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U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer
Vulnerable need affordable quality health care, Hoyer said.

Children's Health Funding Fails

Hoyer, Wynn Vow to Fight for Insurance Program

By MICHAEL WALSH
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — House Democrats are readying another bill after failing to override President Bush's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program last week, while a Maryland Republican has his own ideas on the subject.

The House voted 273-156, short of the two-thirds majority needed to override. The program will expire Nov. 16, barring a compromise between Congress and the White House.

Of the eight Maryland representatives,

only Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Frederick, voted "no."

House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, criticized the Democrats' postponement of the override vote for two weeks after the veto, saying the delay was an "example of the political games that the American people are tired of."

"We could be here today on a new bill," if the override vote had been taken immediately, he said.

"Today's vote is only the first chapter in the campaign to ensure our nation's most vulnerable citizens have access to quality health care," said Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-

Mechanicsville, in a statement.

A new bill could be coming shortly — from more than one place. House Democrats will attempt to pass another bill to keep the program alive, while Bartlett has thrown his weight behind another version.

Bartlett announced he is co-sponsoring a version of the SCHIP bill that will extend coverage to 75,000 Maryland children who, "would not have been helped by the expansion bill I opposed."

The Bartlett-sponsored bill will allow tax credits for health care spending for families.
See CHILDREN, Page A7



U.S. Rep. Albert Wynn
It's inexcusable that children should die, Wynn said.

No Relief from High Electric Bills

Depsite Deregulation Problem Persists

By KATE PRAHLAD
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE — The average consumer saw a 72 percent spike in electricity bills in June 2006, but fewer than 3 percent of residential customers are shopping for a better rate, according to the Office of the People's Counsel.

The situation is precisely the opposite of what 1999 utility industry deregulation legislation was intended to achieve, said advocates last Friday.

"As you get older, you go to bed earlier, and you're using less electricity," said Rosalee Walker, who has seen the electric bill in her Baltimore condo soar. "So why am I paying more?"

Walker voiced her concerns at a listening session hosted by AARP, which is working with the Office of People's Counsel to identify policies that could help lower rates and increase market competition. Those recommendations will be submitted to the Public Service Commission on Oct. 31.

Former PSC commissioner J. Joseph "Max" Curran, who is now a utilities attorney, told the audience at the meeting that the commission erred in not preparing consumers well enough for the spikes they would inevitably see.

"They didn't build enough of a transition for you all, to prepare you all for higher rates," Curran said.

He said the agency tries to find price stability and reliability for consumers, as well as sources and incentives for

See RATES, Page A7

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



Scary Times Ahead

Haunted mansions, creepy bugs, coffins, ghosts, vampires and spiders ... oh my. Lots of horror filled encounters and fun Halloween adventures are set to take place this weekend. For a listing of Halloween events throughout Prince George's County, see Page A3.

Congestion's Big Price Tag

New Study Shows Traffic Congestion Costs the State Billions Each Year

By KATE PRAHLAD
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — Traffic congestion in the Washington area and Baltimore costs Maryland citizens \$3.1 billion annually, according to a new study.

The Texas Transportation Institute report, commissioned by area business groups, said that the cost of congestion in the state has increased by 1,200 percent since 1982 due to a rise in traffic volume without corresponding improvement or construction of roads.

Driving in peak periods costs Marylanders more than \$800 a year, the report said.

"More and more citizens are sitting in traffic, which is harming the economy and quality of life," said Johanna Neumann, spokeswoman for Maryland PIRG.

Congestion also takes its toll on businesses, said Kathy Snyder, president of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. She said most businesses would take an increase in the gas tax if it meant less time and money spent sitting in traffic.

According to the report, almost 60 mil-

lion hours a year are spent in traffic in Baltimore, wasting more than 40 million gallons of fuel. In the Washington metro area, drivers spend twice as many hours waiting and burn 90 million gallons of fuel.

Business groups like the chamber and the Greater Baltimore Committee have called for an additional \$600 million for the Transportation Trust Fund, but Gov. Martin O'Malley has pledged only \$392 million for the fund if his budget plan is approved.

The report said a \$600 million increase would provide 8,106 new jobs in total and a \$944 million increase in economic activity in the region.

"The big question is how much money within the Transportation Trust Fund is allocated to transit," Neumann said. "It's a flawed system if it's going to build new roads. If it's helping to fund new transit projects, then that's a whole other story."

That was echoed by Dru Schmidt-Perkins, executive director of the anti-sprawl group 1000 Friends of Maryland, who said people "recognize even after adding lanes to beltways and miles to highways, traffic is just getting worse."



Transportation and traffic congestion ranks high among motorists as a major concern.

She said the state should look to long-term congestion relief and not quick fixes.

A poll released last week by 1000 Friends of Maryland showed just how frustrated citizens are with traffic. More respondents — 67 percent — rated traffic as a serious problem than public education or taxes, according to the random June telephone poll of 1,000 registered voters.

Seventy-four percent of Marylanders supported using more money for mass transit, even if it meant less spending on roads.

See CONGESTION, Page A7

County Will Keep Health System Afloat

Dimensions Gets Needed Funds

By ANDY ZIEMINSKI
Capital News Service

CHEVERLY — Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson said the county will give Dimensions Healthcare System a much-needed infusion of cash within weeks, temporarily ending a months-long feud over the ailing hospital system's leadership.

"There's no reason for me to withhold funds," Johnson told dozens of staffers at Prince George's Hospital Center, one of six hospitals Dimensions operates in the county. "We just have to sit down and figure out when we're going to transfer some money."

At issue is \$14 million of county council-approved funding for Dimensions that Johnson refused to release earlier this year, until four Dimensions board members resigned. He claimed that mismanagement worsened financial troubles for the system, which serves 180,000 patients a year.

Dimensions responded by filing a lawsuit against the county, which it dropped soon after electing a new chairman in September.

"Now we need to let the community know in a positive way that we've worked out these problems and all the negativity is gone," said Dr. Gita Shah, president of Laurel Regional Hospital's medical staff and a Dimensions board member.

In coming weeks, Johnson, the county council and the Dimensions board must discuss

See DIMENSIONS, Page A7

INSIDE



OUT ON THE TOWN

Fall Horror Flick Line Up

Halloween, pumpkins, witches and goblins are here. Snuggle into your favorite p.j.'s and watch some scary movies.

A6

COMMUNITY

Discuss Your Community's Future

Residents of Brandywine and Clinton are invited to public planning workshops.

A3

MOTOR VEHICLE AUCTION

Read the listing for the Friday, Dec. 7, sale date event at the Prince George's County Vehicle Compound in Upper Marlboro.

A9

Police Need Reasonable Suspicion for Stops

By KENNETH R. FLETCHER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — A divided Court of Appeals ruled last week that police need only reasonable suspicion to pull a car over, a lower standard than probable cause.

But the court ruled that a Harford County deputy sheriff did not even have reasonable suspicion when he pulled over a car in May 2006 because its rear window appeared "darker than a normal window."

"The court for the first time has held that reasonable suspicion is the standard for when a car is stopped in the state of Maryland," said

Lisa Sansone, lawyer for Arvel Williams, the driver in the Harford County case. "Prior to that there was some confusion as to whether probable cause would be required."

The case began early on the morning of May 8, 2006, when the Harford County Sheriff's Department was on the lookout for a black Mercury Grand Marquis that authorities believed may have been carrying drugs.

A deputy who saw a Marquis with license plates that matched the description of the suspect vehicle followed it off Interstate 95 and pulled up behind it at a red light in what he said

See REASONABLE, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco

By RUTH TURNER

301-888-1139

Craft Fair

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a craft fair at St. John's Catholic Church from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17. Lunch will be available and also homemade goodies.

Rental fee for tables is \$20, which will be furnished by the auxiliary. To obtain additional information, call Linda Clagett at 301-868-2543.

Performing Artists Registry

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Division is developing a registry of Prince George's County performing artists including dancers, theatre professionals, actors, and musicians for a listing in a new County Registry of Performing Artists and Companies.

Step Aerobics

Upper Marlboro Community Center will offer a class using a step. This cardio class maximizes a full body workout. You can register on-site for one day or a week course.

To register for single, weekday courses, call the center at 301-627-2828. 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday. \$59 residents; \$71 non-resident. Classes start Nov. 13.

28th Annual Interfaith Concert

The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington presents a 28th annual Interfaith Concert, which is a celebration of the sacred in song, dance and chant.

The concert will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. General admission is \$15 each, \$12.50 for groups and \$18 at the door.

Reserved tickets are \$30 and \$25 for groups. (Group rates are for parties with 10 or more people. If you need additional information, call Mike Goggin, assistant director of IFC, at 202-234-6300, Ext. 202.

Music Student's Honors Recital

The Music Student's Honor Recital will be celebrated from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Prince George's Community College in the Queen Anne Fine Arts Building, Hallam Theatre.

Nottingham-Myers Church

Ushers at Nottingham-Myers Church will celebrate their anniversary at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9. The guest speaker for the event will be District Superintendent The Rev. Dr. Ianther M. Mills.

The church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro. For more information, 301-888-2171 for information.

Serving Suitland

By JANUCE EUELL

301-736-3481

Pilgrimage Christian Church in Suitland is sponsoring a Flea Market on Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at its location at 5105 Silver Hill Road. Items for purchase include clothes, hats, pocketbooks, books, computer equipment, fax machine, toys and other household items that you might find useful as a new addition to your home or office.

If you are a vendor and want a table to display your goods, a table and chairs for rent for \$15, and if you only space, the cost is \$10. Call (301)568-4039.

ROJA's After School Learning Centers at Parkway Terrace and Parkland Village apartments sponsored a trip to the Green Meadows Farm in Jessup to give the youth the opportunity to experience what it's like to be on a farm.

The farm had a pumpkin patch from which each attendee could

choose a pumpkin to take home.

Some were excited to see the animals, but others were a little hesitant to go near or touch them.

Even though the rain prevented the groups from staying long, everyone was able to go on the hayride adventure.

The parents who took the day off to attend the event with their child are to be appreciated for sharing this experience with their child. They will have lasting memories.

Those folks are: Anita Freeman, Maria Williams, Kathy Page, Sheena Blake, Tamara Trowell and Toni Colwell.

Of course, the children had a ball choosing their special pumpkin that they all plan to bake pumpkin pies with over the weekend.

Much gratitude to Meneta Wyatt, Tyrone Childress, Julia Walker, and Samuel Crump for helping to chaperone the group of almost 40 participants.

Mega-thanks to everyone.

Saving Lives for 30 Years and Counting

County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Celebrate Advanced Life Support Services

Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department is about to celebrate an anniversary of life-saving proportions. Today, the Fire/EMS Department will have provided Advanced Life Support (ALS) services (Paramedic Units) to the county residents and others for 30 years.

County Fire Chief Lawrence H. Sedgwick Jr., said, "It is absolutely amazing to be witness to the growth of our paramedic service over the last three decades. This includes the level of training, quality of care, technology, apparatus, the number ALS providers and sheer number of incidents that we respond to."

In 1998, an official change of the department's name to embrace Emergency Medical Services occurred. The name was adopted by which the organization is now known - Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department.

Chief Sedgwick said, "On this 30th anniversary, I reflect back to the day when we incorporated EMS into our department title. It is a simple task to add the letters EMS to your title. However, it takes com-

mitment, hard work and dedication by every member of this department to believe in our responsibility to emergency medical services and make it a reality."

In addition to learning how to be a firefighter in recruit school all career firefighters are also trained as Emergency Medical Technicians and provide staffing for 40 basic life support ambulances throughout the county, in addition to our volunteer members.

To provide ALS training to firefighters, a cooperative effort with the Prince George's Community College for paramedic education was undertaken in 2001. Advance Life Support education has transitioned from a vocational technical course to a higher academic standard.

To meet the community's on going need for advanced life support services the department works cooperatively with PGCC to provide the training on a schedule compatible with a firefighters shift work.

The department provides a steady cadre of students and has provided equipment for training of Firefighter/EMT's to become certified as Firefighter/Medics.

The associate's degree program is approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The college's first class of paramedics entered in the fall of 2000.

In 2007, a class of 84 firefighters attained the required education to become EMT- Intermediate/Paramedic and now staff numerous units across the county that provide advanced life support. There are currently an additional 75 firefighter/students attending PGCC working to attain their EMT - Intermediate/Paramedic status.

The Fire/EMS Department provides incentives for firefighters to aspire to the ALS level. These incentives include increased rates of pay and eligibility for promotion.

Chief Sedgwick urges the citizens and county residents to take a moment and stop by one of our community Fire/EMS stations and visit with our members and tell them, "Happy Anniversary, keep up the good work and thank you"

— Courtesy Prince George's County Fire/EMS

In and Around Morningside Skyline

By MARY MCHALE

301-735-3451

Will enrollment change for Morningside's Benjamin Foulois Academy?

Eleven elementary schools in South County may be combined with middle school grades to make better use of current buildings. At a recent meeting, Deputy Superintendent William Hite discussed the potential for taking some elementaries and converting them to pre-kindergarten through grade eight. Among the schools eligible for this plan are Benjamin Foulois in Morningside; Samuel P. Massie, a new school in Forestville; and William Beans in Suitland.

Another plan would convert seven elementaries—including Foulois—to sixth-through-eighth-grade schools.

Four additional meetings will be held for public input.

Foulois started out as Benjamin D. Foulois Junior High back in the 1960s. About twenty years ago it became an elementary school and traditional academy. Two years ago some of the student body was transferred to Morningside School. Now, we'll see what happens next.

Who was Foulois?

Benjamin Delahauf Foulois was born in Connecticut in 1879. He enlisted in the Army Engineers in 1898 and by 1906 became interested in flying. He received his flying instructions by mail from the Wright Brothers, and once flew with

Orville Wright. Along with seven other pilots and Military Aircraft No. 1, he established the Army Air Force and in 1931 became Chief of the Army Air Corps and a General. He retired in 1935 and died at Andrews Air Force Base on April 25, 1967 at the age of 87.

As he said, "My lifetime has spanned the entire history of powered flight."

Neighbors

During the Morningside Fire Department's open house last week, firefighters were alerted to a house fire at 6703 Woodland Road in Morningside. The fire was put out, but units were held on the scene for two hours. The crew was Lt. Hansen, Lt. Johnson, Lt. Gale, Firefighter Dowling and Firefighter Leonard. Deputy chief Michael White had command. On behalf of the town, Morningside Mayor Karen Rooker presented a check for \$1,000 to the Fire Department at the Open House.

Michael Kolbe Wasilewski, nephew of Margaret Hunt, has recently deployed to Iraq. Father Kevin Cusick, parochial vicar of St. Philip's, is now serving there as a chaplain. Please remember them and all our service men and women in your prayers.

Get well prayers for Carolyn Sowell who underwent surgery

In a recent column I mentioned attending the play, "Well," at Arena Stage. That resulted in a call from longtime Camp Springs resident Elsie Dent who now lives at Collington. She told me her daughter-in-law, Nancy Schertler, is the lighting design-

er for the play. In fact, she began her career at Arena more than thirty years ago, and also has worked at Wolf Trap, and in New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Milwaukee, and other Washington theaters, including many shows at Arena. She is married to Howard Dent.

Morningside has been startled by a giant, roving groundhog. What shall we name him/her? Email your suggestions to mud-dmm@aol.com.

Foulois hosts Renaissance

Sabrina Vann, parent liaison at Benjamin D. Foulois Academy invites everyone to the Renaissance Pep Rally on Friday, noon to 1:45 p.m. She promises it'll be a great event—150 members of the Surrattsville Marching Band, hip-hop multiplication skit, and lots more. There'll be VIPs (including Sheriff Michael Jackson and County Exec Jack Johnson) and members of the Morningside Seniors. Camera crews from Channels 4, 5 and 9 have been invited.

By the way, renaissance means rebirth. She hopes this rally will be a rebirth of parents' involvement in the school.

Changing landscape

Nick's Super Market, a longtime fixture at 7601 Old Branch Ave., has changed hands. It is now Noah's Super Market. General Manager Noah Bae and Darryl Lambert, store manager, invite you to drop in this Saturday, Oct. 27, for wine-tasting, presented by Berrywine Plantations and Lingamore Winecellars.

Clinton Conversations

By NORMA FAZENBAKER
301-579-6116

If any of my readers can give me ideas on how to make sure I remember my cane, I would appreciate it. I have again left it in a parking lot, and this is the second time I have done that trick. The problem becomes that I don't really need it all the time so that is why I forget where I put it. Call me with suggestions.

- Clinton American Legion Post 259 on Piscataway Road is having a Seafood Lovers Delight on Nov. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m., only \$18 per person. Menu is crab legs, steamed shrimp, cod fish, hush puppies and serving of cole slaw. This event is for advanced sales, and tickets must be purchased by Nov. 4. Call 301-868-2550.
- On Nov. 22, the Post will be having a Thanksgiving Dinner with turkey and ham, mashed potatoes, dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, kale, baked beans, corn on the cob, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter. Tables can be reserved for groups of six or more. To attend, you must sign up at the bar and

pay by Nov. 15, so that they can plan on how many turkeys they will need to cook. Call 301-868-2550.

- Many heart attacks happen when you are alone and without help. You have about 10 seconds before you will lose consciousness. Help yourself by coughing repeatedly and vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating.
- NARFE Chapter 1260, Southern Prince George's County, will be having its Christmas party on Dec. 20 at the Jaycees in Waldorf. The price will probably be either \$20 or \$25. Please call me if you are interested.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone 301-627-0900 Legal Fax • 301-627-6260
Editorial Fax • 301-627-8147
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Editor/Publisher Legusta Floyd	Subscriptions Anna Curry
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Acting Editor Suzanne White
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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COMMUNITY

Halloween Candy

Spread Out Trick or Treat Goodies for Better Dental Health

Courtesy **DELTA DENTAL PLAN ASSOC**

When trick-or-treaters demand, "gimme something good to eat," they're hoping for candy and lots of it. It's certainly part of the holiday's appeal, but a tradition that causes concern about the effects of sugar on kids' teeth. With a few simple strategies and common sense, however, parents can help protect their kids' teeth from the onslaught of sugar.

"The quantity of candy kids eat is certainly something to monitor, but just as important is limiting the amount of time sugar comes in contact with teeth," said Max Anderson, DDS, a national oral health advisor for Delta Dental Plans Association.

Candy choice plays a role in this strategy. Hard or chewy candies, including suckers, caramels, popcorn balls and gum, are often the worst offenders since they can bathe teeth in sugar for long peri-

ods of time. Some of these candies can also cause additional problems or damage for people wearing braces and other oral appliances. Better choices include small candy bars and other candies that can be consumed more quickly and easily.

Grazing on candy can also increase the exposure teeth have to sugar. Grabbing a piece every now and then from a Trick-or-Treat bag over the course of a few hours, for example from after-school until dinnertime, brings teeth in contact with sugar over longer, drawn-out periods of time. Munching on a few small pieces in one sitting followed by a glass of water or a thorough tooth brushing is a better option for limiting this exposure.

Oral health experts long ago identified sugar as one of the major culprits behind tooth decay and cavities. If not removed by brushing or some other means, naturally occurring bacteria in the



human mouth form a colorless, sticky film called plaque. Cavity-causing organisms within plaque feed on sugar and turn it into acid. This acid attacks tooth enamel and causes tooth decay.

"With each American consuming an average of 26 pounds of candy annually, these strategies can be applied year-round. Let your kids enjoy some candy, then go back to eating a healthy diet," said Dr. Anderson. "Encouraging good oral health habits throughout the year, including brushing at least twice a day, flossing and visiting your dentist regularly, will promote good oral health habits for a lifetime. That's the best way to make sure that a little extra fun on Halloween won't be a setback for your kids' oral health."

Planning Department Holds Workshops

Brandywine and Clinton Communities Invited

Courtesy **M-NCPPC PLANNING**

On Saturday, Oct. 27 and Tuesday, Oct. 30, staff of the Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will host a series of workshops in the Clinton and Brandywine areas aimed at developing a vision for the future of communities in the southwestern portion of Prince George's County.

This portion of the county is included in the department's Subregion 5 study area and comprises 47,592 acres or approximately 15 percent of the county's land area. It is bounded by Andrews Air Force Base on the north, upper Piscataway Creek and the Pope's Creek Railroad right-of-way on the east, the Charles County - Prince George's County line on the south, and the Potomac River, lower Piscataway Creek, and Tinkers Creek on the west.

These community workshops are the first in a series of public events that will be held to update the Master Plan and Sectional Zoning Map Amendment for Subregion 5.

The current Master Plan for that area was last updated in 1993. Issues of concern expected to be addressed throughout the planning process include: construction of new public facilities to coincide with new development in the area; analysis of the transportation network, with special attention to opportunities for transit-oriented development along the MD 5 Corridor; the long-term need for employment-based land uses; and relief from traffic congestion and pedestrian-oriented improvements in the Clinton area.

Workshop times are:

- Saturday, Oct. 27, Open House at 1:00 p.m., workshop, 2-4:30 p.m., Surrattsville High School, Clinton.
- Tuesday, Oct. 30, Open House at 5:30 p.m., workshop, 6:30-9 p.m., Gwynn Park Middle School, Brandywine.

Bank to Provide Funds to Local Students

American Dream Scholarship Program Application Begins November 1

Courtesy **COMMERCE BANK**

Commerce Bank is searching for 225 community service-oriented high school seniors for the Commerce Bank American Dream Scholarship program, which awards \$225,000 annually to local graduating seniors who achieve both academic excellence and serve the community. The bank has two branches in Prince George's County: Clinton and New Carrollton.

Candidates can apply online by filling out an e-application. Interested students should visit commerceonline.com/american-dream from Nov. 1 through Dec. 15, 2007 for 2008-2009 academic year scholarships.

Student applications will be evaluated for accomplishments in and out of the classroom. Scholarship winners will be selected based on academic achievement, goals and

aspirations, demonstrated leadership, participation in community service activities, work experience, and personal recommendations.

Applicants must:

- Be graduating high school seniors, residing in a county served by Commerce Bank.
- Plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States.
- Have a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent.
- Demonstrate involvement in community service, volunteerism, school activities and/or employment responsibilities.

Questions regarding the scholarships should be directed to Scholarship America at 507-931-1682.

Halloween Happenings Close to Home

THURSDAY, OCT. 25

Young Goblins on Parade

Wear your Halloween costume in a parade, watch a magic show and go trick or treating throughout the center from 6 to 8 p.m. Ages 3-5. Fee: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$5. Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington. 301-203-6040; TTY 301-203-6030.

FRIDAY, OCT. 26

Seniors Halloween Costume Party

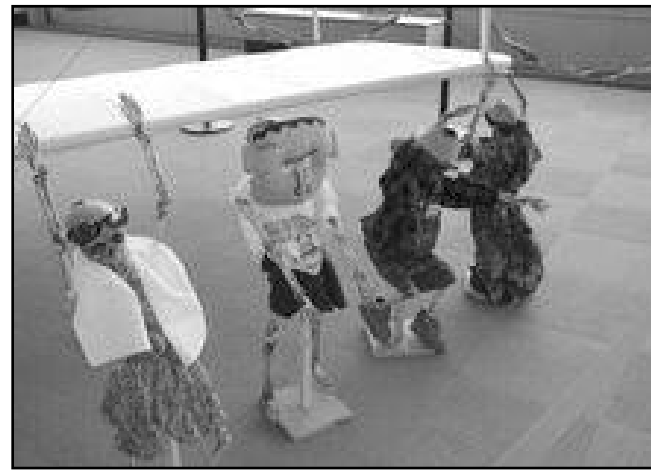
Enjoy a day of card playing and dancing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wear your Halloween costume for our contest. Ages 60 and older. Fee: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$5. Oakcrest Community Center, 1300 Capitol Heights Blvd., Capitol Heights. 301-736-5355; TTY 301-218-6768.

Gothick Evening

Enjoy an evening of eerie tales and macabre happenings from early 19th Century literature. Lantern guided tours depart every 15 minutes; last tour at 8:15 p.m. Fee: \$10/person. Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. TTY 301-699-2544.

Haunted House

Be careful of the spooky monsters and scary witches as you take a walk around the deep dark swamp from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Ages 3 and older. Fee: Resident



— COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Flight Night is from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park. Haunted hayrides and spooky fun. Fee: \$4/person. 301-864-6029.

\$5/adult, \$4/child/student; Non-Resident \$6/adult, \$3/child/student. Glenarden/Theresa Banks Complex (pool), 8615-A McLain Ave., Glenarden. 301-772-5515; TTY 301-218-6768.

Mayhem in Marlborough Ghost Walk

Take a spooky tour of historic Upper Marlboro this evening from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. Fee: \$6/ages 18 and older and \$4/ages 17 and younger. 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro. 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Haunted Woodlands

Ride a train to the top of the hill and follow a ghoulish guide on a haunted hike from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 27 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Reservations required. Ages 8 and older. Fee: Resident \$5; Non-Resident \$6. Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton. 301-297-4575; TTY 301-699-2544.

See EVENTS, Page A7

THE CABINESS FAMILY TREE

Will a member of the Cabiness family please contact Legusta Floyd Sr. at the Prince George's Post Newspaper 301/627-0900.

I would like to return your "LIFE SIZE" Family Tree Chart.

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CALL 1 800 420 7783 NOW!

Tech. Academy Holds Open Houses

The Technical Academy Program of Prince George's County Public Schools provides high school students with technical skills and knowledge which add value to their academic education. The program will host its annual open house for parents, students and the community to learn more about the program offerings.

During November, the following open houses will be held: 6:30 p.m., November 6, Crossland High School, 6801 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills; 6:30 p.m., November 13, Laurel High School, 8000 Cherry Lane, Laurel; and 6:30 p.m., November 29, Suitland High School, 5200 Silver Hill Road, Suitland.

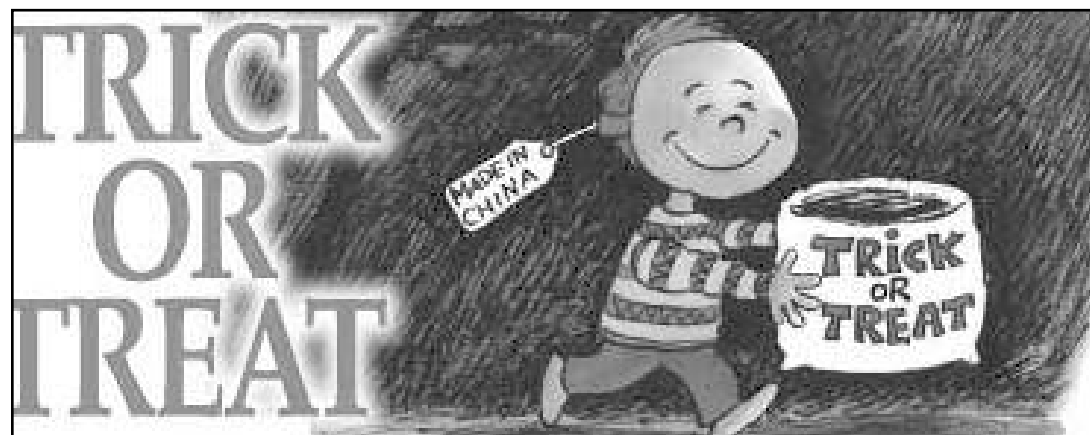
COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

WILLIAM E. SPRIGGS

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE



Staying Involved In Your Teenager's Schooling

When children enter high school, many parents become less involved in their teens' education. As their teenagers become more independent, parents may pay less attention to school work, feeling it's an area where the teen needs to learn responsibility and deal with the consequences.

While teenagers do need more freedom, it's not unusual for teens, especially those with busy schedules, to make poor decisions about time usage, often relegating school work to the bottom of the priority list.

As a parent of a teenager, it's great to encourage teen responsibility, but you also want to offer much needed guidance regarding time management and achieving school success. Staying involved in your teen's schooling can help achieve academic benefits and a stronger relationship with your child.

Some things you can do include:

- Take an interest in your teenager's classes. Encourage discussion of the school day and individual classes. Yes, starting such communication can be difficult. Often you'll hear only complaints or refusals to talk. But stick with it and offer positive, understanding feedback, rather than criticism. In addition, keep in contact with the school. Go to parents' nights, schedule teacher or counselor conferences when there are problems, and pay attention to progress reports and test grades.
- Actively help your teenager manage his or her time. Work with your teen to set up a sched-

ule that includes not only homework time, but also time for friends, sports and fun activities.

- Set clear, reasonable expectations for grades and schoolwork. Talk with your teen about his or her goals, abilities, interests, classes and teachers, then make the final expectations a joint decision. Jointly decide on consequences if expectations aren't met, then monitor school progress. Let your teen know you're there to help with trouble spots, not just to criticize or punish.

Although most teenagers are desperate to be more independent and to make their own decisions, it's easy for teens to be overwhelmed at times by all the choices, the responsibility and the consequences that come with that decision making.

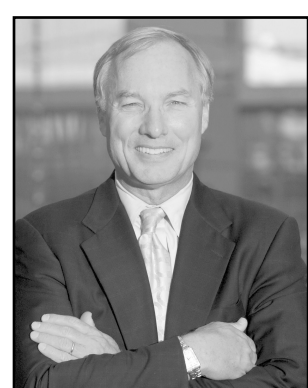
Your child's education is too important to leave it all in your teen's hands. Find ways to stay involved with your student's schooling while still supporting of his or her growing independence and you'll have a teen who will do better academically and may even appreciate your efforts, though it might be years before that's ever said out loud.

"The Counseling Corner" is provided as a public service to newspapers by the American Counseling Association, which is the nation's largest organization made up of counseling professionals. To learn more about the counseling profession visit the web site at the www.counseling.org.

HALLOWEEN POLITICO QUOTE

"We're going to stop this. I believe this is the year we're going to put the stake through the vampire's heart."

— Peter Franchot
Maryland Comptroller, addressing a Stop Slots Maryland rally



Peter Franchot

collar" work, and that older workers are healthier than they used to be.

Here, too, the administration fails the accuracy test. The decline in blue-collar jobs, especially in manufacturing, does not mean that low-skilled work is becoming more sedentary. African Americans remain much more likely than whites to be in production or material-moving occupations, 16 percent compared to 12 percent. Many service occupations African Americans hold — such as janitors, private security guards and nursing assistants — are physically demanding and require that they be in good health.

Current research suggests that workers receiving disability benefits are, in fact, not able to maintain full-time regular employment. Raising the eligibility bar will simply cut disability benefits.

Perhaps more damaging to those with chronic health issues, it will also cut them off from insurance-Medicare — vitally important to their health.

Moreover, of all children who receive benefits because their parent is disabled, about 21 percent are African American.

Raising the eligibility age for workers also means fewer children will be helped while their parents struggle, unfit for today's competitive labor market.

This attempted fix for Social Security solvency is being done quietly, through a regulation change posted for public comment. There is no fanfare from the president, but those who will be harmed will be the victims of his Social Security argument.

By mischaracterizing the program as only old-age benefits, he glossed over the real issue at the core of the debate on whether Americans are adequately served by the system.

Now he is about to make the disabled and African Americans pay to solve everyone's problem.

That is what I call unfair.

William E. Spriggs is a senior fellow at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

Bush's Attack on Social Security

When President Bush launched his drive to change Social Security, he argued in part, that it was unfair to African-Americans because their shorter life expectancy cheated them out of old-age benefits.

The president got it wrong, though, because he did not acknowledge African-Americans benefit disproportionately from the survivor and disability benefits that are integral to the program. Now this omission has resurfaced with a vengeance in a proposal to limit access to the disability benefits.

Social Security is not simply for the aged. In a society that requires individuals work to support for their families, Social Security balances the moral equation with benefits for when someone cannot work.

It provides coverage when people become too old to work, when a breadwinner has died, and also when a worker becomes disabled and can no longer take their of their family. The proposed rules would deny coverage for disabled workers and their families.

About 17 percent of Social Security beneficiaries are disabled or are the spouse or child of a disabled worker. Unable to muster the political will to cut benefits to old-age beneficiaries, the administration now has taken aim at disability benefits.

While African-Americans make up roughly 11.5 percent of workers covered by Social Security and are only about 8.5 percent of those receiving retirement benefits, they are nearly 18 percent of those who are getting disability benefits.

Studies of the returns on the payments that African-Americans make into the Social Security system show that they do as well as whites, partly because of the progressive nature of the retirement benefit, and partly because of the disability component.

Cuts in disability benefits can upset the delicate balance that makes the system fair for African Americans.

The administration's plan would push the complex set of factors used to determine eligibility, making it more difficult to qualify at younger ages.

They argue that there is a decline in "blue-

Coral Reefs Under Constant Threat by Global Warming

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard about the die-off of coral reefs due to global warming. I've also read that coral reefs themselves store carbon dioxide (CO2), one of the main global warming gases. So if coral reefs are dying out, isn't that a double whammy that increases the CO2 in the atmosphere?

— Tom Ozzello, Maplewood, MN

According to marine scientists, the world's coral reefs—those underwater repositories for biodiversity that play host to some 25 percent of all marine life—are in big trouble as a result of global warming. Data collected by the international environmental group WWF (formerly World Wildlife Fund) show that 20 percent of the world's coral reefs have been effectively destroyed and show no immediate sign of recovery, while about 50 percent of remaining reefs are under imminent or long-term threat of collapse.

Most scientists now agree that global warming is not a natural phenomenon but a direct result of the continual release of

excessive amounts of CO2 and other "greenhouse" gases into the atmosphere by human industrial and transportation activity. And the small but prolonged rises in ocean temperature that result cause coral colonies to expel the symbiotic food-producing algae that sustain them. This process is called "bleaching," because it turns the reefs white as they die.

But researchers working with the Coral Reef Alliance have found that while coral reefs do store CO2 as part of photosynthesis, they tend to release most of it back into the ocean (so they are not what are known as "carbon sinks"). As such, the release of CO2 from dying coral reefs is not a major concern.

Of course, the ocean is a large carbon sink, storing about a quarter of what would otherwise end up in the atmosphere. Landmasses (and their plants) soak up another quarter of all the CO2 emanating from the Earth's surface, while the rest rises up into the atmosphere where it can wreak havoc with our climate.

Recent findings indicate that the Antarctic Ocean is getting less efficient at storing CO2,

and this raises serious questions about the ability of our oceans to handle everything we throw at them. The study's authors fear that "such weakening of one of the Earth's major carbon dioxide sinks will lead to higher levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide in the long-term."

Not everyone is forecasting gloom and doom.

Some of the Australian researchers believe that coral reefs around the world could expand in size by up to a third due to the increased ocean warming.

"Our finding stands in stark contrast to previous predictions that coral reef growth will suffer large, potentially catastrophic, decreases in the future," says University of New South Wales oceanographer Ben McNeil, who led the controversial 2004 study that was published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Geophysical Research Letters*.

"Our analysis suggests that ocean warming will foster considerably faster future rates of coral reef growth that will eventually exceed pre-industrial rates by as much as 35 per cent by 2100," he adds.



GETTY IMAGES

Twenty percent of the world's coral reefs have been effectively destroyed and show no immediate sign of recovery, while about 50 percent of remaining reefs are under imminent or long-term threat of collapse.

In spite of such theories, the majority of marine scientists remain pessimistic about the future of coral reefs in a warmer world.

One can only hope that the optimists are right.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earth-talk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

BUSINESS

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Know Your Rights When Renting An Apartment

Tenant rights are, for the most part, set by state law, so you should check for the specific laws that affect tenants in your state. Here are some fairly common tenants rights that may or may not be applicable to your state.

Your responsibilities

Before we talk about what the landlord is responsible for, let's take a look at your responsibilities:

- Keep the apartment clean
- Put out garbage in proper containers
- Use electrical and plumbing fixtures properly
- Follow local housing, health and safety rules
- Do not damage the landlord's property or disturb neighbors
- Make sure guests do not destroy the landlord's property or disturb other residents
- Use appliances with care
- Notify the landlord when repairs are needed

Landlord's responsibilities

Renting is a two-way street. Since you are required to keep up your end of the bargain, the landlord has certain responsibilities, as well:

- Obey all health and safety laws and regulations.
- Make all repairs needed to maintain the property in good condition.
- Keep all common areas safe, clean and in good repair.
- Maintain all electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning fixtures and applications that the landlord provides or is required to provide.
- Provide and maintain garbage cans and provide for trash removal where there are four or more units in the building.
- Supply running water and enough hot water and heat at all times, unless there are separate heating or hot water units for each dwelling unit and the utility fees for the heating and hot water are paid directly by the tenant to a public utility company.
- Give at least 24 hours notice to a tenant before trying to enter his or her apartment and enter only at reasonable times unless there is an emergency.
- Do not abuse the right to enter.

The lease

When you sign a lease, you are held to the terms specified in that lease except for the following:

- Any conditions that are unfair or unenforceable.
- Any terms that force a tenant to pay for repairs that the landlord is responsible for.
- Any wording that limits the right of the tenant to sue the landlord for an injury that occurs on the premises.
- Any agreement that requires the tenant to pay the landlord's legal fees.
- Any terms that waive the tenant's right to be legally evicted through a court process.

Leases are also required to list the name and address of the property owner and his or her agent, if there is one. If this information is not in the lease, it must be given to the tenant at move in.

You must give the landlord notice when you intend to end the rental period described in the lease. In return, the landlord must notify you when he or she wants to end the rental agreement or raise the rent. If you rent monthly, notice must be given 30 days before the end of the rental. If you rent weekly, notice must be given seven days in advance.

Troubleshooting

If your landlord is not living up to his or her legal responsibilities or if a government agency determines that the apartment has a health or safety violation, you have several courses of action available to you. You can sue the landlord for money damages. You can also force the landlord to make the required repairs.

Wilson Bridge Project Wins Road Award

Courtesy WWB PROJECT

OXON HILL — The Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project was honored with a prestigious international award: the 2007 International Road Federation's Global Road Achievement Award. The International Road Federation (IRF) is an esteemed global organization that brings together

public and private entities from around the world committed to road development.

Mr. Robert Douglass, P.E., Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project Director from the Maryland State Highway Administration and Mr. Russell Fuhrman, P.E., Executive Project Manager from Potomac Crossing Consultants accepted the award

The award was given to the Wilson Bridge Project for its achievement in program management. One of the United States' largest active public works projects, the \$2.47 billion Wilson Bridge replacement and interchange project is demonstrating that through effective program management, a mega-project can be kept on schedule and on budget while protecting the natural environment and respecting neighboring communities.

The project was selected due to its success in meeting program goals and objectives, as well as its ability to deal with a high degree of complexity and variety of issues. These attributes are best exemplified through the daily project coordination that takes place, including the management and tracking of 35 different major construction contracts, which at peak collectively placed about \$1 million worth of work each day.

Further examples of program management excellence include applying creative solutions to potential show-stoppers, protecting the natural

environment throughout construction with innovative programs and technologies, and executing a proactive communications program to keep travelers and neighbors informed and moving during project construction.

The project also was recognized for its commitment to partnering. Through the cooperative efforts of the federal, state and local government, as well as private sector partners and surrounding communities, the Wilson Bridge Project already has completed many key milestones and traffic improvements, including the opening of the first new bridge in summer 2006, and is scheduled to open the second new span in summer 2008.

The Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration, Virginia Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration and the District of Columbia Department of Transportation.

Recall Notifications Available on Website

Courtesy ATTY GENERAL'S OFFICE

BALTIMORE — Toys tainted with lead, ground beef contaminated with e-coli, toasters that could pose a fire hazard. As the number of product recalls seem to increase on a daily basis, the task of keeping up with them can be tricky for consumers.

To eliminate much of the frustration in trying to track down the most up-to-date information, Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler announced an easily accessible link from the Office of the Attorney General's website that directs consumers to all the federal websites that post the latest information on product recalls. The new link can be found at <http://www.oag.state.md.us> and leads directly to the Product Recall Clearinghouse

website.

"Maryland consumers and their families should not be in the dark on items that have the potential to cause great harm, whether it be lipstick or baby food," said Gansler. "I am pleased to announce this new website feature that will make it easier for consumers to protect themselves from faulty products."

The product recall website will be updated weekly or as needed depending on the number of recalls issued. Consumers with questions or concerns about recalled products may call the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 410-528-8662 or toll free at 1-888-743-0023, or by visiting the Consumer Protection Division's website at <http://www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer/index.htm>.

Local Community Centers Get Improvement Funds

Courtesy GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

ANNAPOLIS — Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Board of Public Works (BPW) approval of more than \$16.6 million in local-side Program Open Space (POS) funds for improvements at 36 local park and recreation facilities.

"Program Open Space not only continues to expand the availability of close-to-home enhance recreational areas for Maryland's working families," said O'Malley, "it also allows our local partners to enhance those facilities - for safety, for accessibility and for implementation of environmentally friendly practices."

The BPW approved funding for the following projects in Prince George's County, which will receive \$5,497,000 in funding for local community centers.

- A 12,000 square foot

Vansville Community Center and Henson Creek Stream Valley Park Set to Receive Additional Monies

In addition to the Vansville Community Center at the Beltsville-Laurel Elementary School Gym will be partially funded (75 percent of total project cost) with a \$2,625,000 grant.

- A 35,000 square foot recreation complex will be build adjacent to the Henson Creek Stream Valley Park in Fort Washington, partially funded (22 percent of total project cost) with a \$2,872,000 grant.

The state of the art facility will include a two-floor oversized gymnasium, fitness area, and indoor warm-up track, game room and multi-purpose rooms.

Taxes and Slots Meeting Nov. 1

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Prince George's County Chapter, is holding two town meetings on taxes and legalizing slots. Legislative Districts 24, 25 and 26 meets Thursday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. Saint Stephen's Baptist

Church, 5757 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills. Legislative Districts 21, 22, 23 and 47 meets Saturday, Nov. 3 at 10 a.m. Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Road, Greenbelt. Call McArthur Bishop at 301-773-1274.

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D.C. United Soccer Franchise Being Lured to Maryland

By BERNIE BECKER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — Comptroller Peter Franchot reiterated his desire to lure D.C. United to Maryland, saying the soccer franchise would be both an economic and civic catalyst in the state.

But the head of the Maryland Stadium Authority said there have only been preliminary discussions about finding a stadium site for the team, and a spokeswoman for D.C. United's principal owner said the team would rather stay in the nation's capital.

Franchot said the chance to bring D.C. United to the state was "a historic opportunity," a day after meeting with team representatives. Great teams can lift up "entire states and communities," Franchot said at the Board of Public Works meeting.

He said he believes the team would mean increased tax revenue for the state from hotels, restaurants and merchandise sales.

But others cautioned that talk of the team leaving the District was merely speculative.

Stadium Authority Chairman Fred Puddester said the state's Department of Business and Economic Development held "preliminary meetings" a month ago with the Major League Soccer franchise.

Franchot wrote Puddester, urging the stadium authority to reach out to D.C. United, but Puddester said no other state official had written him about the team.

And a spokeswoman said Victor MacFarlane, the team's principal owner, is primarily an urban developer and would rather keep the team in the city. "It is D.C. United," said Julie Chase.

The team, which has won four titles in America's top soccer league, currently plays at RFK Stadium in the District.

MacFarlane, a San Francisco-based developer, bought the team in January with a partner and had been negotiating with the city to build a 27,000 seat stadium and mixed-use development in Anacostia.

He had originally offered to build the stadium at Poplar Point, a park along the Anacostia River in Southeast Washington, if the city let him develop other parts of the park and helped pay for infrastructure. But D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty will soon consider other development bids for Poplar Point.

Despite MacFarlane's desire to stay in the city, Chase said in a written statement that the team will look "at sites and financing arrangements within, and outside, the District." She said the team will "welcome conversations" with the Maryland Stadium Authority about building a stadium.

D.C. Council member Marion Barry, whose ward contains Poplar Point, said he does not blame Maryland for trying to land D.C. United, and hopes Franchot's appeal will put "more pressure on the mayor to make the right decision" and work to keep the team.

Barry said the stadium and related development are essential for his ward, which does not have a sit-down restaurant and needs affordable housing and major retail.

Puddester said his group would look into bringing the team to Maryland. While he said it was "premature to talk about financing," he also said Franchot's letter contained nothing about funding a potential stadium.

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Out on the TOWN

HALLOWEEN CLASSICS

Snuggle Down with Some Real Chillers, Thrillers

Halloween is days away. Some people like to dress in costume, others like to Trick or Treat. But many prefer to grab a bowl of popcorn and watch some classic horror films. Below are five suggestions from rottentomaotes.com, which range from legendary Hitchcock to the silly horror of 'Shaun of the Dead.' Can you guess which one of these frightening films just may be true?



House of Wax (1953)

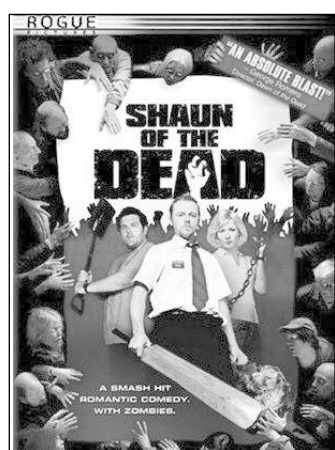
This classic is a 3-D horror delight that combines the atmospheric eeriness of the wax museum with the always-chilling presence of Vincent Price. Professor Jarrod (Vincent Price) is a devoted wax figure sculptor for his museum in 1910s New York City. When his financial partner, Sidney Wallace (Paul Cavanagh), demands more sensational exhibits to increase profits, Jarrod refuses. The vengeful Wallace torches the museum, leaving Jarrod for dead. Miraculously, Jarrod survives (though his hands and legs are rendered useless) and builds a new House of Wax with help from threatening deaf-mute sculptor, Igor (Charles Bronson). The museum's popular "Chamber of Horrors" showcases recent crimes like the murder of Wallace, a victim of a cloaked, disfigured killer along with his fiancée, Cathy (Carolyn Jones). When Cathy's friend, Sue (Phyllis Kirk), visits the museum she makes a discovery that leads to the horrifying truth behind the House of Wax. With gasp inducing (and tongue-in-cheek) 3-D scenes like the museum fire, paddleball man and can-can girls, the director creates an atmospheric film which stands up as a horror classic in 2-D as well.



Psycho (1960)

Infamous for its shower scene, but immortal for its contribution to the horror genre. Because 'Psycho' was filmed with tact, grace and art, Alfred Hitchcock didn't just create modern horror, he validated it.

Credited with inventing the genre of the modern horror film, the movie has had its share of sequels and imitators, none of which diminishes the achievement of this shocking and complex horror thriller. His black-and-white original, featuring Anthony Perkins's haunting characterization of lonely motel keeper Norman Bates, has never been equaled. Bates presides over an out-of-the-way motel under the domineering specter of his mother. The young, well-intentioned Bates is introduced to the audience when Marion Crane (Janet Leigh), a blonde on the run with stolen money, checks in for the night. But Momma doesn't like loose women, so the stage is set for this classic tale of horror — and one of the most famous scenes in film history. It was initially received by audiences with shock and amazement — and it still terrifies today.



Shaun of the Dead (2004)

This movie cleverly balances scares and witty satire, making for a bloody good zombie movie with loads of wit. Edgar Wright's horror-comedy film follows the title character (Simon Pegg) through his mundane life in London. Joined by his immature and ever-present roommate, Ed (Nick Frost), Shaun excels at nothing except drinking pints of ale and watching television, which causes friction with his girlfriend, Liz (Kate Ashfield). Before Shaun can save his relationship, however, he's got to fend off a horde of zombies that are slowly taking over the city. Armed with a cricket bat and a vague sense of direction, Shaun must rescue his friends and loved ones, and bring them to the only safe place he can think of — the pub. The film succeeds remarkably well at combining droll British humor with good, old-fashioned zombie cinema. While the movie is often hilariously amusing, it takes its horror pedigree seriously, offering up moments of genuine suspense, and even a healthy dose of gore.



Night of the Living Dead (1968)

George A. Romero's debut set the template for the zombie film, and features tight editing, realistic gore, and a sly political undercurrent. This is a low-budget, home-grown classic that had great difficulty finding a distributor at the time of its release in 1968, and has since become one of the most influential horror films of all time. (Aside from its visceral impact years before realistic gore became the fashion, the film is also important for its portrayal of a black man as the protagonist during a time when race was an extremely sensitive issue in the United States.) The plot is simple: seven people secluded in a Pennsylvania farmhouse face relentless attacks by reanimated corpses seeking to eat their flesh. The group, which includes a married couple and their daughter, a pair of young lovers, and an African-American man, try to keep their sanity as the living dead keep trying to enter the house. Radio news reports tell of the plague taking over the eastern United States, while the ever-decreasing band of survivors rapidly loses ground in the battle to both keep peace with one another and stay alive.



The Exorcist (1973)

This movie rides its supernatural theme to magical effect, with remarkable special effects and an eerie atmosphere, resulting in one of the scariest films of all time.

Arguably the scariest motion picture ever made, William Friedkin's film was unleashed on an unsuspecting American public in 1973.

The film quickly became a nationwide sensation, leading to religious boycotts, fainting and a huge box office return. This film has never lost its punch or its ability to scare.

Oscar nominee Linda Blair beat out hundreds of other child actors to land the role of Regan MacNeil, a 12-year-old who is possessed by the devil.

After exhausting all other practical options, Regan's mother, Chris (Ellen Burstyn), acknowledges the supernatural nature of her daughter's condition and recruits Father Damien Karras (Jason Miller) to stage an exorcism. Aided by the mysterious Jesuit exorcist Father Merrin (Max von Sydow), Father Damien must confront not only the supernatural phenomena in front of him, but also his own inadequate faith and displaced guilt over his mother's recent death.

Getting Straight with the Almighty Dollar

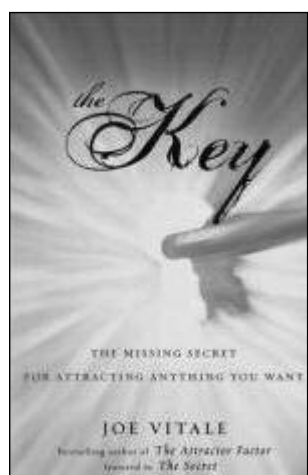
Author Provides Five Insights on Manifesting Money in New Book

By JOE VITALE

Money, all by itself, is nothing but paper and metal. It's pretty amazing as a piece of art. But in and of itself, money is worthless. Money is paper.

It's us who apply meaning to it. And that's where people start loading it with self-esteem issues, with control issues. We apply all kind of meaning to the money.

And my advice is to start thinking of money like Monopoly. It's fun. It's part of the game, but it does not determine whether you are happy or not happy, whether you are worthwhile or not worthwhile.



It's got nothing to do with it.

You don't want to have feelings of need or attachment or addiction around money,

because then you're sending out a feeling of need, attachment and addiction, and it's going to cause an imbalance. It's going to be pushing away money. A part of you will be saying, I want money, I want to do great things with money, and then another part of you is going to say, "I don't want money because money is evil, and rich people do bad things, and it will mean I'm greedy. So a part of you is saying bring it on, and another part is saying keep it away, and what happens? You cancel it out, and you don't get any.

Money is a means of exchange, but it's because

we've agreed on the meaning. It doesn't, by itself, have magical powers. You have the magical powers. So the focus needs to be on you, not on the money.

Focus on what you love, because what everybody in the world wants is to love and to be loved. And if you can focus on sharing your heart to the people who most want to feel your heart, you'll end up receiving money.

Excerpted from "The Key: The Missing Secret for Attracting Anything You Want" (John Wiley and Sons) by Joe Vitale.

Calendar of Events

October 26 — October 28

FRIDAY, OCT. 26

Southern Maryland Fall Home Show

The home show is an event designed for homeowners in all stages of remodeling, landscaping and decorating. Each day features hundreds of exhibits with merchandise, product demonstrations and sample interior and exterior vignettes. With a combination of new products and expert advice from the pros, the event inspires homeowners with countless ideas on enhancing a home's comfort and functionality, as well as its aesthetic appeal and overall value. Admission charge. Today and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave., Upper Marlboro. 301-952-7999; TTY 301-952-7998.

Montpelier Jazz Series: Rumba Club

Irresistible rhythms and Latin sounds define this band that continues to forge its own synthesis of jazz and instrumental Latin dance music. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20/person Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, Information: 301-953-1993, 410-792-0664.

SATURDAY, OCT. 27

Fun and Games

Enjoy a Frisbee toss, a football throw, hoops mania and a magic show. Parent or guardian must accompany children ages 8 and older. Noon to 2 p.m. Fee: Resident \$5; Non-Resident \$7. Columbia Park Community Center, 1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover. 301-341-3749.

Afternoon Tea

Enjoy tea in the mansion with scones, sandwiches and desserts. Reservations and pre-payment required. Ages 10 and older. Noon. Fee: \$23/person. Montpelier Mansion, 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel. 301-498-8486.

Fall Festival

Hay maze, games, moon bounce, face painting and refreshments. Event will be held rain or shine at 1 p.m. All ages welcome. Fee: \$3/person. Upper Marlboro Community Center, 5400 Marlboro Race Track Road, Upper Marlboro. 301-627-2828; TTY 301-203-6030.

T-Ball: Pre-School

Pre-schoolers will be introduced to baseball using a batting T. Ages 3-5. 9:30 a.m. Fee: Resident \$40/6 weeks; Non-Resident \$48/6 weeks. Berwyn Heights Community Center, 6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights. 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512. SMARTlink #108453.

Nature Craft

Children will enjoy a story, a hands-on nature craft, and meeting a featured live animal. Reservations required. 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 3-8. Fee: Resident \$2; Non-Resident \$3. Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro. 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544.

Foliage Bike Ride

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Fall Foliage Bike Ride & Tours will hold bike rides through natural historical areas. Refreshments, T-shirts and pontoon boat ride provided. Registration required. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fee: \$10/ages 12 and older, free/ages 11 and younger. Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg. 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544.

Opening Day at Wells Ice Rink

Bring your ice skates or rent them. All ages welcome. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m. Fee: \$4 (includes skate rental). Wells Ice Rink, 5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park. 301-277-3717; TTY 301-445-4512.

SUNDAY, OCT. 28

Montpelier Classical Recital

Voices XXI, Vocal Ensemble to perform. This unique chamber chorus focuses on neglected masterworks from the 14th, 15th and early 16th centuries as well as contemporary works composed for the ensemble. 3 p.m. Reservations. Donation: \$5. Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel. 301-953-1993.

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Children

Children, From Page A1

ilies making up to \$62,000 per year and permit states to increase eligibility for the program using their own funds, he said.

Bartlett had been under fire in the two weeks since Bush's veto from Democrats, including Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., for being the only Maryland delegate to vote against the bill.

"I want to thank Senate Democrat Leader Harry Reid for recognizing that I cast the only correct vote in the Maryland delegation against the Democrat version of SCHIP," Bartlett said previously.

"I'm proud that I voted to create the bipartisan SCHIP program in 1997. I support continuing SCHIP health insurance for all children of the working poor, but that is not what this debate is about."

Rep. Albert Wynn, D-Mitchellville, disagreed.

"If America is the greatest country in the world, it's inexcusable that children should die because of a simple tooth infection," Wynn said on the House floor. "It's simple; we ought to provide health insurance for all of our children."

In February, Deamonte Driver, 12, of Clinton, died after a tooth infection went

untreated because his family lacked health insurance.

The Democrats' next version could deny the children of illegal immigrants coverage and cap eligible families' income, according to recent published reports.

Both have been sticking points for Republicans, some of whom say a family of four can make \$83,000 per year - 400 percent of the poverty level - and still be covered by SCHIP, according to debate on the floor.

New Jersey has the highest eligibility threshold at 325 percent of the poverty level.

Maryland health officials have said that if the program isn't reauthorized, they will have enough funding to cover the more than 100,000 children insured through SCHIP for around four months.

"Under the continuing resolution we're entitled to about \$72 million," said John Folkemer, Maryland deputy health secretary. "But we need about \$162 million."

At that rate the program will last, "til maybe about March," Folkemer said.

Maryland spends more than 2.5 times the funds it is allotted and had 101,552 children enrolled in the program in June 2006.

Dimensions

Dimensions, From Page A1

how much of the \$14 million the hospitals need to keep their doors open before the money is released, said John Erzen, a spokesman for Johnson.

"It hasn't been determined yet how much it's going to be," Erzen said.

Dimensions Chairman William Williams joined Johnson for the announcement after the two had what they described as a positive meeting Monday.

Johnson has "the same vision and goals regarding health care for this community," said Williams, one of the four board members Johnson originally wanted out.

Williams and Johnson expressed their willingness Friday to begin working together to solve the local hospital system's long-term financial troubles.

"Everyone is on the same

page, so that makes a difference," said Dr. Hema Yadla, president of the Prince George's Hospital Center medical staff and a Dimensions board member. The situation "is going to be improved," he added.

But representatives of the local nurses union who attended last Friday's news conference remained skeptical of the new spirit of cooperation that was reached.

"It's a wait-and-see situation. Promises have been made before," said Samuel A. Epps IV, political director of Service Employees International Union, Local 1199, which represents 900 nurses in the Dimensions system.

Epps said a better gesture on Johnson's part would have been to simply provide the funds on Friday instead of announcing they would be available in the coming weeks.

Halloween Happenings

Events, From Page A3

SATURDAY, OCT. 26

Haunted House and Hayride

Take a tour through our haunted house, hop on our spooky hayride and participate in a variety of games and activities this evening from 7 to 10 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 27, from 7 to 10 p.m. All ages welcome. Fee: \$5/person. Allentown Fitness and Splash Park, 7210 Allentown Road, Fort Washington. 301-449-5567.

Halloween Fun

Join us for spooky entertainment and eerie arts & crafts from 10 a.m. to noon. Ages 6 to 12. Fee: Resident \$2; Non-Resident \$3. Bowie Community Center, 3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie. 301-464-1737; TTY 301-218-6768.

Halloween Program

Wear your Halloween costume and play games, decorate mini-pumpkins and make arts and crafts from 10 a.m. to noon. Mini-pumpkins are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Ages 5 and older. Free. College Park Youth Services Center, 4912 Nantucket Road, College Park. 301-345-4425; TTY 301-445-4512.

Magic Show

Wear a Halloween costume and watch a magic act. Refreshments will be served. Ages 3-10; Free. Noon to 2 p.m. Berwyn Heights Community Center, 6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights. 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

Costume On Parade and Magic Show

Wear a Halloween costume and enter our costume contest. Then watch a magic show and enjoy refreshments. All ages welcome. Free. Noon to 2 p.m. Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center, 6120 Sargent Road, Chillum. 301-853-2005; TTY 301-445-4512.

Fall Harvest Fun & Games

Have fun playing games. Enjoy a Frisbee

toss, a football throw, hoops mania, and a magic show. A parent or guardian must accompany children ages 8 & under at all times. Noon to 2 p.m. All ages welcome. Fee: Resident \$5; Non-Resident \$7. Columbia Park Community Center, 1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover. Information: 301-341-3749.

Fall Festival

Find your way through a hay maze, play festival games, jump on a moon bounce, have your face painted, and enjoy refreshments. Festival will be held rain or shine. All ages welcome. 1 p.m. Fee: \$3/person. Upper Marlboro Community Center, 5400 Marlboro Race Track Road, Upper Marlboro. 301-627-2828; TTY 301-203-6030

Pumpkin Decorating/Carving Contest

Try your hand at carving and decorating a pumpkin. Staff will provide decorating and carving templates. A parent must participate with child in carving portion of this program. Judging will take place at 2:45 pm. Noon to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Ages 5-12. Fee: Resident \$6; Non-Resident \$7.50. Tucker Road Community Center, 1771 Tucker Road, Fort Washington. 301-248-4404; TTY 301-203-6030

Pre-School Halloween Fun

Listen to a spooky story and enjoy some delicious Halloween goodies. Reservations required by October 25. 1 to 3 p.m. Ages 3-5. Prince George's Plaza Community Center, 6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville. 301-864-1611.

Children's Halloween Party

Children will play games, eat snacks, and have a good time. Reservation required. 1 to 3 p.m. Ages 3-12. Fee: Resident \$2; Non-Resident \$3. Mt. Rainier Nature & Recreation Center, 4701 31st Place, Mt. Rainier. 301-927-2163.

Congestion

Congestion, From Page A1

Coupled with rising gas prices, global warming and serious budget concerns, people want alternatives to their commutes, which often end up impacting quality of life, Schmidt-Perkins said.

Businesses also recognize the transit problem is not going away anytime in the future.

Donald Fry, president of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the additional \$600 million his group wants for transportation should also be used to help move forward some transit projects.

While some jurisdic-

tions focus on highways, "we think with the growth in population we're experiencing, with increased levels of traffic, we need to look for a comprehensive plan that includes fast, reliable, and easy to understand transit," Fry said.

Schmidt-Perkins said poll respondents were concerned with the rate of growth in the state, and strategic plans are needed to counter "willy-nilly building" of transit systems.

"It's about congestion relief," she said, "but it's also about mobility, air quality, bay benefit. Building more miles of highway cannot do that."

Reasonable

Reasonable, From Page A1

was a well-lit area.

At that point, the deputy noticed that the car's rear window seemed tinted and he later testified that he pulled the Marquis over because the window seemed darker than normal.

The deputy found that Williams had a valid license and no warrants, but he did start writing a repair order for the rear window.

While he was doing that, another officer arrived with a drug-sniffing dog that indicated the possible presence of drugs in the Marquis.

A subsequent search turned up suspected cocaine and marijuana.

"The police have really

started using this as a pretext to pull a car over," Sansone said. "Now many of them may be thrown out."

State law says tinted windows must allow at least 35 percent of the light to pass through.

While there are instruments that can measure whether a tinted window complies with the law, the Harford deputy did not have one and did not know how to use one of the instruments.

He testified only that the window was darker than a normal window.

"Obviously, a tinted window is going to appear darker than a window without any tinting, especially at night," the court said in Friday's opinion.

Williams took the car four

days later to the State Police Automotive Safety Enforcement Division, which found that his windows were not illegally tinted.

A Harford County circuit judge ruled that, because the windows were not illegally tinted, the drug evidence could not be used in Williams' trial.

The state appealed, leading to the opinion that was released this past Friday.

The appellate court ruled that the officer needed reasonable evidence showing the level of tinting exceeded legal limits, which he could not provide.

If an officer were allowed to stop and search car without such reasonable evidence, "it would effectively strip away Fourth Amendment protection

for any person owning or driving a car with tinted windows."

In a dissent, three judges agreed that the deputy needed only reasonable suspicion to stop Williams.

But they believed he did have cause to believe that the window was in violation, citing the fact that the deputy did not see an inspection sticker on the rear window that would identify it as being in compliance.

Judges Robert Bell and Clayton Greene Jr. agreed with the majority opinion on the facts of the case.

But those two judges disagreed with the rest of the court's conclusion which said that an officer could make a traffic stop without probable cause.

concerns and making sure the utilities we regulate are following regulations," said LaWanda Edwards, spokeswoman for the commission.

She said the PSC also encourages electric choice for customers and a competitive market.

But fewer than 3 percent of residential customers get electricity from an alternative retail supplier as of September 2007, said Paula Carmody, head of the Office of the People's Counsel.

"That means 97 percent of people are still getting their power from Delmarva, Pepco and BGE," she said.

Along with deregulation, the state imposed rate caps which expired in 2006 for BGE. But

Curran called the caps a "pro-consumer idea that turned out to be a disadvantage," because they only dampened investment in critical infrastructure, halting the building of new transmission lines and base-load generation.

He said that could mean trouble in the future, as electricity demand is expected to increase by 20 percent by 2030.

Carmody said "re-regulation" will not solve the problem, but the rate problem "is on the radar of the PSC and the General Assembly, to look at the question of what deregulation has done."

Others are taking measures into their own hands.

Leo Burroughs Jr., chairman of the Maryland Coalition to Stop the BGE Rate Hike, has organized a protest outside Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon's house.

He said Dixon has been reluctant to support special session initiatives to "redress the wrong inflicted upon the people of the city and state."

"It's off the chain," he said, referring to electricity rates. "We are being enslaved by Constellation and the political establishment is aiding and abetting. . . . We're not being protected."

But consumers will still have to wait, and pay, while alternatives are researched.

"There's no magic bullet," Alexander said.

Rates

Rates, From Page A1

renewable energy generation.

Those "were all the things we were promised that deregulation would do, that it would all be taken care of by the magic hand of the market," said Barbara Alexander, a private practice consumer consultant.

"It didn't turn out that way," she added.

The PSC, under current Chairman Steven Larsen, "is certainly being more proactive when it comes to handling customers' complaints and

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