversations

By **NORMA FAZENBAKER**  
*301.579.6116*

For all students – it is not too late to enter the Veterans of Foreign Wars Essay Contest. They are due November 1. Patriot’s Pen Contest with theme “Why I Am An American Patriot” is a youth essay writing contest. Write a 300-400 word essay based on the above theme. Submit required entry form, along with the essay. Voice of Democracy Contest theme is “My Role in Honoring America’s Veterans”, which is an annual audio essay competition. Write and record a three-to-five minute audio/essay expressing your view of this year’s theme, as above. Contestants will be judged on the originality, content and delivery of their speech and how well it relates to the theme. Submit entry form, written essay, and audio. Contestants will win prizes and scholarships at various levels.

Submit entries to J. Paul Duke, Jr., Memorial Post #9376, 9600 Brandywine Road,

Clinton, MD, 20735.

For information, call Linda at 301-372-8755, 816-968-1117, or email to <http://www.vfw.org>.

Chapman State Park’s next Open House will be October 14 from noon to 5pm. Events will include a concert by the Children’s Irish Jam Session at 1pm, followed at 2pm with a talk by Elmer Biles on the history and architecture of Mount Aventine, ca. 1840. At 3pm, the Port Tobacco Playhouse Encore Kids will give two short plays. Nature walks start at 12:15 and 4pm.

For more information, call 301-753-6754 or go to [www.chapmanforest.org](http://www.chapmanforest.org).

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Southern Prince George’s Chapter 1260 will meet Thursday, October 18, at 1pm at the Oxon Hill Library on Oxon Hill Road. A member of the Air Traffic Controllers will be the guest speaker. A representative of Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be available for questions. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Call 301-868-0724 for more information.

October 27 is the date for Faith United Methodist Church’s Bazaar and Craft Fair. Time is 9am to 2pm. There will be hand made crafts, white elephants, and baked goods. Lunch will be available and the Thrift Store will be open. Faith Church is on Livingston Road in Accokeek, ½ mile east of Route 210, next to the new library. Call me for more information.

A Victorian Christmas is planned for the Dr. Mudd House in Waldorf on December 1 and December 2 from 11am to 8pm. Adults are \$5, with children \$2 and members free. This will be a candlelight event and the period-furnished house will be decorated for the season, as it would have been in the 1860s. There will be Civil War Reenactors, Mr. And Mrs. Santa Clause, Musical Entertainment and refreshments.

For more information, call 301-645-6870 or 301-274-9358.

At this time, the cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven is \$6400.

## Serving Suitland

By **JANICE A. EUELL**  
*301.736.3481*

On Saturday, Oct. 13, at 10 a.m., the Isisettes Club, sponsored by the Daughters of Isis, will have its monthly meeting. The meeting is for girls ages 6 to 17 to gather to engage in recreational and cultural events as well as other life-enriching opportunities. The meeting will be held at Parkway Terrace Apartments in the basement at 10 a.m. The girls have already attended the annual Mason’s meeting held in Hagerstown, Md., and have sponsored a Gospelfest at Harmony Hall in Fort Washington. This wonderful

opportunity is made available to all girls interested in enhancing their social development and academic skills. Parents, do not miss a chance to give your daughter a head start in life by grooming her to be a professional, career-oriented individual. Please contact Daughter Geneva Gause at 240-462-7281 for questions, comments or additional information.

Mega-thanks to Corp. Jeffrey Henderson of the Prince George’s Police Department for agreeing to speak to a group of youth at Parkland Village Apartments as part of ROJA’s After School Learning Center in District Heights. Henderson

was invited to speak to the youth to give them consequences when they engage in negative behavior and to help them understand that the police are there for them in emergencies not just when they are in trouble.

A reminder that the Suitland Civic Association meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Suitland Water Tower, 4211 Suitland Road in Suitland.

Please make sure that you attend the next meeting so that the input from the entire community will be had as we move forward in our revitalization efforts.

## Football Superstar Tiki Barber Says: “Be Sickie Smart”

*Courtesy NAPSA*

On the football field, Tiki Barber is a fearless competitor who knows what it takes to lead his team to victory. Off the field, he is using that same determination to help educate children and their families about sickle cell disease and iron overload. Iron overload, or too much iron, is a dangerous potential complication of regular blood transfusions, often used to treat sickle cell disease.

Barber, All-Pro running back and a long-time children’s advocate, is spearheading a national awareness campaign called Be Sickie Smart: Ask Tiki About Iron, to empower those living with sickle cell disease to take an active role in their health so they continue on a path for a bright future. “I’m determined to get the message out that it’s really important for people who get blood transfusions for sickle cell disease — as well as their families — to know about excess iron and to talk to their doctor about their risk of iron overload,” said Barber.

Visit [www.AskTiki.com](http://www.AskTiki.com) or call (877) SCD-TIKI (723-8454) to learn more and receive FREE information.

## In and Around Morningside Skyline

By **MARY MCHALE**  
*301.735.3451*

### Morningside VFD Honored for Rescue of the Year

At 9:13 a.m. on Aug. 4, Morningside Volunteer Fire Department was alerted to smoke and flames coming from a townhouse on Keating Street.

In the words of the department’s terse report: “Engine 29 arrived on scene with smoke and fire coming from side Charlie (the kitchen area). Engine 271 [Morningside] arrived on scene and was directed by command to advance a secondary line above the fire to the second floor. Engine 291, led by Lt. J. Chandler, advanced their attack line to the kitchen extinguishing the fire. Engine 271’s crew, led by Lt. Johnson, locat-

ed a victim in a second floor bedroom while conducting a primary search.... The patient was transported.”

For that rescue, Morningside has been presented the Calvin Lee “Cowboy” Corder Rescue of the Year Award, sponsored by the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department. The Morningside crew consisted of: Chief Michael White; Firefighter Trader; Lt. Johnson; Firefighter Dowling; Firefighter Sudjupan; and Firefighter MacDowney.

You can drop by the firehouse and see the handsome 3-foot trophy they received. And, by the way, they also got that trophy back in 2003.

### Open House at Morningside Fire Dept.

In recognition of Fire

Prevention Month, the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is hosting an open house Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. with games, prizes and a fire prevention demonstration. Everyone is welcome to this free event. By the way, as of Oct. 3, the Morningside VFD has made 4,650 runs this year.

### Crab Legs and Shrimp Feast

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 9619, Morningside, is holding a Crab Leg & Shrimp Feast to benefit the LAVFW Cancer Aid and Research Fund on Saturday, Oct. 13. Food will be served from 4 to 7 p.m., with music from 6 to 10 p.m. The menu includes Alaskan king crab legs, streamed spiced shrimp, Morningside Fried Chicken, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, draft beer and sodas.

## Revival Time

The Rev. Doctor Louis Schockey will be preaching in a three-night spirit filled, soul-stirring revival at McKendree Simms Brookland United Methodist Church, South Dakota and Lawrence Streets, Washington, D.C.



Rev. Doctor Louis Schockey

The Rev. Michael W. Armsstrong is the pastor, and The Rev. Alfonso J. Harrod is the chairman of Witness and Evangelism, on Wednesday, Oct. 24, through Friday, Oct. 26.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

By **RUTH TURNER**  
*301.888.1139*

### Make a Difference Day

Help celebrate “Make a Difference Day.” Everyone will participate in healthy and fun activities. Free activities will include tennis demonstrations, roller-skating, trail clean up, hand dancing, 5-K walk and other activities.

Adult supervision required for most activities. Volunteer opportunities are available for ages 13 and older. Donations of new or gently used children’s scarves, gloves/mittens and hats are needed to help families this coming winter.

The event will be at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Regional Park Drive, Upper Marlboro. Call 301-454-1480; TTY 301-699-2544. Visit [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com) for updated information.

The event will be cancelled in case of inclement weather.

### Senior and Disabled

Seniors, 55 and older, and disabled customers can ride The Bus free Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Riders must present one form of proper identification: driver’s license, Metro senior or disabled access cards or a similar piece of identification. Disabled customers with Metro Access identification may bring a personal companion. No charge. Riders with the Metro cards pay 60 cents for a paper transfer.

Call 202-962-1558 to obtain a Metro disabled identification. To obtain a Metro senior identification, fill out an application available at any public library in Prince George’s County.

Call 301-883-5656 for information about the Prince George’s County Free Fare Program.

### Homecoming Celebration

“The Great Homecoming Feast” will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church, Sunday, Oct. 21, at 9:30 a.m. in the church school. A morning worship service will be held at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Priscilla I. Boswell. Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m. Afternoon worship service will start at 3 p.m., with guest speaker The Rev. Antoine Love and congregation from Covenant Point UMC in Waldorf.

Revival services will be held Wednesday, Oct. 17, with guest speaker The Rev. Thomas Austin and congregation from Nottingham-Myers UMC, Upper Marlboro. On Thursday, Oct. 18, the guest speaker will be The Rev. Dorothea Stroman and congregation from Clinton UMC, Clinton. On Friday, Oct. 19, the guest speaker will be The Rev. Darlene James and congregation from Mt. Olive AME Church, Annapolis.

Asbury United Methodist Church is at 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine. For information, call Pastor Priscilla I. Boswell at 301-372-8891.

### Flu Shots

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, will offer flu shots if 20 or more people pre-register. Possible dates are for Oct. 27 and 28. The cost is \$35 per person. No cost for seniors with Medicare Part B.

Pre-register by calling the church office at 301-888-2171.

### Enjoy the Fall Harvest

Fall Harvest Day will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 20, beginning at 1 p.m., at Brookfield United Methodist Church, Croom. The event is sponsored by Brookfield-Immanuel, Christ and Nottingham-Myers United

Methodist churches. Donations \$10. Proceeds from the festival will help the Volunteers in Missions Team from these churches go to Mississippi January 5 to 13 to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. More volunteers are needed for this trip. The application deadline is Nov. 1, with a training day of Nov. 13.

### Christmas in April

Needy homeowners in our neighborhoods, who qualify, are encouraged to apply for Christmas in April renovation projects. The deadline for homeowner applications is Nov. 1.

### Dinner Theater

Members of the 4 BICNom churches are invited on a holiday outing to Toby’s Dinner Theater on Saturday, Dec. 1, to see the “The Sound of Music.” Donations \$42.50 a person. Free bus transportation. Deadline for payment is Oct. 15.

### Free Tutoring Service

Does your child need help with reading, writing or mathematics? Free tutoring service will be offered at Christ United Methodist Church, Aquasco, for elementary school students. Classes will be held Thursdays beginning Oct. 4, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

For information, call The Rev. Robert E. Walker at 301-888-1283.

### Annual Craft Fair

A craft affair will be held at St. John’s Church, Clinton, on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Table rental \$20.

Lunch and bake sale will be available.

Call Linda at 301-868-2843 for information.

## The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post  
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Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone 301-627-0900 Legal Fax • 301-627-6260  
Editorial Fax • 301-627-8147  
Contents © 2004, The Prince George’s Post

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<b>General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager</b> Brenda Boice	<b>Graphic Designer</b> Ellanor McCoy
<b>Legal Advertising Assistant</b> Robin Boerckel	<b>Web Manager</b> Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George’s County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George’s Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George’s Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.  
Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790.  
Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George’s Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.



# COMMUNITY

## What Black Men Think

*Documentary Explores Challenges Faced by African-American Males*

*Courtesy* **ACACIA  
FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK**

The Institute for Interactive Instruction, Urban Leadership Institute and Concerned Black Men, will be hosting a special viewing of the critically acclaimed documentary “What Black Men Think” from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Laurel Phelps Senior Center 701 Montgomery Street, Laurel.

“What Black Men Think” explores the challenges which impact African-American males and provides a critical analysis of the role of the media and public policy in shaping myths and

stereotypes associated with manhood and masculinity. The film is produced and directed by Janks Morton, a native of Maryland, who has received numerous accolades from the Washington Post, Baltimore Sun paper, CNN and several other media outlets.

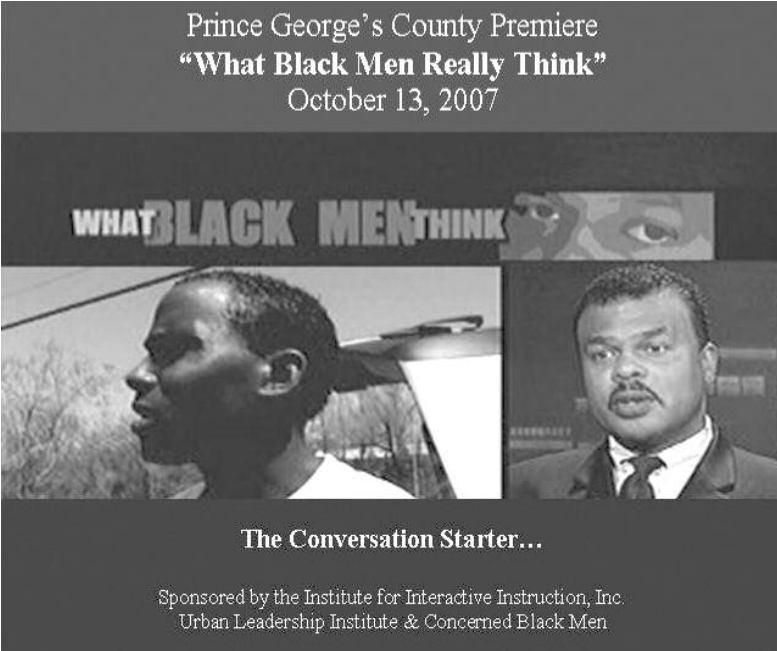
The viewing will be held for the public, state and local decision-makers, faith and community-based organizations and other youth serving professionals.

The purpose of the viewing is to inspire adults to serve as volunteer mentors in the Institute’s Healthy Mentoring Matters program. In addition to the viewing of the documentary,

speakers will also discuss the importance of mentoring with a specific “Call to Action” for African American males.

The Institute is committed to recruiting, training and supporting mentor relationships with youth in Prince Georges County. Over the next year, the Institute for Interaction Instruction, and community partners, will be hosting a series of forums over the next year to reinvigorate mentoring and volunteerism throughout the county.

For information, call Janine Valentine or Dana Bankins at 301-776-4289.



This film is produced and directed by Janks Morton, a native of Maryland.

## Benjamin D. Foulois Elementary School Holds Groundbreaking Academic Renaissance Celebration

*Courtesy* **PGC SCHOOLS**

**MORNINGSIDE** - Benjamin D. Foulois Elementary School will hold its Renaissance Program Groundbreaking Celebration on Oct. 26, at noon in the school’s gymnasium located at 4601 Beauford Road.

The program promotes achievement while attempting to develop more well-rounded students. The program is designed to celebrate student performance in the areas of attendance, behavior,

and academics.

In addition, those educators who exceedingly demonstrate professional excellence will also be celebrated.

According to School Based Parent Liaison and Renaissance Coordinator Sabrina K. Vann, “The Renaissance Program is a commitment on the part of our educators to better their students. With this program, we will help to revitalize the attitudes of our school and community as it pertains to

learning, academics, communal excellence, and the securing of our children’s futures.”

The program will highlight the growth and development of our students both socially and academically, by showcasing their achievements before their parents, community leaders, and the entire student body.

To celebrate such academic success, Benjamin D. Foulois Elementary School staff has managed to amass County Executive Jack

Johnson; the Honorable Marilyn Bland (District 9); Maryland Attorney General Glenn Ivy; Assistant Superintendent Janice Briscoe (Region I); Carl Snowden, director of Civil Rights Attorney General’s Office; Prince George’s County Chief of Police Melvin High; County Sheriff Michael Jackson; the Honorable Cereta Lee, Register of Wills; and more.

Cynthia Nunes-Tajerón, parent liaison and representa-

tives from Andrews Air Force Base, Marcia Milton, President and CEO First Priority Trailways, and the Surrattsville High School Marching Band directed by Valerie Dent.

Students, parents, and invited guests will witness students receiving certificates and other various incentives as a result of their first quarter citizenship and academic performances. The program, which will execute a pep rally format, will also

showcase an interactive hip-hop multiplication show that will allow students to participate in the learning process while being simultaneously entertained.

The Surrattsville Marching Band will be performing several musical selections including one similar to that of their halftime show to help rouse the students’ interests.

The dynamic keynote speaker for the day’s events is Larry Paige.

## Local Students Receive \$6,000 Full Tuition

*Courtesy* **PGCC**

Prince George’s Community College and the Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA) will recognize seven students at the 12th annual AOBA Scholarship Ceremony on at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 24, in the Marlboro Gallery. Each student will receive a \$6,000 full-tuition

scholarship to pursue an associate’s degree at PGCC.

Scholarship recipients are: Christopher Gomez Brown, Gwynn Park High School, Brandywine; Nathalie Diadhieu, Prince George’s Community College, Largo; Chidera Ejemole, Largo High School, Largo; Mary Emerson, Surrattsville High School,

Clinton; Sankoh Fatu, Prince George’s Community College, Largo; Shawn Liberto, Laurel High School, Laurel; and Larelle Taylor, Frederick Douglass High School, Upper Marlboro.

The AOBA scholarship program is a partnership with the college and property owners of low to moderate income

apartment communities to promote access to education. Members provide funding for two years of full-time tuition, educational opportunities and retention support for at least seven students each academic year. Since 1996, AOBA has funded 79 scholarships, and contributed more than \$400,000.

## Students Vote for School Lunch in National Election

*Courtesy* **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**BALTIMORE** - The Maryland Department of Education invites children in Maryland to vote for their favorite school lunch. Every year, schools across the country celebrate National School Lunch Week October 15 to 19 to raise public awareness about the nutritional value of the federally-funded lunch programs available at schools and to involve students in school lunch.

The School Nutrition Association’s fun theme, “Vote for School Lunch,” provides promotional materials for schools to use during special events. This year marks the second round of lunchroom elections in the three-year national campaign.

Students can learn more about candidates and cast their vote online through Oct. 19 at [www.VoteForSchoolLunch.org](http://www.VoteForSchoolLunch.org). The 2007 winner will go on to compete in the 2008 Presidential election against Pete Pizza - the 2006 and first-

ever Vote for School Lunch campaign winner - and three student-designed “Design a Candidate” contest winners.

The campaign will be supported throughout the state by incentive giveaways such as stickers, pencils, and backpack activity sheets during NSLW. Additional activities include:

- Cafeteria Debates: Election Day: Schools set up voting booths and establish a voting day,
- Design a Candidate: Students sketch or draw (using traditional methods), or design (using computer software) new

candidates and submit them to their school contests. Up to three winners from each school can be submitted to a national panel to be judged, and three national winners will be professionally recreated to run in the 2008 Vote for School Lunch campaign,

- Members of the student government represent each candidate, and
- Costume Contest: All students and staff create fun costumes and dress up as their favorite characters.



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## Halloween Safety Tips

*Courtesy* **UM NEWS DESK**

Some common sense suggestions from the Center for Young Children at the University of Maryland.

**For Trick or Treaters:**

- Carry a flashlight.
- Stay on sidewalks.
- Obey traffic signals.
- Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
- Make sure costumes don’t drag on the ground.
- Shoes should fit.
- Avoid wearing masks that block sight.
- Wear clothing with reflective markings.
- Approach houses that are lit.
- Stay away from and don’t pet animals you don’t know.

**For Parents;**

- Make sure your child eats dinner before setting out.
- Ideally young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- If you buy a costume look for one that is flame retardant.
- You should know where older children will be going.
- Be sure children bring candy home before eating to be sure it is safe to eat.

## NARFE Meets

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), Southern Prince George’s County, Chapter 1260, will meet at 1 p.m., at the Oxon Hill Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill. A member of the air traffic controllers will be the guest speaker. Refreshments served. 301-868-0724.

# COMMENTARY

## THE PRINCE GEORGE’S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George’s County

### Fire – Make It Personal

Courtesy JUDY COMOLETT

It is practically impossible to read the newspaper or watch the local television news without learning about a fire that has destroyed a property, maimed someone or even claimed a life. But, for many, something like a fire is simply not personal until it hits close to home, which is exactly what happened to the people living in the nearly 400,000 homes across the country that reported fires in 2006. Fire is personal and everyone must realize that they have a personal responsibility to not only prevent fires, but also to be prepared to escape if one should occur.

Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 7 to 13) is the perfect time to take a few moments to review fire prevention and safety guidelines. For more than 80 years this awareness campaign has been reminding the public that in many cases personal actions can directly influence fire prevention and safety. This year’s theme focuses on home fire escape planning and urges everyone to Practice Your Escape Plan.

What could be more personal than having tragedy strike in a place where many people feel the safest - their home? Being vigilant about fire prevention and safety is important in all areas of life, but being mindful of these issues in the home is especially important. In 2006, 80 percent of the people that died in fires in the United States were lost because of home fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

A poll conducted for the association showed that only 23 percent of households have developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. Although many households reported having a plan, the majority had not practiced it. Practicing a home fire escape plan is extremely important; if a fire occurs there may be as little as two minutes to escape.

Having an escape plan in place that has been practiced will save precious moments and make it more likely that occupants of a home will be able to get out alive.

Take responsibility by preparing to escape from a home fire before a fire occurs. Develop a plan and practice it. Start by making sure that smoke alarms are installed inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area on every level of the home. Maintain smoke alarms and test them once a month. Being alerted to a fire is the first step in being able to escape from one.

Create a home fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside. Make sure the plan allows for specific needs in the household. Some studies have shown that some children and some adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm and may need help waking up. Learn about the needs of household members before there is an emergency. Practice the plan at least twice a year

Be prepared to act: If the smoke alarm sounds, go to the closest exit. If there is smoke on the way out, turn and use the second way out. If exiting through smoke, get low under the smoke on the way to the exit. Move quickly, but stay calm.

Everyone runs the risk of experiencing a fire. News outlets will continue to report on fires, but the next time a fire is in the news let it serve as a personal reminder that many times fires are preventable and being prepared to escape from one can mean the difference between life and death. Fire - it is personal. To learn more about fire prevention and safety, visit <http://www.firepreventionweek.org> or <http://www.nfpa.org>.

*Judy Comoletti is assistant vice-president of public education for the National Fire Protection Association.*

### Slots Flip-Flop – Shame on GOP

#### Do Minority Leaders No Longer Support Slots?

Courtesy MARYLAND DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**ANNAPOLIS** - Some Maryland Senate Republicans say they’re flip-flopping on slots and will vote against a measure now that a Democrat is putting a proposal on the table. No Republican supported slots measures more vigorously over the past four years than Senate Minority Leader Sen. David Brinkley.

“Republican partisanship is behind their willingness to throw Marylanders, including their constituents, under the bus and undermine progress on behalf of the people of this state,” says Quincey Gamble, executive director of the Maryland Democratic Party. “If (Sen.) Brinkley’s voting history wasn’t a matter of public record, some might be led to believe that he has a con-

science. But the glaring evidence of his consistent support for every slots bill since 2003 makes you wonder how he plans to explain the blatant contradiction to anyone, especially himself.”

Brinkley voted in favor of slots in 2003 and 2005. Now he’s not only declaring he will vote against a slots proposal but, after first demanding a quick solution to the budget crisis inherited from the previous administration, Brinkley now says it’s time to wait. Such a wait may cost his constituents \$500 million for schools, roads, health care, the environment and more.

Until now, Republicans claimed the budget deficit can be closed by budget cuts and slots. They haven’t offered any specific cuts, and now they say they’ll vote against slots. Is

Brinkley willing to flip-flop again and return to his old self, voting for higher taxes, as he did from 2003 to 2006?

“The Republicans are whining from the sidelines having offered no specific budget cuts, urging delays in finding a fiscal solution and now threatening a flip-flip on their own positions - all for the sake of pure partisan politics,” says Gamble.

Sometimes it’s like these Republicans don’t know there is a record of what they’ve said, how they voted and why,” says Gamble. “The people of Maryland can expect this kind of hypocrisy time and again from Republican lawmakers who supported slots, voted for tax hikes and 32 percent budget growth when such things were the policy of a Republican chief executive.”

### Unionized Day Care Will

### Hurt Maryland Parents

#### Opposes Latest Union Scheme in Maryland

**WASHINGTON** - Alliance for Worker Freedom (AWF) opposes the recent push by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in Maryland to unionize child-care providers. Since 2005, 10 states have allowed providers to unionize and three states - Washington, Illinois and Oregon - have approved union contracts. In Maryland, the measure passed with around 75 percent of providers choosing to join a union.

“Many child-care providers work from their home and are independent contractors,” says Brian Johnson, director of Policy for AWF. “By setting the precedent that independent contractors can be classified as ‘government-state’ employees and afforded wage bargaining through a union is outrageous. Not only would this set dangerous precedent, but the market forces required to maintain a balance of access, affordability and quality will be thrown by the wayside.”

Several states’ child care unionization proposals have provisions that allow day-care providers to organize if a certain percentage (a popular number

is 30 percent), of those who receive state subsidies authorize a union to be their representative. The union would then become the exclusive representative of all day-care providers in the state.

“In doing this, Big Labor is given the power to push state subsidy rates well above what private parents currently pay. If the unions want higher wages; they strike. So now, not only will you have thousands of displaced children across Maryland, which will lead to a growing reliance on unlicensed, underground child care providers, but the providers can hold the state budget hostage demanding more funds,” says Johnson.

“If they demand \$1,000 per day, and the state subsidizes 60 percent, that leaves the parent paying an extra \$400 – and this change applies to all day cares across the state because they are all now forced into union representation.”

“In short, unions will bargain on behalf of the business rather than what is the child’s best interest,” says Johnson.

- Alliance for Worker Freedom



### Marian Wright Edelman

#### Child Watch



### Dr. Asa Hilliard, Scholar Liberator

We lost a giant in August when educator, psychologist and historian Asa G. Hilliard III died while leading a study tour in Egypt. Hilliard was a pioneering scholar who sought a greater balance in the history curriculum as it is taught in American elementary and secondary schools and at the university level. He was a freedom fighter who struggled to liberate us from the bondage of ignorance of our rich African heritage.

He said, “Basic change in our condition as a people must begin with our change of mind.” Many of us can remember when the worst thing we could call somebody we didn’t like was “black.” Hilliard worked to spread cultural well-

*“We do not have sufficient cultural centers, movements, monuments and celebrations to highlight important experiences and to shape directions. These things offer us the opportunity to be reflective and to develop a more firm vision of the future.”*

Asa G. Hilliard III

foremost an educator who believed that every child can learn. He was always correcting the historical record and opposed the mis-teaching of European and American history and sought an inclusive truth in historical courses. In addition to stand-alone courses on African history and culture, he developed K-12 school curricula that infused African and African American content in virtually all subjects. For instance, math students might learn how ancient Egyptians counted.

Not only did he push for the story of African Americans to be included in the stream of historic instruction, but he insisted that the experience of peoples of Latin American, Asian and Native American descent be included in the curriculum. Much of this was focused on building self-esteem among young people of color. Hilliard was a strong opponent of culturally biased IQ and standardized tests and charged that these tests operated to exclude minority applicants who are most in need of higher education.

He refused to treat the study of African history as a static academic subject and worked to introduce the cultural content of the pre-enslavement African experience into current social systems. He said, “We must go back through the Door of No Return, transforming it to the Door of Return, reconnecting to our traditions and propelling ourselves forward in a direction of our own choosing.”

Rather than call a meeting, he would convene a “Mbongi,” a Ki-Congo term for a gathering of a community to solve a problem where everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute. He insisted upon redefining common misconceptions about the status of black Americans like rejecting efforts to “close the achievement gap” between black and white students, and instead promoting the closing of the excellence gap between black students and their potential.

Hilliard died Aug. 13, in Cairo of complications from malaria. He was 73. His transition leaves a huge gap we must all work to fill. He felt that there was still much more to do. He said, “We do not have sufficient cultural centers, movements, monuments and celebrations to highlight important experiences and to shape directions. These things offer us the opportunity to be reflective and to develop a more firm vision of the future.”

It seems appropriate that he should die while doing one of the things he loved most: leading students on the 20th annual study tour of the Nile Valley.

*Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children’s Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.*

Letters to the Editor

We Value the Opinions of Our Readers. Send Your Letters to: Editor, Prince George’s Post, 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD. 20772



# BUSINESS

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Re-evaluate Your Benefit Needs Each Year

Like death and taxes, rising health care costs are unavoidable. In fact, you've probably seen your medical insurance premiums increase several times in the past few years. A little careful planning can help you ease your bottom line by choosing coverage that best matches your needs — not to mention save hundreds of dollars on taxes.

Keep these things in mind when choosing a medical plan during your employer's open enrollment period for choosing benefits coverage for next year:

- If you've recently had (or are about to have) a family status change, your coverage needs may be different. For example, if you're having a baby, compare maternity and pediatric benefits between plans. Other status changes that may impact your selection include marriage, divorce, spouse's death or dependents passing the eligibility age.

- If family coverage is available through your spouse's insurance, carefully compare your plan's premiums and benefit levels with those in your employer's plans. You might save a bundle.

- Ask current doctors if they plan to stay in your plan's provider network next year. Out-of-network charges are often much higher. Also, before any hospitalization, make sure the hospital is in the network.

- Many medical plans now charge higher co-payments for brand-name drugs than for generics, and some even disallow certain medications if cheaper alternatives exist. Ask if your medications are in the plan's drug formulary.

- About those tax savings: See if your company provides health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts (FSAs), also known as reimbursement accounts. These let you pay for eligible out-of-pocket medical and child care expenses you would have paid for anyway on a pre-tax basis — that is, before federal, state and Social Security taxes have been deducted from your paycheck.

- You can use a health care FSA to pay for any IRS-allowed medical expenses not covered by your medical, dental or vision coverage, such as deductibles, co-payments, dental work over plan limits, contact lenses and glasses, over-the-counter medicines, acupuncture, chiropractic care, smoking cessation programs and many more. Check IRS Publication 502, Medical and Dental Expenses at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), for allowable expenses.

- Dependent care FSAs lets you use pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible expenses related to care for your child, disabled spouse, elderly parent, or other dependent incapable of self-care, so you (and your spouse) can work.

For more information about how FSAs work, visit Practical Money Skills for Life, a free personal financial management site ([www.practicalmoneyskills.com/benefits](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/benefits)). If your company doesn't offer FSAs, consult a financial advisor about other ways to save taxes on health and dependent care-related expenses in your particular situation.

Other important benefit considerations: The same family status changes that might affect your medical benefit choices might also prompt coverage changes to other benefits, such as life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance and long-term disability. For example, if you marry or have children, you may want to increase coverage in these areas since others now depend on your income.

Also remember that whenever you gain or lose dependents, you should notify your benefits department to change your beneficiary designation forms — that goes for any benefit or investment plans you carry on your own as well.

Don't automatically check "same as last year" on your enrollment form. You could be missing out on ways to save on health care costs — and lower your taxes.

*Jason Alderman directs Visa USA's financial education programs. To sign up for a free monthly personal finance e-Newsletter, go to [www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter).*

### Melwood Update:

## New Executive and Promotions Announced



PHOTO COURTESY MELWOOD  
**Jonathon Rondeau**



PHOTO COURTESY MELWOOD  
**Steve Evans**



PHOTO COURTESY MELWOOD  
**Robert Tucker**

Courtesy **MELWOOD TRAINING CENTER**

Jonathon Rondeau has been hired as Vice President of Community Services, responsible for Melwood's residential, recreational and support programs for people with disabilities. Rondeau joins Melwood from the League for People with Disabilities in Baltimore, where he oversaw year-round recreational programs. He is President-Elect of the American Camp Association, Chesapeake Section, with over 11 years experience in the recreation and disability service fields.

Steve Evans has been hired as Director of Fund Development, responsible for Melwood's philanthropic, communication and marketing efforts. Evans joins Melwood from Special Olympics of Pennsylvania, where he managed development and communication programs which raised more

than \$30 million in six years. Evans has 20 years experience in fund development.

Robert Tucker has been promoted to Vice President of Contract Services for Custodial Operations, responsible for Melwood's federal and state custodial contracts, which employ nearly 600 people with disabilities. Tucker joined Melwood in 2005 as General Manager of Business Operations to oversee Melwood's contract at the United States Naval Academy. Previously, he was Vice President of Operations for My Cleaning Service, Inc. in Baltimore, where he worked for 17 years. He is a former president of the Capitol Association of Building Service Contractors with 19 years experience, and received the Nish East Region Custodial Manager of the Year award in 2006.

"We are pleased to welcome Jonathon and Steve, and congratulate Robert on his promotion," said Janice Frey-Angel,

Melwood President/CEO. "These executive team additions are important to our efforts to meet the changing needs of people with disabilities in the Washington, DC region."

#### About Melwood:

*Melwood Horticultural Training Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving more than 2,100 people with disabilities with job training, employment, housing and recreation in the Washington D.C. area. Melwood employees support more than 65 contracts made possible by the AbilityOne Program, which encourages federal agencies to contract with approved, qualified organizations that provide job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. This federal effort is emphasized by the fact that 62 percent of Americans with severe disabilities are unemployed. For additional information about Melwood capabilities and services for people with disabilities, call Melwood at (301) 599-8000.*

## Free State Shopping Center Re-opens

### Bowie Facility Offers New Stores and Upgraded Parking Area

Courtesy **FEDERAL REALTY INVESTMENT TRUST**

**ROCKVILLE** — Free State Shopping Center in Bowie reopened Sept. 29 with a performance by the Bowie High School Marching Band, store specials and food samples from restaurants.

The redevelopment of the shopping center included a demolition of the interior of the existing mall, the relocation and expansion of Giant Food and the conversion of a vacant Sears store to three mini-anchors: TJ Maxx, Office Depot and Ross Dress for Less and three small shops: Performance Martial Arts, Tuesday Morning and Curves for Women.

The parking lot and grounds have been enhanced and upgraded along with new building facades and tenant signs.

"We all have worked so very hard to keep the Main Street area of Bowie alive throughout the years," said Art Einstein, owner of Time Piece Jewelers at the shopping center and former president of the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce. "I am truly excited that Free State Shopping Center has been revitalized and is looking superb. Now our customers can shop Bowie first with pride."

"We at Pomogrille are so thrilled to welcome and serve our new guests and neighbors of the Bowie, Gambrills,

Crofton and surrounding areas," said Jesalis Kenter, designer of Pomogrille, a family-friendly Italian restaurant that recently opened in the shopping center. "We are thankful to the community for embracing Pomogrille with such wonderful support and encouragement."

"Federal Realty acquired

Free State Shopping Center in February 2007 through a co-mingled fund advised by ING Clarion Partners, and we very pleased to be playing a role in the revitalization of Free State Shopping Center as well as Prince George's County," said Bob Greenfest, asset manager for Federal Realty Investment Trust.



PHOTO COURTESY FEDERAL REALTY INVESTMENT TRUST

**Free State Shopping Center celebrated its grand re-opening . The Bowie community enjoyed face-painting, caricature-drawing, balloon art, a moon-bounce and free giveaway.**

## Minorities and Women Have Big Stake in Franchised Businesses

Courtesy **FRANCHISE NEWS**

**WASHINGTON** - Nearly 20 percent of the nation's franchised businesses were owned by minorities and 25 percent were owned by females, according to a report issued by the IFA Educational Foundation. The report is based on data from the Census

Bureau's 2002 Survey of Business Owners.

"The rapid growth of the Hispanic, African-American and Asian segments of the population continues to create many opportunities for American businesses," said IFA President Matthew Shay, head of the organization that represents more than 10,000 franchisees. "This report gives

us the first comprehensive look at the composition of the franchising industry by minority and gender groups."

Franchised businesses, which account for nearly 10 percent of the U.S. private-sector economy, can play a major role in providing greater opportunities for business ownership for minorities and women to enter the economic

mainstream, Shay said.

The report, "2002 Franchised Business Ownership By Minority and Gender Groups" shows the proportion of franchised businesses owned by each minority and gender group.

It also tells the proportion of businesses owned by each minority and gender group that are franchised.

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# Out on the TOWN

## In the Valley of Elah

*A Parent's Determination Well Played by Tommy Lee Jones*

By **ROGER EBERT**  
*Chicago Sun-Times*

I don't know Tommy Lee Jones at all. Let's get that clear. I've interviewed him, and at Cannes we had one of those discussions at the American Pavilion. He didn't enjoy doing it, but he felt duty-bound to promote his great film "The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada." During my questions, he twisted his hands like a kid in the principal's office. He remains a mystery to me, which is why I feel free to share some feelings about him. I'm trying to understand why he is such a superb actor.

Look at the lines around his eyes. He looks concerned, under pressure from himself, a man who has felt pain. Look at his face. It seems to conceal hurtful emotion. He doesn't smile a lot, but when he does, it's like clouds are lifting. Listen to his voice, filled with authority and hard experience. Notice when he speaks that he passes out words as if they were money he cannot afford. Whether these characteristics are true of the private man, I have no way of knowing.

Paul Haggis' "In the Valley of Elah" is built on Tommy Lee Jones' persona, and that is why it works so well. The same material could have been banal or routine with an actor trying to be "earnest" and "sincere." Jones isn't trying to be anything at all. His character is simply compelled to do what he does, and has a lot of experience doing it. He plays a Vietnam veteran named Hank Deerfield, now hauling gravel in Tennessee. He gets a call from the Army that his son Mike, just returned from a tour in Iraq, is AWOL from his squad at Fort Rudd. That sounds wrong. He tells his wife, Joan (Susan Sarandon), that he's going to drive down there and take a look into things. "It's a two-day drive," she says. He says, "Not the way I'll drive it."

He checks into a cheap motel. His investigations in the area of Fort Rudd take him into topless bars, chicken shacks, the local police station, the base military police operation and a morgue where he's shown something cut into pieces and burned, and he IDs the remains as his son. Looking through his son's effects, he asks as a distraction if

can have his Bible, while he's pocketing his son's cell phone. It's been nearly destroyed by heat, but a friendly technician salvages some video from it, filled with junk artifacts but still retaining glimpses of what it recorded on video: glimpses of hell.

To describe the many avenues of his investigation would be pointless and diminish the film's gathering tension. I'd rather talk about what Haggis, also the co-writer and co-producer, does with the performance. Imagine the first violinist playing a note to lead the orchestra into tune. Haggis, as director, draws that note from Jones, and the other actors tune to it. They include Charlize Theron as a city homicide detective, Jason Patric as a military policeman, Sarandon as Deerfield's wife, and various other police and military officers and members of Mike's unit in Iraq.

None of these characters



Jones' wife Susan Sarandon, above, is grief stricken with news of her son.

are heightened. None of them behave in any way as if they're in a thriller. Other directors might have pumped them up, made them colorful or distinctive in some distracting way. Theron could (easily) be sexy. Patric could (easily) be a bureaucratic paper-pusher. Sarandon could (easily) be a hysterical worrier, or an alcoholic or push it any way you want to. You know how movies make supporting actors more colorful than they need to be and how happily a lot of



Tommy Lee Jones, left, and Charlize Theron, right, go head-to-head in an attempt to find out what happened to Jones' son.

actors go along with that process.

Not here. Theron, who is actually the co-star, so carefully modulates her performance that she even ignores most of the sexism aimed at her at the police station. Nor is there any hint of sexual attraction between her and anybody else, nor does she sympathize with Hank Deerfield and work on his behalf. Nor, for that

man for a lifetime. The movie is about determination, doggedness, duty and the ways a war changes a man. There is no release or climax at the end, just closure. Even the final dramatic gesture only says exactly what Deerfield explained earlier that it says, and nothing else.

That tone follows through to the movie's consideration of the war itself. Those who call "In the Valley of Elah" anti-Iraq war will not have been paying attention. It doesn't give a damn where the war is being fought. Hank Deerfield isn't politically opposed to the war. He just wants to find out how his son came all the way home from Iraq and ended up in charred pieces in a field. Because his experience in Vietnam apparently had a lot to do with crime investigation, he's able to use intelligence as well as instinct. And observe how Theron, as the detective, observes him, takes what she can use and adds what she draws from her own experience.

Paul Haggis is making good films these days. He directed "Crash" and wrote "Million Dollar Baby," both Oscar winners, and was nominated as co-writer of "Letters From Iwo Jima." He and his casting directors assembled an ideal ensemble for this film, which doesn't sensationalize but digs and digs into our apprehensions. I have been trying to think who else could have carried this picture except Tommy Lee Jones, and I just cannot do it.

Who else could tell Theron's young son the story of David and Goliath (which took place in the Valley of Elah) and make it sound like instruction in the tactics of being brave?

## Calendar of Events

October 11 — October 17

SATURDAY, OCT. 13

### Yard Sale and International Festival

Doswell E. Brooks Elementary School will host an International Festival from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. with music, games, yard sale and school beautification. Enjoy performers from the Philippines, Africa and award-winning double dutch team Sisters, Sisters. Proceeds will help to send students to perform in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade. 1301 Brook Road, Capitol Heights. Call Jerry Hill at 301-817-0480.

### Charity Event

Weichert Realtors' will hold a charity bazaar from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at its Andrews office, 5819 Allentown Road, Camp Springs. Rain date Oct. 14. Items for sale include clothes, crafts, books and small appliances. A portion of the proceeds will help LifeStyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization committed to health, human services and economic growth in the community. 301- 423-9200.

### Riverfest

Enjoy a riverfest event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Riverfront Park, Avondale Street, Laurel. Hayrides to Laurel Museum, scarecrow workshop, live music, puppet theater, craft vendors and food. Festivities begin with a 5K run/walk at 9 a.m. Free. Held rain or shine. 301-483-0838. www.laurelboardoftrade.com.

### Greenbelt Fall Fest

Celebrate Greenbelt's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from 2 to 6 p.m. at Schrom Hill Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt. Concerts, hayrides, games, amusements, pumpkin carving, scarecrow making and art. Free. 301-397-2200.www.greenbeltmd.gov.

### Patuxent Wildlife Festival

National Wildlife Visitor Center/Patuxent Research Refuge, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, will hold a wildlife festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. USGS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service join together to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week and Earth Science Week. Behind the scene tours of the wildlife research area, habitat tram tours, live animals and crafts for children. Free. 301-497-5763.

### Queen Anne Festival

Join in the fun at the annual Queen Anne Day Arts & Crafts Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Patuxent River 4-H Center, 18405 Queen Anne Road, Upper Marlboro. Juried crafters and artists, pony rides, food, live entertainment, hayrides, Halloween activities. 301-249-9761.

SUNDAY, OCT. 14

### Terrapin 5K Race

Dash to the finish line at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual terrapin trot and 5K race at the University of Maryland, College Park. The race begins at 9 a.m. at the Stamp Student Union. The course ends at College Park City Hall. Activities include music, entertainment, food, raffles and prizes. Registration required. 301-314-8498.

### Piano Recital

Immanuela Gruenberg will give a piano recital at 3 p.m., Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel. Gruenberg, an active soloist, teacher, lecturer and chamber music performer, will perform Schebert's Four Impromptus, OP. 90 and other selections. 301-953-1993.

UPCOMING

THURSDAY, OCT. 18

### Squadron Open House

Bowie Composite Squadron of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol will be holding an open house from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18, at Cresthill Baptist Church, 6510 Laurel-Bowie Road (Rt. 197). Adults and youngsters ages 12 to 18 who are interested in volunteering with CAP are encouraged to attend. The patrol's three missions are emergency services, aerospace education and cadet programs. CAP is the non-profit auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. 301-805-8200. www.BowieCAP.org.

## Discover the Wonders of Paper Art at Montpelier Exhibit Through Oct. 26

Courtesy **MONTPELIER ARTS CENTER**

Many visual art ideas start on paper. Marks on paper lead to paint, sculpture or architecture. Sometimes the paper itself is the mark, the paint, the sculpture or even the architecture. An exhibit at Montpelier Arts Center celebrates paper in all of its forms by some of the region's best know paper artists. From Brece Honeycutt's cast paper pitcher to Irene Chan's conceptual works with handmade and found paper (paper Barbie dolls), artists for the past 30 years have taken paper to new extremes using ancient techniques.

The exhibit runs through Oct. 26. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. Paper as the medium and the message features work by artists Pat Alexander, Leslie Berns, Elizabeth Burger, Irene Chan, Leah Cooper, Dick D'Agostino, Georgia Deal, Amanda Degener, Helen Frederick, Ben Furgal, Tai Hwa Goh, Ellen Hill, Brece Honeycutt, Ellen Kennedy, Anil Revri, Lynn Sures, Gretchen Schermerhorn and Veronica Szalus.

Montpelier Arts Center is located at 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel. For information, call 301-953-1993 or visit Montpelier.arts@pgparks.com.

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# Republicans

## Republicans, From Page A1

not return phone calls seeking comment on the opposition, which took place last Wednesday.

Slots are just one element of O’Malley’s plan to deal with the state’s \$1.7 billion budget shortfall.

At several appearances to roll out his tax and slots plan earlier, the governor said he will call for a special session in early November at the latest. He has said that the deficit could become \$2.2 billion by January if a special session is not held.

Senate Republicans said they felt that O’Malley did not include them in discussions about fixing the budget and “took for granted” a supportive vote on legalizing slots.

“We don’t want to vote on huge figures without knowing what next year’s budget will be,” said Senate Minority Whip Allan Kittleman, R-Carroll. “We want to see it all in one comprehensive package.”

Brinkley told reporters he met with both O’Malley and Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, D-Calvert, who supports a special session and slots, to let them know of the caucus decision.

“It’s been all one-caucus meetings, with the other shut

out, and we don’t want to put our stamp on a backroom deal,” said Sen. Edward J. Pipkin, R-Caroline. “They’re treating this as a fait accompli, but we’re taking our slots vote off the table.”

Both lawmakers and the public need more time to let

**“We’re not just saying we aren’t going to vote for it,”**  
said O’Donnell

the full impact of the “massive” tax increases sink in, said House Minority Leader Anthony O’Donnell, R-Calvert.

“More and more people from both parties are becoming increasingly restless and very concerned with the idea of a special session,” he said. “Even some of my Democrat colleagues are privately wondering.”

Besides legalizing slot machine gambling, O’Malley’s proposal advocates raising the sales and corporate income taxes, while restructuring the state income tax to assess wealthier

Marylanders at a higher rate. He is also calling for an

increase in the cigarette tax, to \$2 a pack, and a higher car titling tax.

O’Donnell said House Republicans had put both a slots proposal and a spending restraint plan on the table, which would have required no new taxes while letting the budget have a “healthy” 3.5 percent growth rate.

They have a different message for O’Malley:

“We’re not just saying we aren’t going to vote for it,” O’Donnell said. “We’re also saying that we had a plan and you rejected it.”

Under the Republicans plan, slots would have generated revenue much sooner than under O’Malley’s plans.

“His is a slots giveaway,” O’Donnell said. “There would be no significant money in the state’s coffer for two years.”

Slots can and should be part of a revenue package, but Republicans will take no part in forcing taxes on Marylanders, Brinkley said.

Kittleman and Pipkin questioned the governor’s push for a special session.

“He took a pass in the last session,” Kittleman said. “We waited 10 months for him to take action.”

“Now, all of a sudden, we’ve got to do it right away,” Pipkin said. “It just adds to the backroom aspect.”

# Morningside

## Morningside, From Page A2

### It’s Academic

• Morningside Elementary School teacher Myrtle Davis is among eight new National Board Certified Teachers. They were honored in September at a pinning ceremony at the Newton White Manson in Mitchellville.

• Holy Family School in Hillcrest Heights celebrated 50 years of education with a reunion gala on Sept. 28, a family day on Sept. 29 and Mass on Sept. 30. The Sisters of St. Joseph, from Philadelphia, were involved in the school for 49 of those years. Only six principals have served, including the current principal, Mary Hawkins.

### Mayor Walls Appointed Chair

District Heights Mayor James L. Walls Jr., has been appointed chairman of the National Conference of Black Mayors, Committee on Small Town & Rural Development. He also serves with as officer for a number of other organizations and has the honor of currently being the youngest mayor in Maryland and the youngest mayor ever elected in District Heights.

# BRAC

## BRAC, From Page A1

Maryland’s base realignment and closure subcommittee attended by Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, military officials and state department heads.

The state anticipates 21,800 new households as a result of the base realignment process, which calls for the rapid expansion of Fort Meade in Anne Arundel County and Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County, Skinner said.

Many new arrivals could move to neighboring Prince George’s County. Projections show about 84 percent of those families would buy homes, while the rest would rent, he said.

Among the programs available:

- House Keys For

# Kids First

## Kids First, From Page A1

voice, our providers can work together to make child care a better place for our children and more reliable for working parents.”

Providers’ union will be able to negotiate with the state for more training opportunities, access to affordable health insurance, better reimbursements from the Purchase of Care program, and other improvements that would help providers keep serving their

### Neighbors

• Due to a lack of volunteers, Morningside has had to cancel its hayrides Oct. 19 and 20. They will, however, have costume judging on Oct. 31, after Trick-or-Treat.

• Steve Olcott is the 2007-08 commander of VFW Post 9619. Other officers are: Ed Kozireski, senior vice commander; James Holland, junior vice commander; Steve Ross, adjutant; Craig Potts, judge advocate; Tom Pappas, quartermaster; Bruce Marks, surgeon; Frank McCrone, Ranson Jordon and Bill Bohlayer, trustees.

• Last week I really blew it, naming the wrong honoree for an 85th birthday celebration. It was for Kenneth Kaye, husband of former Morningsider Janet Booth Kaye. The event was held at their home in Prince Frederick on Aug. 25. Among the attendees were their children and grandchildren. Also, Janet’s brother Howard C. Booth, his wife Nancy, and their children and grandchildren.

• I’ve enjoyed having our son Mike and his wife Sandy visiting from El Paso, Texas. Among other activities, I went with them to a most unusual play, “Well,” at Arena Stage.

### Hall for Rent

• The Morningside Municipal Center’s main meeting room is available for event rental (weddings, receptions, repasts, parties, etc). The room can hold up to 80 people and has kitchen facilities. For information, call the town administrative office at 301-736-2300.

### May He Rest in Peace

Neal A. Hesselton, 91, a longtime resident of Kingswood Drive in Suitland, died Sept. 27. He recently lived in Solomons. He was the husband of the late Elizabeth Hesselton; father of Elizabeth Ann Hanson and Robert O. Hesselton; grandfather of two.

### Milestones

• Happy birthday to Mary Deans, Oct. 11; Chester Lanehart, Jr., Oct. 15; Mildred Peaire and Carolyn Williams, Oct. 16; and Frank McCrone, Oct. 17.

• Happy 62nd anniversary to Russ and Mary Mitchell, of Auth Village, who were wed Oct. 17, 1945; and to former Skyline residents Daisy and Ralph Young who’ll celebrate 54 years of marriage on Oct. 15. They now live in Fairfield Calif., but still read this column.

“We’re connected as a region, and if we don’t approach (planning) that way, I think it’s a mistake,” Leib said.

One example he and Leopold brought up: Through an enhanced use lease deal, the Army anticipates the development of 2 million square feet of office space by private developers on the grounds of Fort Meade.

The Army and county officials continue to work toward an agreement in which the Army would cover some expenses the county has on things like roads, but no deal has been struck, Leopold said.

The state is also in the process of planning a symposium for small business owners to address how they can benefit from the base realignment process.

joining with parents and community advocates to lobby elected officials.

Providers’ victory in Maryland reflects a growing trend in child care policy nationwide. Since 2005, ten states have given providers the freedom to form a union, and Illinois, Oregon, and Washington have already approved union contracts to stabilize the industry and improve access to affordable, quality child care.

age, reimbursement will increase \$4.36 per Medicaid patient per day.”

Other states have passed laws for similar programs, Leeds said.

“It does require legislation, we can’t do this type of assessment on every type of facility,” he said.

If Medicaid isn’t reformed, care for the elderly could take a step back to a previous generation, Kagen said.

“Medicaid must step up,” Kagen said. “Or we will transform our country once again to where grandma and grandpa live at home with us.”

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DRINK AND DRIVE

The *Accokeek Foundation* seeks a *Museum Educator* for our public & school programs.

Must have a strong interest in history and the environment and be comfortable working with children and the public.

Job requires being a team player, flexibility, working outside in various weather conditions, walking for 2+ hours and occasional heavy lifting. Must be able to work 12-20 hours per week including at least one Saturday and Sunday each month.

View full job description at [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org).

Send resume and cover letter to Patti Canter Norment at [pattinorment@accokeek.org](mailto:pattinorment@accokeek.org).

EOE

The *Accokeek Foundation* seeks a Site Interpreter. The *Site Interpreter* is responsible for educating, interpreting to and demonstrating for the public various aspects of Maryland's heritage and agricultural history at the National Colonial Farm exhibit area.

Main responsibilities include recreating a variety of 18th century lifestyles, tasks and trades and agricultural practices in an accurate, dynamic, creative and scholarly manner. The Site Interpreter will utilize crafts demonstrations, site tours, hands-on interpretation, characterization, conversation and dialogue to fulfill these responsibilities. The Site Interpreter will also assist the Manager of the National Colonial Farm in maintaining site integrity, safety and livestock.

View full job description at [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org).

Send resume and cover letter to Patti Canter Norment at [pattinorment@accokeek.org](mailto:pattinorment@accokeek.org).

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