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Public Officials Give Congratulations at National Harbor Preview Event

O'Malley, Johnson and Other Public Officials Show Support for the Mega- Development

By **EMILY APATOV**
PG Post Staff

Governor Martin O'Malley, County Executive Jack B. Johnson, Congressman Albert R. Wynn, Maryland State Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, and Council member Tony Knotts (D)-District 8 were among the public notables offering congratulatory speeches at the event that unveiled the first building in the National Harbor Project, Building E, on Thursday, May 31. The hotel/convention center at the National Harbor, slated to open in April 2008, will become the largest convention

center on the East Coast and an economic asset to Prince George's County.

County Executive Johnson applauded the National Harbor Project for the jobs and the money the development will bring to the county and the benefits the community will reap from the development.

The vision put forth by designer of the National Harbor Project and founder and chairman of the company developing the National Harbor, Milt Peterson, is an illustrious one: the development is to create a new outpost of American pride and archi-

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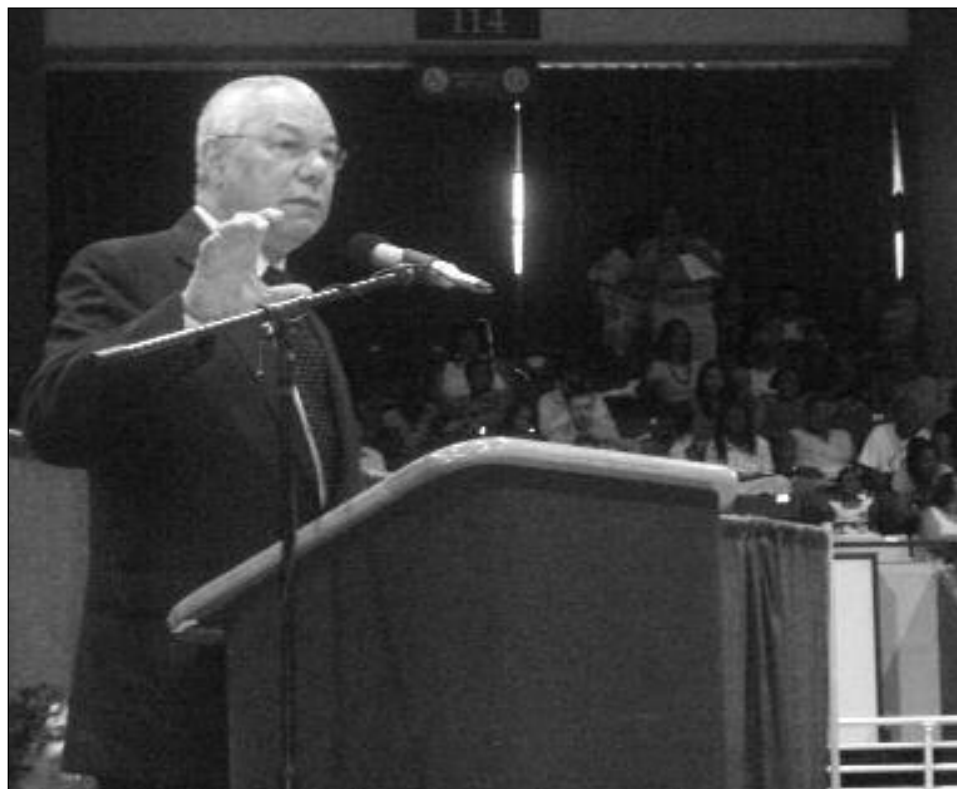


PHOTO BY EMILY APATOV

General Colin Powell, USA (Ret.) addressed 2007 graduates of the Forestville Military Academy and their families at the school's Commencement Ceremony at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro on Friday, June 1.

Former Secretary of State Addresses County Youth

Powell Reaches Out to Military Academy Grads

Gorgeous Prince George's County, Where Families Are Brought Together

6 Flags America Sponsors Local Getaway for Rogers Family Reunion

Courtesy **PG COUNTY CONFERENCE AND VISITOR'S BUREAU**

The Prince George's County Conference and Visitor Center announced the Grand Prize Winner of the 2006 Family Reunion Sweepstakes, Ms. Yolawnda Rogers of Cincinnati, OH, late last month.

Rogers will receive a family reunion prize package from the Conference & Visitors Bureau complete with hotel accommodations and event catering. The Rogers family will receive a cultural tour of Gorgeous Prince George's County, an informative workshop about their family's genealogy, and a trip to Six

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PHOTO COURTESY REBECCA ROEMER/THE SOUZA AGENCY, INC.

Front row (L-R): Yolawnda's niece, Amber; mother, Tommie Rogers-Slaughter; granddaughter, Shayla. Back row (L-R): Yolawnda's nephew, Omar; her sister, Darlene; Marylyn; Yolawnda Rogers.

Second Annual Scholar Dollar Ceremony

Annual Program Promotes Scholastic Achievement, Rewards Pupil Success

Courtesy **PGCPS**

To reward students for academic achievement in the 2006- 2007 school year, Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson and the County's Chief Administrative Officer, Jacqueline F. Brown, joined board chair of the Prince George's Count Board of Education R. Owen Johnson, Superintendent of Schools John E. Deasy, and other county officials Tuesday, June 5, to celebrate students at the county's second annual Scholar Dollar Program Awards

Ceremony.

Students who made the honor roll for all four quarters of the school year were eligible to enter a drawing to receive prizes. Twenty students will gift cards redeemable at the Mall at Prince George's gift cards ranging \$50 - \$250. Four grand prize winners will also receive four Southwest Airlines Tickets.

The Scholar Dollar Program is a joint effort coordinated by County Executive Jack B. Johnson, Prince George's County Public

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INSIDE

NEIGHBORS

Bronx resident Sonia Haynes and her daughter, Tiffany, of Upper Marlboro, were one of two mother-daughter pairs who receiving master's degrees last week during Mercy College's 72nd Commencement Exercises on May 30. **A2**

BUSINESS

Probably the last thing college students want to do during summer break is absorb any new information. But if you can prevail on your kids; Jason Alerman's got a subject that'll provide a lifetime of A's for their financial future: credit scores. **A5**

Over 1,000 school children will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" live and "in formation" to raise awareness of the National Anthem Project on Flag Day, June 14. **A5**

ON THE TOWN

Saturday, July 21, 2007 marks this year's Prince George's County History at Home Day. Park your car and spend a day discovering the County's rich heritage...on a bus! **A6**



PGCPS Expands Educational Offerings

America's Choice, AVID, Middle Years-IB Programs to Help Close Achievement Gap

Courtesy **PGCPS**

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will offer three rigorous, new middle school programs when schools reopen in the fall. The programs are designed to accel-

erate secondary school improvements and to make college an option for every child.

Achievement Via Individual Determination (AVID), America's Choice, and the Middle Years Program for International Baccalaureate stu-

dents will provide students with more challenging coursework.

"A high-quality, challenging education that opens the doors to college cannot be an accident of geography. Every middle school in our county must provide children with the

foundation skills and knowledge necessary to do college-level work," said Dr. John E. Deasy, Superintendent of Schools.

"These additional programs will prepare students for

See PGCPS, Page A3

City of Bowie Displays Student Works of Art

Courtesy **PGCPS**

On Monday, June 4, a delegation of student artists from Samuel Ogle Middle School was received by the Mayor of Bowie at Bowie Town Hall. These students, whose artwork can be seen on display in the Young Person's Art Gallery in

City Hall this month, were presented with certificates from the City. The artworks displayed include a variety of different projects the students have worked on in their art classes.

A joint project of the City of Bowie's Arts and Education

See Art Show, Page A3



PHOTO COURTESY PGCPS

Seventh grade student artwork sponsored by Paige Grayson.

Towns and NEIGHBORS

Clinton Conversations

By **NORMA FAZENBAKER**
301.579.6116

The day these papers will be distributed is the day I will attend a performance of *Fiddler on the Roof* at Toby’s Dinner Theatre in Baltimore. I am looking forward to the performance, as it is one of my favorite plays and I absolutely love the music. Since I have already been to this theatre to see *Fiddler on the Roof*, I will know what is coming, but that doesn’t matter because I love it anyways. On August 9, we will visit Toby’s once more to see a performance of *Grease*, so anyone interest in attending is encouraged to give me a call or send an e-mail to me at nfazenbake@aol.com.

Chapman State Park will hold a free Open House on Sunday, June 10, from noon - 5p.m. The Open House will feature artists practicing plein air painting outdoors. Everyone is encouraged to bring sketchbooks, easels, etc. and join in.! Participants’ paintings may be exhibited at a later park event. At 2 p.m., Elmer Biles will about changes in the land over time, entitled “Journey Through Time: From Native American Indians to Chapman State Park.” Two nature walks will be held at 12:30 and again at 3:15 p.m. There will be activities for children. Property tours will be given throughout the day.

Chapman State Park is located at 3452 Ferry Place in Indian Head, MD. For more information, call 301.753.6754, or visit Chapman State Park on the web at www.chapmanforest.org.

Happy Birthday in June to Anna Glidden and Douglas Roy Bankert, June 2, Carol Haymans and Willie Walke, June 6, Joe Jordan and Joan Crump, June 7, Leroy Dove, June 8, Estelle Congdon and Carol Kee, June 10, Alda Poling and Neena Moore, June 11, Jim Deale, June 12, Jan Lundstrom and my great granddaughter, Lacey Allison Barkhurst, June 13, Camille Dare, June 14, Marilyn Villa, Thelma McCauley and Bessie Stine, June 15, Corky Gryskiewicz, June 16, Margaret L. Brown, June 17, Mickey Griggs, June 18, Frances Walz and June Readon, June 19, Margie Earnest, June 20, Danita Dove and Steve Lundstrom, June 21, my twins, Dottie Ferrell and Danny Fazenbaker, June 22, Bill Tresek, June 23, Angie Sepe, June 24, Bryan Rupt and Eric Tinkham, June 25, Maurice Monroe, my youngest child, Janice Toepper, and Alice Simmons, June 26, Rose Hoffman and Rita Pillsbury, June 27, Ruth Garner, Joyce Lothian, June 29, Donald Moore and Marlene Pace, June 30.

**Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.

Marietta House Museum Summer Tours

From June 20 to August 27, the Marietta House Museum will remain open for expanded hours to host summer tours. The museum will be open from Wednesday to Friday from 11 3 p.m. and on Saturday & Sunday from noon - 4 p.m. Tours will cost \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, and \$1 for children aged 5-18; admission will be free for children under 4. Group tours will be made available by appointment. The museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale, MD.

Built in 1813, this Federal style brick house was then passed to his grandson and great-grandson. The house reflects 3 generations of Duvall occupancy and features artifacts from the Federal, Civil War and Victorian eras.

Mother-Daughter Couple from Upper Marlboro Both Awarded Masters Degrees *Advanced Degrees Expected to Further Couple’s Joint Online Venture*

Courtesy MERCY COLLEGE

(DOBBS FERRY, NY) — Bronx resident Sonia Haynes and her daughter, Tiffany, of Upper Marlboro, were one of two mother-daughter pairs who receiving master’s degrees last week during Mercy College’s 72nd Commencement Exercises on Wednesday, May 30.

Sonia Haynes received an MS in direct and interactive marketing. Her daughter, Tiffany, was awarded an MS in internet business systems.

The two operate an online retail business together.

"It was a great experience attending Mercy College with my daughter, Tiffany," said Sonia

See Graduates, Page A7



PHOTO COURTESY MERCY COLLEGE

Tiffany Haynes (right) of Upper Marlboro and her mother, Sonia (left), both received their master's degrees during Mercy College's commencement exercises.

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

By **MARY MCHALE**
301.735.3451

Rooker Administration Takes Over in Morningside

Karen Rooker was sworn in as mayor on May 17 by Gary Clarke, Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court of Prince George’s County. Rooker is the first female mayor of Morningside since June Stocklinski held the office back in 1949. Acting Mayor Ealey presented the mayor with the gavel traditionally used by Morningside mayors.

Mayor Rooker then swore in Council members Regina Foster and James O. Ealey. They join already-serving members Kerry Thomas and Sharon Fowler.

The new Mayor handed out assignments:

- Mr. Ealey will continue as vice mayor and will supervise street projects and town maintenance.

- Mr. Thomas will work with Police Chief Dameron, updating Town Codes and Ordinances and creating a Neighborhood Watch Program.

- Mrs. Fowler will handle Municipal Building issues and work with the clerk/treasurer to proof the monthly budget reports.

- Mrs. Foster will be in charge of applying for grants.

The Mayor also announced that Chief Damron will continue to lead Morningside’s Police Department. Janice Diggs will continue as Town Clerk/Treasurer, and Paul Long will

stay on as Town Maintenance Worker. She also requested the presence of Morningside Fire Department officials at town meetings. Rooker also requested that Sue Frederick return as editor of the Morningside Sun newsletter.

Jean Glaubitz, wife of the late Gerald Glaubitz, mayor of the town for 43 years, was among attendees at the ceremony at the Morningside Town Hall. The Mayor introduced Mrs. Glaubitz, town attorney Todd Pounds, president of the Skyline Citizens Association Stan Holmes, Mike White of the Morningside Fire Department, and family members of the Mayor and Council.

Many Morningsiders stayed on to enjoy refreshments and visiting with

See Morningside, Page A7



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE’S DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

At the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 89 in Upper Marlboro, Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Animal Management Division (AMD) Chief Rodney Taylor (left) and acting deputy director of DER, Dennis Bigley (right), present Deja Diggs (center), 5th grader at Princeton Elementary School with an award for her prize-winning depiction of kindness to animals. Deja was one of 22 students to be recognized in the to the 14th Annual Be Kind to Animals Poster Contest held by the AMD. The contest was open to all Prince George’s County public and private elementary school students. This year, AMD received over 2,800 contest entries.

Aquasco-Brandywine

By **RUTH TURNER**
301.888.1139

Annual Outreach Yard Sale

Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco will sponsor an Annual Outreach Yard Sale on Saturday, June 9th, from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church. The Immanuel United Methodist Church is located at 17400 Aquasco Rd. in Brandywine, MD.

Attendees will be able to buy and sell furniture, tools, household items, art and more. Hot dogs, hamburgers and more food will be sold at the event. Tables can be rented at the cost of \$15/table, and can be reserved by calling Helen Holland at

301.888.1113, Lillian Makle at 301.888.1453, or Patricia Dotson at 240.222.3146.

St. Paul's Parish Annual Flea Market Chicken BBQ

On June 16 (the rain date for the event is June 23), St. Paul's Episcopal Church located at 13500 Baden-Westwood Rd. in Brandywine, MD, here hold a chicken BBQ from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For \$8, you will receive dinner including half a chicken, a baked potato, green beans, apple-sauce, and a roll.

The flea market will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. A two-seat glider with a middle table donated by Best Built Barns and Sheds will be raffled off at the event. There will also be a

bake sake.

The Tutoring Babysitting Fun House

Are you stressed over the expensive cost for summer day care programs? Well, it is time to put your worries to rest. If you are interested in keeping your child engaged in academics while providing him/her with opportunities for summer fun, look no further.

A responsible, Christian, honor-roll high school student has initiated an affordable program to provide care to children aged 3 and 8 years old. The program will begin on June 18 and ends August 17. For more information, please call 240.305.8170.

See Aquasco, Page A7

Serving Suitland

By **JANICE A. EUELL**
301.523.2677

Congratulations to all of the 2007 graduates! I know it's been long road and now that's behind you. Life's challenges start now and you will have to either accept those challenges or let the obstacles in your path overcome you. Choose to accept and continue to move forward.

Special congratulations are in order for Rico Blake and Andrew Dill! These two wonderful young men are going to make their entry into society as very strong, confident and motivated young men. Rico graduated from Largo and Andrew from Suitland. Rico has been in ROJA's Youth Empowerment program for six years and Andrew was in the program for four years. Their accomplishments while working with

ROJA have been very noteworthy, highly appreciated and we eagerly anticipate their future successes. Both have plans attend college or enlist in the Marines. The young men both have goals and plans to achieve them. All of us are very proud of both of you and you should know that you can always depend on us whenever life presents challenges, you do not have to face them alone. We love you guys!

Suitland Day, sponsored by the Suitland Civic Association, will be held on Saturday, June 16, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Bradbury Recreation Park (behind the Shadyside Apartments). There will be clowns, face painting, music, a moon bounce, rides, and food for sale.

Registration for the local Summer Camp will begin at 11:00 a.m. The Summer Camp will operate from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., from

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The New Prince George’s Post

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COMMUNITY

New Middle School Programs Aim to Make College an Option for All County Children

PGCPS from A1
Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses in high school, and keep them on course for graduation.

“This is the first step of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning in all middle schools,” Dr. Deasy continued.

“Over time, schools may embrace two or more specialty programs to provide options for students and parents seeking academic challenges. These programs will help increase all students’ readiness to undertake rigorous coursework in high school and beyond. We are extremely pleased that each of our middle schools will have one of these programs next school year. We will watch and learn from our schools, teachers, and students as we seek to address long-standing academic struggles at the middle-school level.”

Strengthening teaching and learning in secondary schools is a core component of the Children Come First initiatives. As a result of these initiatives, every middle school in PGCPS will offer specialty programming designed to provide more rigorous coursework for students, beginning with the 2007-08 academic year. Some signa-

ture programs are familiar – French Immersion, Montessori, Talented and Gifted, and Fine Arts – and have existed at a handful of schools. Next school year, every PGCPS middle school will have a signature program designed to accelerate student achievement.

AVID PROGRAMS

Nine PGCPS middle schools – Oxon Hill, Kenmoor, Ernest Everett Just, Benjamin Tasker, Eugene Burroughs, Gywnn Park, Samuel Ogle, Stephen Decatur, and Martin Luther King, Jr. – will begin AVID programs next fall. AVID is a program designed to support students who are in the “academic middle,” but who have a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard.

AVID focuses on accelerating students’ performance by offering students challenging coursework and focused support. AVID was founded in 1980 in San Diego, CA, and has proven to academically prepare students to do rigorous coursework in high school, paving the way for success in college.

According to AVID’s website, “more than 40,000 students have graduated from AVID programs and have gone on to college at a rate one-third higher than the national aver-

age.”

Schools and districts around the country with vibrant AVID programs credit the program with helping to close achievement gaps.

Eleven PGCPS middle schools – Benjamin Stoddert, G. Gardner Shugart, Thurgood Marshall, G. James Gholson, Thomas Johnson, William Wirt, Andrew Jackson, Drew Freeman, Kettering, Buck Lodge and Nicholas Orem – will begin full implementation of America’s Choice next school year. Each of these schools piloted three components of the America’s Choice program – “Ramp-Up to Literacy,” “Ramp-Up to PreAlgebra,” and “Mathematics Navigator” this spring semester.

America’s Choice is a subsidiary of the National Center of Education and the Economy and is a leading developer of highly aligned instructional programming. America’s Choice offers a middle school program founded on rigorous standards, high quality coaching and professional development for faculty, parent and community engagement, age-appropriate instructional materials, and approaches for working with students struggling to master state standards.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE-MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMS

Five Prince George’s County schools have begun applications to become International Baccalaureate-Middle Years Program schools. These schools are Isaac Gourdine, Greenbelt, James Madison, Charles Carroll, and Dwight D. Eisenhower middle schools.

The Middle Years Program is an expansion of the highly successful IB Diploma Program (a high school program), that was started in 1994 and has received widespread international recognition as an outstanding program. Students in the Middle Years Program study eight subject groups – humanities, mathematics, two languages, science, the arts, physical education and technology – and view these subjects through multiple lenses, with focuses on the interconnections between education and health and social education, community and service and the environment.

PGCPS has several high schools with the IB Diploma Program, so there will be ample opportunities for students from these middle schools to transition to and complete a six-year IB experience within PGCPS.

Council Members Campos and Olson Host ‘Expo Latino’

Celebrating Prince George’s County’s Thriving Latino Community

Prince George’s County Council members Will Campos (D) - District 2 and Eric Olson (D) - District 3, will co-host the County’s first “Expo Latino Community Awareness Fair,” a cultural and business exposition designed to connect the local Latino community with County Government resources. “Expo Latino” will take place on Saturday, June 9, from noon - 3:00 p.m. on the grounds of Nicholas Orem Middle School located at 6100 Editors Park Drive in Hyattsville (located next to the Prince George’s Plaza Metro Station).

“Expo Latino” will feature family-friendly entertainment, food, free health screenings, public safety demonstrations and information about county services. Representatives from local non-profit groups will also be on-hand to discuss various programs and services of particular relevance to the Hispanic community.

A shuttle service will be provided between 11:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from the following locations: the Alamo Restaurant parking lot, 5508 Kenilworth Avenue in Riverdale; and, Langley Park-McCormick Elementary School, 8201 15th Avenue, Hyattsville/Langley Park MD.

For additional information, please call Sylvia Brown in the Office of Council Member Campos at 301.952.4436 or contact Ms. Brown by e-mail at SEBrown@co.pg.md.us.

Community Outreach Offers Grants

The City of Bowie's Community Outreach Committee (COC) is seeking applications for grants to individuals, groups or organizations who provide needed services or programs to Bowie residents in the areas of social service, youth, senior citizens, and mental health issues. The COC will give priority to grant requests that assist or address the needs of the underserved Bowie residents, and to new projects.

The maximum amount that can be awarded to any group is \$5,000. Applications and other pertinent information for these grants may be obtained from www.cityofbowie.org. Completed applications must be received at the City Hall on or before June 29. For more information please contact Committee Staff liaison at lstern@cityof-bowie.org or 301-809-3068.

Young Person’s Art Gallery at Bowie City Hall Showcases Still Life Renderings by Local Students

Art Show from A1
Committees, the *Young Person's Art Gallery* is located in the entrance foyer at Bowie City Hall. During the school year, the gallery features artwork by students attending schools in Bowie, exhibit artwork in this gallery, with a different school exhibiting each month.

These students from Samuel Ogle Middle School currently have art on display in the *Young Person's Gallery* :

Roshni Thomas, Zachary Kinsey, Courtney Wersick, Erika Monroe, Erick Kabaso, Darrell Green, Shriya Murthy, Roland Agli, Marqweta Lathan, Marissa Green, Cedric Moore, Nicholas Giroux, Bethlem Bekele, Areej Qureshi, Jonathan Ashton, Austin Nwosu, Alyssa Gressang.

Paige Grayson, Art Teacher at Samuel Ogle Middle School, worked with students on these art projects and selected the artwork to be displayed.

Grayson coordinated the hanging of student artwork in the *Young Person's Gallery* Hall and planned the June 4th reception.

The artwork at Bowie City Hall can be found in the building’s foyer at 2614 Kenhill Drive in Bowie, MD. The Bowie Town Hall will be open from Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 10 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information regarding any of the Art Galleries at the Bowie City Hall, please contact the Bowie Arts Committee at 301.809.3068.



PHOTO COURTESY PGCPS

Seventh grade students drew still lifes of five objects, enhancing the young artists’ attention to detail. The exhibit was sponsored by Paige Grayson, an art teacher at Samuel Ogle MS.

2006 Family Reunion Sweepstakes Winner is Named

Sweepstakes from A1
Flags America.

"With over 100 rides, shows, attractions, a full-scale water park and gorgeous picnic pavilions featuring private catered meals, Six Flags America provides the perfect venue for a family gathering," said Terry Prather, vice president and general manager of Six Flags America's.

When at the theme park, the sweepstakes prize will furnish a hospitality room for the family to use for gathering. The family will also receive video and photography services to memorialize the event and forty family reunion t-shirts.

This all after a catered reunion dinner, breakfast buffet, and evening reception.

Rogers learned of the

Sweepstakes when reading Ebony Magazine, but was hesitant to enter. Rogers thought, “Nobody wins those things!”

"Our mission is to provide family fun and fond memories, so we are the ideal spot in Prince George's County to bring family - from nearby or across the country - for an entire day's worth of memorable experiences!"

Rogers’ 8-year-old daughter, Nushayla, is excited to explore Six Flags America with her family. Nushayla will serve on the family's reunion planning committee.

Rogers’ father's side of the family holds an annual reunion featuring baseball and card games, a picnic, and a dance party in the evenings.

Rogers is looking forward

to getting together with her mother's side of the family, a comparatively smaller group of relatives, now, too.

The family is considering renting a bus for the family reunion trip that is planned to take place this summer.

Rogers exclaimed, "They don't care about travel or cost-everyone just wants to see one another!"

Prince George's County Conference & Visitors Bureau partnered with Six Flags America and the Marriott Greenbelt to host the Family Reunion Sweepstakes.

Other sponsors include the Radisson Hotel Largo-Washington D.C., Fairfield Inn Capital Beltway Marriott,

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Hilton Garden Inn Washington DC/Greenbelt and Trailways First Priority Tours, Inc.

The Sweepstakes is intended to support the Livable Communities Initiative, strengthening families and fostering pride in Prince George's County, its communities, and businesses.

For the past 14 years, Yolawnda has led a successful

career as a credentials representative for the Humana Corporation, where she checks references of healthcare professionals.

She enjoys traveling and loves to bake; her Salmon Croquets are a family favorite. Rogers spends her free time with her family. Rogers recently planned an 80th birthday party for her father.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE MDDC AT 1-800-441-1111 or call the MDDC at 1-800-441-1111. MDDC is a not-for-profit organization. MDDC is a 501(c)(3) organization. MDDC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

No New Taxes

Victor Kamber, Pres. of Coalition Services for Carmen Group Inc.

Under the current administration, the country has a \$50 trillion imbalance. We are so in hock to foreign governments that interest payments alone will be higher than today's federal budget. So what do Republican presidential candidates vow?

No new taxes.

Not even Harry Houdini would attempt such a feat. But among GOP faithfuls, the battle-cry of "no new taxes" never fails to win cheers.

Mitt Romney, who has made flip-flopping an Olympic sport, put it in writing when he signed the Americans for Tax Reform's pledge against raising taxes. If he should win the Presidency, a flip-flop on this issue may be the only hope for the constituencies Republicans most often neglect, low- and middle-class Americans.

The GOP candidates echo each other with their no new taxes pledge and while the cheering still rings in our ears I often wonder why no one ever asks them the hard question: what programs and services will you cut?

Romney, for one, simply beams at the camera, rubs his hands together and declares "I can't wait to get my hands on the federal budget."

Voters know that the candidates aren't the most vulnerable people in this "no new taxes" high-wire act. It's the poor and elderly and disabled whose safety net has been fraying for

years.

But this nonsensical "no new taxes" pledge puts all of us, and America's economic future, at risk.

New taxes are a tool for investment and growth. In the Eisenhower Administration, new taxes helped build the Interstate Highway System. Now those highways are falling apart, as are the subways and buses that help ease congestion for people trying to get to and from work. This is a problem that concerns everyone. (Well, maybe not corporate CEOs or top-level government bureaucrats – this crowd leads the "no new taxes" cheer since they don't have a clue about the crumbling infrastructure that is so real to the rest of us, everyone who isn't at the top.)

Soaring health care costs are a problem that won't be solved by politicians chanting no new taxes.

The Government Accountability Office says the nation needs to generate more tax revenues—to raise taxes. But who's listening?

Certainly not President Bush, who wants to make his tax cuts for the rich permanent.

Neither are his hopeful GOP successors, who continue to promise "no new taxes" as the sheriffs across the country arrive at the houses of more and more average Americans with foreclosure papers in hand.

Marian Wright Edelman

Child Watch



Hard Times and Child Health Care

Marc Bostic has the look of someone shaped on the football field and by years of practicing martial arts. He's a handsome, well-educated man who had been the senior executive manager for a construction company. On first impression, one wouldn't suspect that he was anything but the picture of health and success. But appearances can deceive. Six and a half years ago, Marc was in a major auto accident. His back was broken and his sciatic nerve permanently damaged. Today, his left leg is constantly numb below the knee and his mobility is impaired.

Marc had worked since he was a teenager and always thought of himself able to earn enough to provide for his family without his wife having to work outside the home. The accident changed all of that. Marc has a few investments and he gets consulting jobs helping construction start-up companies. But because of his injuries, his employment record has been erratic. He hasn't worked since July 2006, and all the family savings are gone. As a result, Marc, his wife Patti, and their four children are barely able to keep their heads above water financially. The family moved in with Patti's sister after they had to sell their home in the Columbus, Ohio, suburb of Dublin. It got to the point where they couldn't keep up the \$1,500 monthly mortgage payments. There were periods when they had to rely on the local food bank.

One of Marc's biggest challenges has been providing health care for his family. They had been on and off of Ohio's Medicaid health coverage program. Each time they applied, there was some bureaucratic obstacle to overcome. For example, according to the Medicaid guidelines, his educational background qualified him to work at certain specified occupations. In one instance, the Medicaid officials wanted him to supplement the health care assistance he received by unloading trucks, a task he was physically unable to perform. Marc can't lift heavy objects or sit for more than two hours at a time. He can't stand or walk for too long and he needs rest periods.

The health care assistance they received did not cover certain medications the family needed, and Medicaid officials required the family to accept cheaper and less effective generic drugs. In addition, Medicaid's reimbursement schedule did not cover the fees their family doctor or specialists charged for services. Because of their inability to enroll in Medicaid, no one in the family has had health insurance since July 2006.

Marc said it was suggested that if he and Patti were to separate until Marc could get disability benefits, Medicaid would provide Patti all the assistance that she needed.

Patti started a new position as a shift supervisor at a local business about three months ago, but since the company has a six-month probation period, she won't be eligible to enroll herself and the children in their insurance plan for another three months. Over that time period, the children will remain uninsured because Patti's salary is over the income limit to enroll them in Medicaid.

With no health insurance, Marihelen, 2, Elizabeth, 5 and Michael, 10, haven't been seen by a pediatrician for almost a year. Marc and Patti have had to seek out clinics where the two youngest children can get free immunization shots. Michael needs medication to treat his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Tourette's Syndrome. He's acting out in school and having difficulty keeping up academically. Marc's daughter Steffie, 17, has had to stop taking medication for severe menstrual bleeding. Marc pays \$150 monthly for his pain medication out-of-pocket. Uninsured and vulnerable, one more serious child illness could push the family over the edge to complete bankruptcy.

Even in families where the main breadwinner hasn't been disabled, it's a constant struggle to provide their children with health coverage. Many working families are in a no-man's-land where they don't earn enough to afford private insurance but make too much to be eligible for Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Up until now, Medicaid and SCHIP have made great strides in providing children with health insurance. But even with their successes, nine million children in America are still without health insurance and millions more are underinsured. Ninety percent of them are in working families.

We have a unique opportunity to take the next logical, achievable and moral step that would guarantee comprehensive health and mental health care to all children and pregnant women. Congress and the President must enact the All Healthy Children Act (H.R. 1688) this year.

No child should be denied health care because his or her parents are struggling financially. Protecting our children's health is one of the most important investments we can make for our future. For more information, please go to www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild.



Debunking Myths of Drug Importation

By Grace-Marie Turner

Washington lawmakers in both the House and Senate have introduced measures to allow Americans to import prescription drugs from other countries.

Pundits and politicians on both sides of the aisle continue to debate the measures. Opponents warn of the dangers of drug importation, while advocates promise lower drug prices. With these competing assertions, it's time to distinguish the myths from the facts:

MYTH NO. 1: Drugs imported from Canada and Europe are just as safe as those purchased in the United States.

Although consumers may think that imported drugs come from Canada, Britain, or other Western European nations, it's impossible to definitively verify an imported drug's country of origin.

MYTH NO. 2: If a drug is imported from Canada or Europe, it won't be a counterfeit.

Because drugs are constantly opened and repackaged in the European parallel trade system, significant opportunities exist for counterfeiters to introduce their fake products into the legitimate supply chain.

The World Health Organization currently estimates that 10 percent of the global drug supply is counterfeit. According to the Food and Drug Administration, that number can be as high as 50 percent in some countries. And by 2010, trade in counterfeit drugs is expected to reach \$75 billion. Counterfeiting clearly is a concern for American consumers, and allowing imported drugs into the United States will only exacerbate the problem.

MYTH NO. 3: Importation will make prescription drugs cheaper.

Despite the assertions of many politicians, there is no evidence that importation will save American consumers any money. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that drug importation will lead to savings of one percent over ten years on drug spending at best.

It's More Than a Pants Suit

By Todd Stottlemeyer

Did you hear the one about the \$65 million pair of pants? It sounds like the start of a joke, but unfortunately it's not.

A Washington, D.C.-based lawyer has filed a \$65 million lawsuit against a local dry cleaner for a missing pair of pants. Despite the fact that the pants were found and the owners attempted to settle the case, the lawyer instead brought a suit claiming that the shop was violating consumer protection laws.

This attorney is also an administrative judge, so you'd think he would understand how frequently the legal system is abused and be sympathetic to its victims. Instead, he's apparently chosen to join the ranks of plaintiffs who target small businesses.

He alleges that the shop's "satisfaction guaranteed" and same-day service guarantee weren't met, and therefore, the dry cleaner is liable for \$1,500 per day, per violation, per person. He is suing the shop owner, his wife and their son, adding in \$500,000 for emotional damages, \$542,500 in legal fees (even though he is representing himself) and other costs for a total of more than \$65 million. As outrageous as this suit sounds, it's not surprising that the defendant is a small business.

Small business is the target of lawsuits because trial lawyers understand that they're more likely than a large corporation to settle a case rather than go to court. Small businesses don't have in-house lawyers to inform them of their rights, to write letters responding to allegations made against them, or to provide legal advice. They don't have the resources to hire an attorney, nor the time to spend away from their

In fact, a recent London School of Economics study showed that foreign resellers would reap most of the benefits from importation, not American consumers. In other words, the theoretically lower drug prices would be cancelled out by the middle-man's markup.

MYTH NO. 4: Foreign drugs are cheaper than American drugs.

Consumers in foreign countries do pay less for some brand-name drugs, but that's because their governments have instituted price controls on medicines.

Price controls may sound like a good idea, but they always come with serious unintended consequences, including restricted supplies, rationing, and inhibiting research on new medicines. In most countries with price controls, new drugs generally aren't available until they've been on the market for several years. And even then, the drugs may be rationed, forcing patients to wait for the drugs they need -- and patients are sometimes denied the new treatments entirely. Price controls are not the answer.

U.S. consumers have many options: Generic drugs are far cheaper in America than anywhere else in the world, and generics account for more than 53 percent of prescriptions filled in the United States.

MYTH NO. 5: Importation of prescription drugs is simply a free-trade issue. How can a person support free trade and oppose the free flow of drug products across borders?

The proposed importation legislation, however, includes a "forced sale" provision that would require American pharmaceutical companies to sell nearly unlimited quantities of their products to foreign distributors at prices mandated by foreign governments.

In effect, forced sale just gives a windfall to foreign resellers while penalizing American drug companies and their shareholders. And it would dry up research on tomorrow's drugs. Such a system is a far cry from free trade.

business fighting these small-claim lawsuits. Often, they don't even have the power to decide whether or not to settle a case – their insurance company makes that decision.

For the small business with five employees or less, the problem often isn't the million-dollar verdicts that make the news. It's the \$5,000 and \$10,000 paid to settle a suit. When you consider that many small businesses gross \$350,000 or less a year in general, \$5,000 – \$10,000 can significantly impact a small-business owner's bottom line.

Needless to say, those costs mean that the entrepreneur can't spend money on other needed expenses, such as providing health insurance. The Pacific Research Institute recently released a report called "Jackpot Justice," which estimated the social and economic costs of our legal liability system. The PRI estimates that the annual price tag for a family of four is \$9,827 in costs and lost benefits. The additional healthcare costs associated with legal liability, they estimate, added 3.4 million Americans to the list of those without health insurance.

There are literally hundreds of cases of small businesses who have been subjected to frivolous lawsuits. Our "sue first" culture is hurting small-business owners and slowing job creation across the country. The growing number and costs of lawsuits threaten to significantly stifle the growth of our nation's economy by hurting this important segment of that economy.

For that reason, we need to reform our nation's civil justice system. After all, a true system of justice shouldn't fly by the seat of anyone's pants.

BUSINESS

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Test Your Kid's Credit Score

Probably the last thing college students want to do during summer break is absorb any new information. But if you can prevail on your kids, I've got a subject that'll provide a lifetime of A's for their financial future: credit scores.

Most young adults have no idea what a credit score is. Yet, by graduation, many will have already taken actions that could adversely affect their score for years to come. All it takes is a couple of bounced checks or late payments to make it harder to borrow money, rent an apartment or even get a job. Students should think of their credit score as their financial GPA.

Here's a brief explanation of credit scores and why they're important:

All three major credit bureaus - Equifax (www.equifax.com), Experian (www.experian.com) and TransUnion (www.transunion.com) - track your credit history and, at your or a potential lender's request, will compile a credit report that's basically a snapshot of your credit history.

You can order one free credit report a year from each bureau. (Order through www.annualcreditreport.com; otherwise you'll pay a small fee.) It's always wise to know what's in your reports so you can correct errors or spot fraudulent activity.

Credit bureaus use this information to create a three-digit credit score that helps lenders determine if you are a good credit risk: the higher the score, the better your credit rating. The most common are called FICO scores, named for Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO), which developed the proprietary software.

Five factors determine your FICO score: payment history, amount owed, credit history duration, newly opened credit accounts, and types of credit used. Credit scores consider information from all five categories, but may weigh it differently depending on your individual circumstances.

Your credit score may affect not only whether you qualify for a loan, but also

the amount, term length and interest rate. For example, a poor credit score could add an extra \$50,000 in interest payments for a typical, 30-year, \$200,000 mortgage.

Many online resources explain credit reports and credit scores, including the Federal Trade Commission's site (www.ftc.gov/credit) and www.myfico.com, where you can also purchase a copy of your score to know in advance what's being shared with lenders. Always consult a financial professional if you have questions about your particular situation.

Another valuable resource is What's My Score (www WhatsMyScore.com), a financial literacy program run by Visa aimed at raising young adults' awareness of the importance of understanding and improving their credit scores. Among its helpful tools is a comprehensive workbook called Money 101: A Crash Course in Better Money Management, which can be downloaded for free at www.whatsmyscore.org/downloads.

The workbook includes a variety of worksheets and covers such topics as:

- Making smart financial decisions.
- Creating a workable budget.
- Explanation of banking services.
- Understanding different types of loans and credit scores.
- Saving to reach financial goals.

If your kids need an incentive to learn more about financial literacy, how does \$10,000 sound?

That's how much What's My Score will award in prizes for the best home-made videos on the importance of building and maintaining a strong credit score. Future Hollywood filmmakers have until July 31, 2007, to submit their original, 30-second videos. Go to www.whatsmyscore.com to read contest rules and view sample videos.

Help your kids establish a strong financial future - it could be the best investment you ever make.

Peterson's Co.'s National Harbor Vision

National Harbor from A1
tectural magnificence in Prince George's County.

The National Harbor project has been approved for 7.3 million square feet, with 3 million square feet opening in April 2008.

The \$930 million project will include 3,000 hotel rooms and 1 million square feet of entertainment/dining/retail, 3 office buildings, and structures that will hold 4,500 parking spaces; 900,000 hotel room nights have already been booked, said Peterson.

When it opens in April 2008, the National Harbor will include a full-service Best Western hotel, a Marriot Residence Inn, and a Hilton Hampton Inn.

The National Harbor will feature 2 700-foot piers, one a commercial pier for dinner cruises and water taxis, the other for pleasure boats.

Restaurants at the National Harbor site will include the famous Gallagher's Steakhouse of New York, Sequoia, McCormick and Schmick's, and Rosa Mexicana.

The National Harbor will also become home to two high-end restaurants, Ketchup and Dolce. Both restaurants were originally from Hollywood; Dolce in Hollywood is owned by celebrities including Ashton Kutcher ("That 70's Show") and Dule Hill ("The West Wing").

"People were feeling that we didn't have any (white table cloth restaurants) in the community, so we concentrated on bringing some," Peterson said.

Peterson described the two restaurants as "very 'in' and chic."

"Not for an old man like me," remarked Peterson.



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL YOURISHIN

The National Harbor Preview event for business leaders and government officials was held in Building E, the first building of the National Harbor Project in Oxon Hill. The building will hold a McCormick and Schmick's restaurant on the first floor and a sales center on the third floor.

Peterson, 71, claims that improvements in the market have led the National Harbor project to expand in scale beyond his first vision for the development.

Peterson's current vision encompasses public art that will make the National Harbor Project "better than any commercial development" in the area. The main piece of art will be "The Awakening," a piece of artwork that will be moved from Washington, DC, to the National Harbor. The Awakening will appear on the waterfront.

3 other pieces of art for the Harbor by sculptor Albert Pailey have been commissioned, one, an \$1.4 million abstract piece that will stand 85 feet tall.

Peterson promises to bring a recreation of the Roman Spanish Steps, from atop of which people will be able to

stand and look down onto the plaza.

At the water's edge, two stainless steel eagles, each with a 15-foot wingspan, will stand atop 65-foot tall poles.

A street, the American Way, will run along a hill from the water. The American Way will emulate Las Ramblas, a famous street in Barcelona, Spain.

"Our goal is to make this street one of the greatest streets in America."

"And we'll do it," proclaimed Peterson.

The street will be lined with approximately 30 brass sculptures of famous Americans.

Spanning across the center of the street will be the Banneker Plaza, named after Benjamin Banneker, the notable self-taught African American thinker and astronomer who assisted

Frenchman Pierre-Charles L'Enfant and founding fathers Thomas Jefferson and George Washington design the layout for the city of Washington, DC. The plaza, Peterson explains, will be interactive, with brass figures of L'Enfant, Banneker, Washington, and Jefferson that will stand along the waterfront. Peterson will commission a historian to authenticate an informative plaque that will inform readers about the history of these four people.

A granite stage for live entertainment will sit in the plaza on the waterfront, with a 44' x 30' screen for showing films. The poles that hold up the screen will also serve as flag polls. The stage will be used for performances and film showings that will be able to be seen by 3,000 people on the plaza and by hundreds more sitting in the nearby restaurants.

Children Sing the National Anthem Live at Fedex Field

Courtesy NATIONAL ANTHEM PROJECT

Over 1,000 school children will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" live and "in formation" to raise awareness of the National

Anthem Project on Flag Day on June 14.

Nearly 1,300 students from across the nation will recognize Flag Day by joining Jeep® to kick off a three-day celebration of the finale

See Anthem, Page A7

Local Retailers Offer Discounts for Scholar Dollars

Scholar Dollar from A1
Schools, the Mall at Prince George's, and Southwest Airlines to recognize and reward high performing students.

The program provides incentives to students who earn a 3.0 GPA, are listed on their school's Honor Roll, or have other distinguishments at each report card period.

Students will receive a Scholar Dollar Discount Certificate for savings from local retailers and chances to receive other prizes like gift cards and airline tickets. Through the Scholar Dollars program, students can leverage academic achievements to earn discounts that can improve the quality of life for students and their families.

Washington Metro Area Employment Statistics Rise

Rates Rise 1.8% Thru Last Year

Courtesy BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Total nonfarm employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 3,006,700 in April 2007, up 53,600, or 1.8 percent over the year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported on Monday, June 4. Nonfarm employment growth in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area was greater than the national percentage increase in jobs of 1.4 percent from April 2006 to April 2007. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the over-the-year employment advances in the Washington metropolitan area extended back to July 2002 without interruption—the 58th consecutive increase in local payrolls. (Please see attached PDF file for a full version of the release).

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria area was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in April 2007. Six of these 12 areas experienced over-the-year job growth greater than the national increase of 1.4

percent. The top-two high-growth areas, both in Texas, had employment gains greater than twice the U.S. average—Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown (3.5 percent) and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (3.3 percent). San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif. (2.1 percent); Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. and Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga. (both 1.8 percent); and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, Fla. (1.7 percent), followed. Of the six areas with above-average job growth, only San Francisco was not located in the South region of the country.

Five metropolitan areas had below-average employment gains ranging from 1.2 to 0.8 percent: Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass.-N.H.; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.; Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.; Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md.; and New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa. Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich., was the only area of the 12 to lose jobs over the year, dropping 1.6 percent of its employment from April a year ago.

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Out on the TOWN



PHOTO COURTESY
BEVERLY PALAU/CITY OF
GREENBELT

The Daddy-Daughter dinner dance brought out over 77 fathers and their daughters to the Greenbelt Community Center on Saturday, June 2, 2007. Local artists and organizations also offered programs to for recreation.



City of Greenbelt Celebrates its 70th Anniversary

Daddy-Daughter Dance, biathlon and Other Activities Unite Residents in Celebration

Greenbelt from A1

Aquatic and Fitness Center, with a swimming competition in the outdoor pool followed by a lap around Buddy Attick Lake Park. Trophies were given to the contest’s winners, and all 12 participants received medals.

Later Saturday, public officials gathered to open the new Greenbelt Skate Park. On Saturday evening, the first annual Greenbelt Day Weekend Daddy-Daughter dance was held; over 77 fathers and their young daughters arrived at the Greenbelt

Community Center for a full dinner and a night of dancing in the Greenbelt Community Center. Sunday saw an Artful Afternoon with free art activities, exhibits, and a letter boxing workshop that gave participants the opportunity to create original art stamps and books.

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Celebrate the History of Home Day, Discover the Past and Save Your Gas

Prince George’s County History At Home Day Slated for July 21

Courtesy PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY HISTORY CONSORTIUM

Saturday, July 21, 2007 marks this year’s Prince George’s County History at Home Day. Park your car and spend a day discovering the County’s rich heritage...on a bus!

In celebration of History at Home Day, the Prince George’s County Historic Sites Consortium will sponsor three opportunities to help residents learn about and enjoy the times gone by.

“The Other Half: Prince George’s Women in History” event will explore the lives of a truly diverse group of women from Prince George’s County. Highlights will include a stop at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in commemoration of Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring” and a visit to the College Park Aviation Museum where participants will become informed about the lives of the county’s earliest aviatrixes.

Visits to the Marietta House Museum and Darnall’s Chance will reveal facts about the lives of 18th and 19th cen-

tury women in the county. A final stop at Grigsby’s Station will offer a look at one of America’s first female Presidential candidates, Belva Lockwood.

The second event, “From Arrowheads to Aerospace: Commerce and Technology,” will cover the County’s rich commercial history. The tour will begin at the College Park Aviation Museum and continue to Bladensburg’s Port Town sites, including Bostwick House (1746) and the Hot Air Balloon Field.

Travelers will continue through to the Radio and TV Museum, the Bowie Train Station and the Goddard/NASA Visitor Center.

“A Town Built on the Edge: Laurel Town Tour” offers a glimpse of the Industrial Revolution through the history of a town on the fall line of the Patuxent River. Curators at the Laurel Museum

Gracie is ‘Predictable’

By **STEVE RHODES**
InternetReviews.com

Playing like a female version of THE KARATE KID, GRACIE is as predictable and clichéd as they come. Director Davis Guggenheim, as he did in his last “message” movie, AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH), again beats us over the head with issues and tells us exactly how we’re supposed to feel. This time the subject is soccer. The last time this movie was made, it was called BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM, and it was a lot more enjoyable and genuine. GRACIE, which is inspired by some incidents in the life of actress Elisabeth Shue (LEAVING LAS VEGAS), concerns the first girl to play on a boy’s soccer team in New Jersey.

One supposes that forty-nine sequels are now possible, so that we can observe the life of every girl who first played on a soccer team in her state. Gosh, I can’t wait.

This story is about one Gracie Bowen (Carly Schroeder, who played Melina Bianco on “Lizzie McGuire”), who is a semi-rebellious high school student. Living in a

family of boys, she is always the odd one out. Her high school in South Orange, NJ, is a soccer-centric school. Her dad (Dermot Mulroney), a blue-collar worker for the Mayflower Moving Company, has but one passion: teaching his boys how to play soccer better.

Gracie is forbidden to participate in the family games since she is, after all, a girl. She is also a girl with a killer kick that can pick off distant bottles with the accuracy of a military sharpshooter.

After missing the big kick in the final game against her school’s long-time rival, Kingston High School, Gracie’s brother Johnny is killed in a car accident. Since Johnny was the most talented kid among the Bowen boys, their dad becomes despondent, barely noticing a raft of bad behavior by Gracie, who gets into stealing, adult clubs, failing grades, and promiscuous behavior.

The Bowen world, however, is turned upside down one day when Gracie announces she knows how to replace the irreplaceable Johnny on the soccer team and beat Kingston next year -- she will go out for the

team and take Johnny’s old position.

Between battles with the coach and the school board, Gracie spends most of the movie training fueled by the hope that the powers that be will let her join the team. Her dad quits his job so that he can put Gracie through arduous workouts.

The movie doesn’t have much soccer; it is much more interested in cheesy, family melodrama. Of course, Gracie will endure her punishing training, no matter how painful, and will finally make the team.

Now, any guess as to who will kick the winning goal against Kingston in the big ending game of the movie? (Gosh, do I have smart readers or what?)

RATING (0 TO ****): **
GRACIE runs a long 1:38. It is rated PG-13 for “brief sexual content” and would be acceptable for kids around 11 and up.

The film opens nationwide in the United States on Friday, June 1, 2007. In the Silicon Valley, it will be showing at the AMC theaters, the Century theaters and the Camera Cinemas.



PHOTO BY JIM SHERWOOD/PGCPS

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) collaborated with the UniverSoul Circus and Radio One to promote school attendance. Berkshire ES reported 99.4% on May 24, the designated day for the perfect attendance reward. As a result, the students and staff at Berkshire ES will be treated to a live sneak preview of the 2007 UniverSoul Circus show. The UniverSoul circus, “The Magic of Soul”, features amazing illusions, flying trapeze performers, mind-bending contortionists, Chinese bicycle dare devils, gravity-defying aerial gymnasts, and much more to excite and enchant audiences of all ages.

Calendar of Events

District V Volunteers in Police Service Orientation Luncheon

District V citizens, volunteers, and guests will meet on Saturday, June 9, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the District V Police Station, 6707 Groveton Dr. in Clinton, MD, to learn about community policing resources. For more information, contact Catherine Taggart-Ross at 301.856.6849.

Live Animal Show

Children of all ages love meeting our live animals. Touching and questions are encouraged. Reservations required.

Clearwater Nature Center 11000 Thrift Rd, Clinton Saturday, June 9, 10-11am \$1/residents, \$2/non-residents, ages 2 & up. (301)297-4575

Free Advance Directives Seminar

Hospice of the Chesapeake will host a free living wills seminar Monday, June 11, from 7

p.m. to 8 p.m. at the New Hope Baptist Church, located at 11101 Indian Head Highway in Fort Washington, MD.

Michael J. LaPenta, M.D., chief medical officer, Hospice of the Chesapeake, and Karren Pope Onwukwe, elder law attorney, will discuss frequently asked questions about living wills, advance directives and health care powers of attorney.

The seminar is free but registration is required as space is limited. For more information or to register, please call New Hope Baptist Church at 301.203.6247.

Creek Hike

Hike to a nearby creek to observe & identify wetland creatures. Dress for wet areas. Reservations required. Clearwater Nature Center 11000 Thrift Rd, Clinton Thursday, June 13, 10-11:30am \$2/residents, \$3/non-residents, ages 6 & up. (301)297-4575

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CROWN POOLS

America’s Most Talented Young Artists Showcase Work in Salute to the *The 2007 Presidential Scholars National Recognition Week Recognizes Young Artists*

Courtesy **THE TREISTER MURRY AGENCY**

The spotlight will be shining on the country’s brightest and most talented high school seniors when this year’s 2007 Presidential Scholars in the Arts (just 20 in total) join 121 other Presidential Scholars during National Recognition Week, June 23-27 in the nation’s capital. Recommended exclusively through participation in the youngARTS™ program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA), and selected

from an original pool of more than 7,300, the Presidential Scholars in the Arts were nominated as a result of their top ranking during youngARTS Week, held earlier this year in Miami. The visual arts honorees, with winners in visual arts, cinematic arts, photography and writing will be featured in an exhibit **June 21 – July 7** at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, 8th and F Streets N.W., Washington, D.C. The performing arts honorees will be featured **Mon., June 25 at 8:30 p.m.** in a *Salute to the*

2007 Presidential Scholars, showcasing dance, theater, voice and instrumental music, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Following the performance, all Presidential Scholars will be introduced and recognized for their achievements. Admission to the visual arts exhibit is complimentary. *Salute to Presidential Scholars* is a free event, but tickets are required by calling the Presidential Scholars Program at 202/401-0961 or emailing PresidentialScholars@ed.gov.

City of District Heights Public Hearing on Proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget

The City of District Heights will hold a public meeting on the proposed fiscal year 2008 budget on June 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., at the E. Michael Roll Municipal Building located at 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD, 20747. The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding the hearing or wishing to obtain a copy of the budget may contact Daniel R. Baden, City Treasurer, at (301) 336-1402.

Summer Campfire at the Marietta House Museum

Join us for an evening of family fun at Marietta House Museum’s summer campfire under the stars on Saturday, June 16, 2006 (Rain date June 17) at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening of hayrides, stargazing, storytelling and roasting marshmallows around the fire. Light refreshments will be provided.

Admission is \$3 per person. No reservations required.

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the facility at least two weeks in advance of the program start date to request an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreter, support staff, etc.).

Mother and Daughter Learn Together

Graduates from A2 Haynes. "I would have never envisioned that Tiffany and I would graduate from the same school at the same time—it's unbelievable. “Even though Tiffany and I live in different states, we still communicated by telephone and e-mail almost every day to motivate and support each other." Mercy College is a private, nonprofit institution

founded in New York in 1950. The College provides motivated students with the opportunity to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in business, social sciences, health sciences, education, computer sciences, and the liberal arts. Mercy College offers courses at campuses in the Bronx, Dobbs Ferry, Manhattan, White Plains, and Yorktown. Online degrees are also available.

Aquasco/Brandywine

Aquasco from A2 SMHC's Health Express The Health Express Van of Southern Maryland Hospital brings healthcare to county neighborhoods every month. The free screenings the van provides might save your life. Soon the van will make rounds to test for carotoid stenosis, a condition caused by plaque build-up in the arteries. Cartoid stenosis can lead to stroke and, in some cases, death. There will

be more information about locations and time of screenings in your neighborhood within the next two weeks. **Prince George's County Public Schools** The last day for students to attend school for the year is June 14, which is the end of the fourth quarter. June 18 is the last day for teachers and voluntary professional. Report cards for students will be distributed on June 22.

Serving Suitland

Suitland from A2 Monday through Friday. Aftercare can be provided. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. Please contact Elsie Jacobs at 301.793.1219 for further information. Not to take away from the festivities at Suitland Day on June 16th, but there is a Juneteenth and Doo Wop Concert event- one event- on June 16 from noon until 5:00 p.m. at Westlake High School in Waldorf. Westlake High School is

located at 3300 Middletown Road - just one mile west of the St. Charles Towne Center Mall. The Juneteenth Festival of African American Cultures will be held so that you can experience African American cultural traditions from the United States, the Caribbean, and from Africa. The festivities will get kicked off with a parade. You can visit www.blce.org for ore information. Since Suitland Day ends at 3:00 p.m., you will have time to attend both.

1,300 Children Sing Anthem to Commemorate Flag Day

Anthem from A5 of the National Anthem Project (NAP). Taylor Swift, a 17-year-old country music sensation, will lead the children in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." The children will also create a patriotic visual of the continental United States, and spell out

the first five words of the national anthem - "O say, can you see" - and "Jeep" within the visual. The "National Anthem Project: Restoring America's Voice" is celebrating the conclusion of a multi-year national education initiative created by

MENC: The National Association for Music Education to re-teach Americans the national anthem after a Harris Poll showed that two out of three Americans don't know the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner." The Jeep brand is the National

Presenting Sponsor, building upon its 66-year heritage and role in U.S. history. The visual of the continental U.S., including the beginning lyrics of the national anthem and the Jeep brand logo, will measure approximately 160 ft. wide by 250 ft. long.

Morningside-Skyline

Morningside from A2 the town’s new officials. If you would like to see the new administration in action, come to Morningside Town Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Town Hall. **Neighbors**

Rumors continue to abound as to the whereabouts of the last mayor of Morningside, Irving Robinson. He is wanted by customers whose houses his construction company had not finished. Even his own Allies Road house is up for sale. Aletheia Fadness of Skyline Terrace finished first in the Women’s Division of the 2007 America’s Armed Forces 5K at Andrews AFB on May 23. Her time was 25 minutes. Joshua Smith of Forestville High School was named 2006-07 Swim Team Coach of the Year by *The Washington Post*. Smith led the Knights’ boys’ team to a first-place finish in the 3A/2A/1A League. By the way, Forestville—now a military academy—was honored to have Gen. Colin Powell as its commencement speaker. In dark green Junior ROTC uniforms, the graduates marched to their seats under an arch of drawn swords while the Army band played martial music. General Powell told graduates, “I’ve got to say that sitting here and seeing you walk in is one of the most moving things I saw in all my commencements.” **Fore!**

It’s not too late to sign up for the Ross Memorial Golf Tournament on June 14 at Marlton Golf Club. So sign up, call Phil Eppard at 301.423.1787, or Sylvia Davis at 301.855.8610. **Changing Landscape** I am sad to learn that The Awakening will be dug up from its Hains Point home and moved to National Harbor. We always take visitors to see the sculpture so the children can climb his leg and we can watch the planes taking off at Reagan National Airport as the boats cruise by on the Potomac River. The Awakening’s creator, sculptor J. Seward Johnson,

installed The Awakening at Hains Point in 1980 as part of an international sculpture conference. Milt Peterson, developer of National Harbor, has purchased it for \$750,000. In November, the Henson Valley Montessori School, the oldest Montessori institution in Prince George’s, is moving from Camp Springs to a larger site on Edgemeade Road in Upper Marlboro. **Condolences** To Father Thomas LaHood on the death of his father, Charles G. LaHood Jr., 84, on June 2. Mr. LaHood was retired from the Library of Congress. The Mass for Mr. LaHood’s burial was held at St. Ignatius Church in Port Tobacco. To Carmina Young on the death of her sister, Gladys Fernandez. Gladys passed away on June 3. To Roseann Bridgman on the death of her sister, Peggy Mulderig, who passed away May 31. Her funeral Mass was in Jim Thorpe, PA. **May They Rest In Peace** Helen J. Jurney, longtime

Morningsider, passed away on May 31. I’ll pay tribute to her in next week’s column. Old-timers are invited to call or e-mail with stories of their memories of Helen. Robert J. Ammann, a contractor with the Warren R. Ammann firm in Camp Springs, passed away on May 26. Mr. Ammann lived in Auth Village. He was the husband of Helga Ammann; father of Staci Balko, Eric W. Ammann, Heather Gent, Rachel Ammann and the late Robert V. Ammann; brother of Shirley Eppard; grandfather of Kyle, Madison, Skylar and Tori. He was a member of the Bells United Methodist Church. Mr. Ammann was buried at the Washington National Cemetery. Ruth Louise Brett, 91, a White House switchboard operator serving Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter, passed away on May 9. She lived most of her life in Clinton, but moved to St. Leonard to be with her family later in life. Before working at the White House, Mrs.

Brett was an operator with the CIA. She was a member of the Surratt’s Seniors and enjoyed square-dancing. She was the wife of the late John Joseph Krell and Carlton E. Brett. Mrs. Brett is survived by her daughter, Mary Ruth Smolinski, and son, Michael J. Krell; 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. **Milestones** In last week’s column I wished Dot Hazelton a Happy Birthday. Several contacted me to say they thought she had passed away. Indeed, she had, on Feb. 5. She celebrated her birthday in Heaven. Happy birthday to Trisha Reamy, June 7; John Nichols, June 8; Robin Murphy, Vera Pope and Rev. Frank Ways, June 9; Laura Smith Jenkins, June 10; Jennifer Jenkins McClelland, Meghan Trexler Decker and Pedro Swann, June 11; Shirley Proffhit, June 12; Aimee Thomas and Joel McCune, June 13. Happy 36th anniversary to Kathy and Bob Elborne on June 12.



BEST WESTERN POTOMAC VIEW

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL ITALIAN BUFFET
5:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Romaine and Mascilin Salad
Penne Pasta w/ Fresh Basil Pesto Sauce & Topped with Grilled Chicken Strips
Fresh Baked Egg Plant Parmesan
Home Made Vegetable Lasagna
Ravioli with Seafood in a Marinara Sauce
Spaghetti & Italian Sausage w/ Sweet Bell Peppers, Mushrooms and Tomato Sauce Breadsticks

Dessert
Tiramisu, Cannoli, Assorted Cakes and Pies
Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee and Iced Tea

Adults \$13.95 Children (4-12) \$6.95 Under 4 Free
For Reservations: (240) 493-1019 Mon-Fri 9AM-4PM
or
(240) 493- 1025 after 4PM & Weekends
Walk-ins Welcome

6400 OXON HILL ROAD
OXON HILL, MD 20745
(301) 749-9400

