

The Prince George's Post



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PHOTO COURTESY VICKIE DUNCAN

Amusement rides were one among the many attractions spectators enjoyed at the Prince George's County Fair in Upper Marlboro this weekend.

SAT Participation Increases from 2006 12.6% More Students Test in '07

Courtesy PGCPS

More Prince George's County public school students are accepting the challenge of college-level work in high school, as indicated by the 2007 SAT scores released by the College Board this week. An additional 565 students took the SAT in 2007 as compared to 2006.

"The increasing number of seniors choosing to participate in the rigorous testing program indicates students are recognizing the importance of graduating college-ready," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. John E. Deasy.

"We anticipate even greater participation and are assisting students to achieve at even higher levels by ensuring every high school is offering a minimum of eight core Advanced Placement Courses this year."

Participation increased at the State and local levels, with 5,083 students in Prince George's County taking the test, a figure that represents a 12.6% increase from the previous year when 4,473 students took the test. In 2006 across the state of Maryland, 37,349 took the test in 2007, 7.3% more than did in 2006.

Mean scores for public school seniors declined across the state and in the county, with a more precipitous decline at the state level: moving from 1,294 to 1,281, the mean score for Prince George's County public school students fell 13 points, while across the state scores dropped 17 points from 1,492 to 1,475.

In Critical Reading alone, the mean score for Prince George's County public schools dropped from 437 to 432, with the state

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MD Officials Decry Medicaid Squeeze

Prince George's County is Hit Hard by Loss of Transit for Disabled

By ANDY ZIEMINSKI
Capital News Service

(ANNAPOLIS, MD) — Maryland officials said a recent decision by federal Medicaid administrators to stop reimbursing states for the cost of transporting disabled students to and from school is part of a "mean-spirited," months-long trend to "dump additional costs onto the states."

The change would hit Baltimore City and Prince George's County the hardest: Baltimore billed Medicaid for \$593,503 in fiscal 2007 for special-needs transportation and Prince George's County billed for \$106,560, said Bill Reinhard, a state Department of Education spokesman.

While many schools in the state decline to seek Medicaid assistance because of the paperwork involved, the statewide total reimbursement for student transport in fiscal 2007 was about \$1 million, officials said.

Now, the state and the jurisdictions that do bill Medicaid are "going to have to pick up the tab for it," said Maryland Disabilities Department Secretary Catherine A. Raggio. She added, "I don't think children will be without transportation."

Raggio said notification of the change was "mean-spirited," because it was e-mailed to state officials late on the Friday before the Labor Day holiday. That followed another cut in Medicaid assistance that was announced late on a Friday two weeks earlier. "It's sort of this series of new rules coming out in the last five or six months that together are really hitting the states hard," said John Folkemer, the state's Medicaid director. The student transport announcement declared that getting disabled children to school would be re-classified as an administrative cost, not a covered medical expense, and therefore could not be billed to Medicaid.

See Medicaid Page 7

Planning Board Names Deputy Director

Al Dobbins Chosen to Coordinate Planning for Prince George's County

Courtesy M-NCPPC

The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announced on September 4th the selection of Mr. Albert G. Dobbins, III, AICP, as Deputy Director for the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department. Mr. Dobbins, who will assume the position September 9th, will succeed former Deputy Director, Michael Petrenko, who retired from M-NCPPC after several decades of service.

Mr. Dobbins brings nearly 30 years of planning and public administration experience to the position of Deputy Planning Director. In his new role, he will work closely with Planning Director, Dr. Fern Piret, to manage and coordinate the department's overall work program and to supervise staff activities. Currently, Mr. Dobbins serves as Division Chief for the Planning Department's Community Planning

North Division where he oversees the comprehensive planning and zoning program in the northern portion of Prince George's County.

Prior to joining the Prince George's County

Planning Department, Mr. Dobbins held various planning management positions including Director with the District of Columbia's Office of Planning and Deputy Director with the City of New York's Department of City Planning in the Borough of Brooklyn. He also served as Principal of A.G. Dobbins and Associates in Washington, DC.

Mr. Dobbins holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan and a master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University. In 1990, he was awarded the prestigious Loeb Fellowship from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. He is also an active member of the American Planning Association, the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Urban Land Institute.



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

The selection of Mr. Dobbins follows a rigorous nationwide search and interview process. "As a member of the Prince George's County Planning department's senior management team, Al has contributed his talents and skills to helping the department reach its goal of providing high quality planning services," said Planning Board Chairman Samuel J. Parker, Jr.

"We are delighted to have Al continue his dedicated service to the Commission and are confident that his experience and in-depth knowledge in the areas of planning and public administration will prove to be invaluable assets in his new role as Deputy Director."

District Heights Mayor Named Chair of National Committee on Rural Development

Courtesy CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS

(DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD) — Mayor James L. Walls, Jr. received word this week of his appointment as Chairman of the National Conference of Black Mayors Committee on Small Town & Rural Development. The newly Elected Conference President George L. Grace of St. Gabriel, Louisiana, made that announcement.

"I am deeply honored to be chosen for this prestigious post with the National Conference of Black Mayors", said Mayor James Walls. "The National Conference and this Committee, in particular, is dealing with some of the most pressing challenges America's Small towns and Cities face today.

The Small Town and Rural Development Committee concerns itself with special circumstances of Small and Rural Communities and the Special strate-

gies and Programs that are used to promote community and economic development in rural areas. The committee recently recommended creation of a "Black Belt" regional commission to combat pervasive and long standing poverty in distressed rural communities in the South and South east with substantial Black populations.

The Small Town and Rural Development Committee is one of 10

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Back to School Night Honors Crossing Guards

PGPD, County Youth and Family Services Recognize Crossing Guard Unit

Courtesy PGPD

The Prince George's County Police Department's Youth and Family Services Division celebrated it's 32nd annual "Back to School Night," ceremony recognizing the Crossing Guards Unit for its service and dedication. The ceremony was held on

September 4, 2007 at the Police Services Complex.

Prince George's County Police Chief Melvin High, Assistant Chief, Patrol Services, Roberto Hylton and Director of Youth & Family Services, Captain Rex Barrett were on hand to congratulate the crossing guards.

"This event honors the service and dedica-

tion of Crossing Guards who go out each day to protect young people as they go back and forth to school. They provide service, safety and protection for our youngest citizens and that's an important job", said Chief High.

Of the unit, Captain Barret said, "The citizens of this county have placed a great deal of

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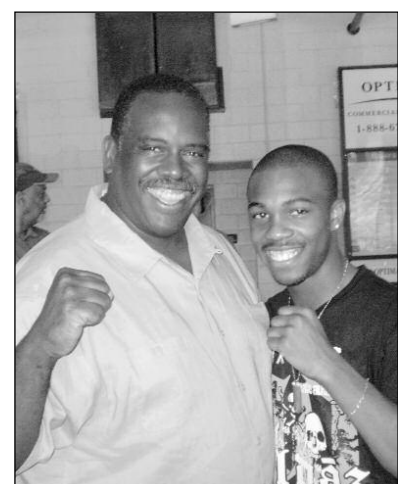
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Towns and NEIGHBORS

Clinton Conversations

By **NORMA FAZENBAKER**
301.579.6116

On Wednesday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m., Author Mike Richmond and 1942 Redskin Clyde Shugart will be talking about Mike's new book "The Redskins Encyclopedia," a comprehensive look at the history of the Washington Redskins, beginning when D.C. Entrepreneur George Preston Marshall first conceived of owning an NFL franchise and running it through the 2006 season. Richman will recount the team's most memorable moments, to include three Super Bowl wins in the glory years of the 1980s and early 90s, along with the less flattering periods in the team's history. RSVP to rsvp@historydc.org if you are interested in attending.

A ferry system linking Maryland's Eastern and Western Shores through a single operator is under review by the Maryland Department of Transportation after Gov. Martin O'Malley recently requested state Transportation Secretary John Porcari to review past studies and current conditions. For more on this story, go to www.delmarvanow.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?aid=/2007/0831/news01/708310333/1002.

Each winter, millions of people suffer from the flu, a highly contagious

infection. It spreads easily from person to person—mainly when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Flu is caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. It usually is a mild disease in healthy children, young adults, and middle aged people. However, flu can be life threatening in older adults and in people of any age who have chronic diseases such as diabetes or heart, lung or kidney disease.

Getting a flu shot is the best way to protect yourself from the flu, although it will not immunize you against the bird flu.

There are, however, other steps you can take to protect yourself and prevent the spread of any type of flu.: Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 15 to 30 seconds. Keep your hands away from your nose, eyes and mouth. Wash your hands after you handle objects like door-knobs, telephones, and toys.

If you are sick, stay home. Avoid exposing other people to the virus. Do not share your personal items, such as towels, washcloths, silverware, cups, glasses, straws, razors and toothbrushes. Make sure to have a good diet, plenty of rest and regular exercise.

**** Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.**



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF SENATOR CARDIN

Senator Benjamin Cardin (left) appeared with President of Bowie State Mickey L. Burnim (right) met with students and faculty at Bowie State University last Tuesday, September 4th, to discuss passage of legislation to make the pursuit of higher education in Maryland more affordable.

Brandywine- Aquasco

By **RUTH TURNER**
301.888.1139

Back to School Cookout

Back to school night will be held on Sunday, September 30th, from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden Parish. The event will be held in the facility's outdoor parking lot located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road in Baden. Please come

and enjoy fellowship, games, and lots of fun. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Admission is to be paid in back-to-school supplies. Proceeds from the event will benefit children through the Peter A. Gross Sr. Scholarship Memorial Fund, Inc.

Fellowship in a Firm Foundation

Annual Homecoming at Christ UMC, Aquasco will take place on

Sunday, September 23rd. Come and fellowship at a 10:00 a.m. worship service with Rev. Dr. Robert E. Walker, Jr. At 2:00 p.m., Ministry of Praise will be held. At 3:00 p.m. there will be a worship service with Rev. Eddie Smith. The choir and congregation from Hope Memorial Street and Mark United Methodist Churches of Edgewater, MD, will be in attendance. Dinner will be

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Remembering Sgt. Princess C. Samuels

Memorial Services Held for 'Girly Girl,' A Fallen Soldier

By **DAN LAMOTHE**
Capital News Service

(LANDOVER, MD) — In many ways, Sgt. Princess C. Samuels was a paradox: The "girly girl" loved the color pink, fashion and her poodle, Skylar, yet chose a job that favored heavy armament and desert camouflage.

On August 31st the Mitchellville native, 22, was remembered in a memorial service at the Jericho City of Praise as a bubbly personality who enjoyed art, designing her own clothing and encouraging others around her to try their best.

Killed Aug. 15 in Taji, Iraq, by "indirect enemy fire," Sgt. Samuels was buried in the afternoon at Arlington National Cemetery.



PHOTO COURTESY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Sgt. Princess C. Samuels

Samuels is the fourth female from Maryland killed in the war on Iraq and at least the 68th Marylander

overall, according to Department of Defense records.

The service included a number of touches consistent with Samuels' eclectic style: Many mourners dressed in hues of rose, programs were printed on fluorescent pink paper and a few women had their hair dyed pink.

Gaines Wynn, a teacher at Charles H. Flowers High School, who taught Samuels before she graduated in 2003, told the 150 mourners that Samuels was one of her favorite students.

Samuels received full military honors, with a Bronze Star presented to her mother, Anika Lawal, who wore a pink wide-brimmed hat. Citations by several elected officials also were read in her honor.

In and Around Morningside Skyline

By **MARY MCHALE**
301.735.3451

Pearl Harbor commemorative plates? For survivors only

Jean Glaubitz told me she can't use Jerry's Pearl Harbor Survivor 001 license plate—only actual survivors can use that plate. I guess that's right, but still it's kind of sad.

Gerald Glaubitz was in Honolulu early the morning of December 7, 1941, when the frenzied announcement came for all sailors to report to their ships. As Jerry and friends piled into his 1932 Graham-Paige roadster, they saw billowing black smoke and heard bombs exploding. They dashed from the car to their ship, the *USS San Francisco*. (He told me he never saw that car again.)

A heavy cruiser, the *USS San Francisco* survived to fight the war and was de-commissioned in 1946. Today she is remembered at the Pearl Harbor Memorial at Land's End in San Francisco.

Jerry survived the war and went on to a career at the Naval Research Lab and as Mayor of the Town of Morningside for 43 years.

He also went on to become president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors. As the 50th anniversary of the event approached, Jerry lead the lobbying effort in the MD General Assembly for the creation of special plates. When Maryland became the 30th state to issue the plates, Jerry got number 001. On December 7, 1991, Jerry, along

with his wife Jean, accompanied Pres. and Mrs. George H.W. Bush to the 50th anniversary service aboard the Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor. And since 1991, his car has sported 001. He died in April 2005. Now his widow has to get a new plate.

Another local man who got a Survivors' plate is Frank Bartos of Camp Springs. He's number 015.

Neighbors

Michael Schlaerth was hired August 13th as Morningside's newest police officer. He hails from California. This brings the force to seven finest.

Blake James Shipman won the bronze in the 2-3 year-old age bracket in the Beautiful Baby Contest at the Prince George's County Fair. Blake was taken to the Fair by his Aunt, Beth Shipman. Blake is the son of Jimmy Shipman and grandson of Sarah and Tommy Shipman, all of whom used to live on Pickett Drive in Morningside and now reside in Clinton.

Changing Landscape

Lee Fashions, a clothing store in the Skyline shopping center, has closed. Perhaps it should revert to its original status: a beauty shop. Marine Capt. Earl "Blackie" Gaddis built that shop—next to the Clinton Oil Company office—back in the early 1960s as a beauty shop for his wife Anne. The name of the establishment was Skyline Hair Stylists. Before that, Anne had a beauty parlor in the basement of her Skyline Drive home where I used to go for haircuts.

Among the 13 "structurally deficient bridges" in Prince George's County are five in our area: Capital Beltway at Suitland Road; Old Marlboro Pike/ Federal Spring Branch; Forestville Road/I-95; Pennsylvania Avenue (northbound)/Woodyard Road; and Pennsylvania Avenue (southbound)/Woodyard Road.

Feeling lucky?

Relaxing Tours is offering a bus trip to Atlantic City's Tropicana Resort on September 29th as a fundraiser for the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department. Departure from the firehouse, 6200 Suitland Road, will be at 7 a.m.— arrival at Tropicana, 10 a.m. Participants will return by 9 p.m. The trip will cost \$40 per ticket— plus a \$16 rebate. Food and soft drinks will be provided on the bus. For tickets, call Tony at 240.723.5428; Mike, 240.765.9596; or Tyrone, 202.903.7546.

May They Rest in Peace

I'm sorry to announce that Charles "Chuck" Kiker, longtime Morningside official and Naval Oceanographic retiree, passed away last weekend. I'll pay tribute to him in next week's column.

Nancy Jean Weslager, 64, a retiree of FAA, formerly NOAA, passed away on September 4th. On the job, she worked with Instrument Approach Procedures, making charts for pilots to use in bad weather. A Washington native, her family moved to Temple

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Serving Suitland

By **JANICE A. EUELL**
301.523.2677

I know this is not the place to sound off, but I have to say that I really do applaud the Governor for believing that our school systems needs a change.

ROJA's Outreach Center with After School Learning Centers in Suitland and District Heights is looking for volunteers to assist students in the kindergarten through eighth grades improve in the areas of reading and math. Some of these students are reading 2-3 levels below their current grade level and only with supplemental education will they be able to reach their current grade level.

The Centers are operate Monday - Friday, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Any consistent hour(s) you are able to spare during those days and times would be very much appreciated. If you unable to commit to a tutoring arrangement, you could also volunteer to just come by and read with the students on any given day. If you are a high school or middle student needing community service hours, your assistance is also needed. Please call the outreach center at 301.967.4921 if you are able to assist.

Meetings of the Suitland Civic Association have resumed. Future meetings will occur on the third

Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Suitland Water Tower located at 4211 Suitland Road. Please, residents, plan to attend and to help us meet the challenges we face in our community.

Congratulations to Kaylah Gallimore, Keniya Brown, Leahnese Childress and Lateah Green for their fantastic dance performance at the Roscoe C. Cartwright Lodge #129 in the Accokeek Crab Feast. The girls received an uproar from the crowd and applause as they performed routines that they choreographed themselves. Needless to say, their adult chaperones, Toni Colwell, Tyrone Childress, Meneta Wyatt and Sheena Blake and me, of course, were extremely proud of them.

Tyrell Brown, President of ROJA's Youth Advisory Board, was able to meet M. W. Shelton D. Redden, the Grand Master of the Maryland Jurisdiction and its Coordinating Bodies for the Masons. Thanks to Brother Romeo Felder for sponsoring these youths as his guests.

Just in case you didn't know, Drew/Freeman Middle School has been selected as an America's Choice School to help their students improve academically. Naturally, every one of us should put forth our best efforts towards giving our children the boost they need to excel is a welcomed addition. Please call the school if you are willing to help.

The New Prince George's Post

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Editor/Publisher Legusta Floyd	Subscriptions Anna Curry
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Editorial Assistant Emily Apatov
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Graphic Designer Ellanor McCoy
	Web Manager Kylar Quesenberry

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COMMUNITY

Dancing With the Stars at Hyattsville MS

Grant Extension Allows Dancing Instructor to Return for 2nd Year

Courtesy **HYATTSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

At Hyattsville Middle School last year, professional ballroom dance instructor Andre Cleofe of the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Silver Spring taught ballroom dance to a class of sixty privileged students. The class, Dancing with the Stars, took place once or twice monthly during students' 90-minute activity period.

This year Dancing with the Stars will return with improvements, bringing tango, salsa, and swing dancing classes weekly to a smaller group of students.

Dancing with the Stars 2007 — 2008 is made possible in part by funding from an earlier grant from the Prince George's County Arts Council that was renewed this year.

Cleofe will partner with Hyattsville Middle School dance instructor Wilhelmena

Cromwell and her seventh-grade general dance students at the school during their regularly scheduled dance class.

Concentrating on a smaller number of students and providing instruction more consistently and more often, Cleofe and Cromwell anticipate that the students will be ready for a performance by the Winter Holidays, by which time their one-semester dance class will have concluded.

Cleofe will begin again second semester with a different group of students with the goal of a performance at the end of May. Cromwell acknowledges that she does not have a strong background in Ballroom Dancing, she is anxious to learn from Cleofe as the students are learning.

Gail Golden, Principal of Hyattsville Middle School, says that it is her hope that more middle schools in the area will join her students and staff in learning Ballroom Dancing.

Community Partners Gear Students Up for School

Students from Low-Income Families Receive Assistance From County, Private Stakeholders

Courtesy **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

(LANDOVER, MD) —

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services in partnership with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, the Chamber of Commerce and Comcast Cable collected 1,925 school supplies for its Annual School Supplies for Kids Campaign 2007.

The campaign ran from July 30th to August 10th.

The supplies will benefit more than 600 children in foster care, kinship care and homeless shelters throughout Prince George's County.

"Our children are the roots of our future," said Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services Howard Burnett.

"We must continue to partner and do what is necessary to ensure their continued success, and the school supply drive helps to achieve this."

The library system donated a variety of reading books for all grade levels. Donations

of backpacks, pens, pencils, and other valuable school supplies were collected from area businesses, residents and Social Services staff as well.

"We realize how necessary it is to equip our children with the tools they will need to prepare them for not only today, but tomorrow as well," said Director Karyn T. Lynch.

"The cooperation and efforts of our partnerships continue to make this drive a success."

Foster parents and youth were also invited to attend an ice cream social sponsored by the Department of Social Services' Foster Parent Association.

"This is a wonderful way for us to express our gratitude and commitment to not only the children in foster care, but those who have opened their homes as well," stated Mildred Stewart, President of the Foster Parent Association Board.

Youth and parents enjoyed great ice cream flavors, picked up a backpack of reading books and school supplies, and had the opportunity to socialize with one another.

Prince George's Gains an Eagle Scout

Justin Nathaniel James Joins Upper Ranks of Largo Troop 1294

Courtesy **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA - TROOP 1294**

(LARGO, MD) — On August 17th, Justin Nathaniel James will become Troop 1294's newest scout to receive the highest award in Boy Scouting — the Eagle Scout Award — when Troop 1294 convened its Eagle Scout Court of Honor at St. Joseph Church.

The young man had the "right stuff" in the Boy Scout Program to become among the "best of the best" nationwide. In achieving this honor, James joins the select cadre of young men to earn this prestigious award. Of the millions of young men that have and continue to wear the uniform in



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN WYNN

Justin Nathaniel James

the Scouting program, only 2.5% have ever remained focused on this prize in the 97-year history of the Boy Scouts of America.

Justin Nathaniel James is the son of Brenda C. James of Upper Marlboro and a 2006 graduate of Gwynn Park High School.

He is currently a rising sophomore engineering student at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. He served as the Troop Senior Patrol Leader and as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the highest youth leader positions, during his tenure in Troop 1294

James earned in excess of the required merit badges and community service hours towards his high school requirements during his Boy Scout Career.

Tom Joyner Encourages Health Education

Mark Your Calendar for Annual "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day"

Courtesy **BLACK PR WIRE**

Tom Joyner, host of the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show, is urging the community to "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" on Tuesday, September 18th.

This year marks the fifth year that the "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" health initiative, started by Joyner in 2002, has partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to improve health care among minority groups, including African-Americans.

Scheduled each year for the third Tuesday in September, Tom Joyner founded the program to encourage individuals to take a more proactive role in their health by simply making an appointment for a check-up or a screening and encouraging a friend, neighbor, or family member to do the same. Individuals are encouraged to visit health professional including doctors, nurses, dentists, nurse practitioners or physician's assistants and/or help a friend, neighbor, or family member to do the same. Participants can also choose to attend a health event in the community.

"We've got to start making it a top priority to get regular check ups every year in the African American community," said Joyner.

"We have to start taking better care of ourselves and get a jump on the health issues that keep plaguing our people. If you know someone that hasn't been to the doctor in over a year, I'm asking you to go to their house, go to their job or go to their school - pick them up - make them call the doctor for an appointment and then drive them there."

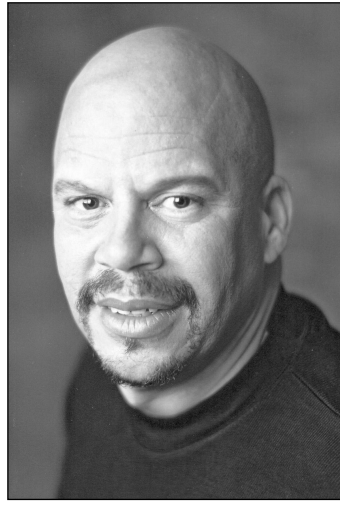


PHOTO COURTESY REACH MEDIA INC.

Tom Joyner

Because of the multitude of health issues disproportionately affecting the African-American community and the mounting concern for all Americans who are faced with the rising cost of health insurance, this year's campaign will focus upon preventative health care measures.

Also, attention will be

directed at specific health issues that continue to plague the African American community at the highest rates — health problems including diabetes, heart diseases, HIV/AIDS, asthma, and obesity.

Reaching 8 million listeners weekly in over 115 markets, Joyner and the morning crew, will highlight "Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day" activities, broadcasting from Detroit, Dallas, Charlotte, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Washington DC.

This year's "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" supporters include Walgreen's, State Farm, Johnson and Johnson, United Health Care, Merck, the American Heart Association, NEIH/Sister Study, Pulmicort and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

For more information regarding "Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day" please visit www.BlackAmericaWeb.com.

About Tom Joyner and 'Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day'

Tom Joyner is a nationally syndicated radio and television personality, philanthropist and entrepreneur.

Known as the "hardest working man in radio," Joyner is a 1999 Radio Hall of Fame inductee, an NAACP President's Award winner and was bestowed with the prestigious Marconi Award for Network/Syndicated Personality of the Year in 2004.

"Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day" is designed to reduce the health disparity between African Americans and the general population; to improve access to culturally relevant health care information; to better educate members of the African American community regarding the benefits of prevention and treatment of serious diseases and create accountability in the African American community.

PGCF Announces Public Meeting to Explain Conditions for Designation of National Harbor Community Funds

Courtesy **PGCF**

The Prince George's Community Foundation, Inc. released the guidelines for the National Harbor Fund by its Board of Directors. The guidelines were developed after several months of negotiation to move the management of the Fund to the Community Foundation.

Artis Hampshire Cowan, President of the Board of Directors, said, "The members of the Prince George's Community Foundation have tried to the best of our ability to keep the spirit of the original agreement and at the same time have a procedure and

process that will be transparent and accountable to everyone involved. In addition, we believe strongly that the National Harbor Fund will strengthen many of our non-profit organizations and enable them to expand their services. We are committed to enhancing the lives and communities of the citizens of this county and the National Harbor Fund is another means to that end." An information meeting will be held September 20, 2007 at the Glassmanor Community Center, 1101 Marcy Avenue, Oxon Hill, Maryland from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The public is welcomed to attend that meeting.

Desiree Griffin Moore, Executive Director, said: "We want all of the citizens of Prince George's County who are interested in applying for these funds to join us at the information meeting. We will answer questions and address concerns as best we can. After many weeks of meetings and analysis, we have developed guidelines that clearly lay out the process for application. While everyone will not receive funds, we want all citizens to have an equal opportunity on a level playing field. We believe the new guidelines accomplish this goal."

For additional information, please call 301.464.6706.

COMMUNITY NOTES

• Rally support for funds for M-NCPPC Services and Facilities where funds are needed the most —

The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has scheduled two public forums this fall to solicit comments on the Commission's operating and capital budgets for planning, parks, and recreation in Prince George's County for fiscal year 2009, and on the M-NCPPC Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2009-2014.

The public forums will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday September 18th at the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and

Recreation Administration Building, 6600 Kenilworth Ave., Riverdale, and on Wednesday, October 17th at Harmony Hall Regional Center, located at 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington.

Individuals and representatives of community organizations who wish to speak at the public forums may register in advance by phone at 301.952.4584; TTY 301.952.3796, or by e-mail to public.affairs@ppd.mncppc.org.

Written comments will also be accepted until close of business on Friday, October 19, 2007.

Comments should be addressed to: Samuel J. Parker, Jr., Chairman, Prince George's County Planning Board, 14741 Governor Oden

Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Comments may also be faxed to Chairman Parker at 301.952.5074 or transmitted via e-mail to public.affairs@ppd.mncppc.org.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all of its programs and services. For special assistance (i.e., large print materials, assistive listening devices, sign language interpretation, etc.) call the Public Affairs Office at 301.952.4314; TTY 301.952.3796.

• **Join the Prince George's County Home Ownership Preservation Coalition for a free**

series of workshops explaining how to prevent home foreclosure due to late payments —

The Prince George's County Home Ownership Preservation Coalition, a coalition of counseling agencies, government, lenders, and advocates, will launch a series of nine two-hour workshops to explain how people can avoid losing their homes because of late payments. Three September workshops are planned: Housing Initiative Partnership will present the first workshop at 7:00 p.m. on September 13th at the Hyattsville Municipal Building, located at 4310 Gallatin Street in Hyattsville. The second workshop, presented by Sowing Empowerment &

Economic Development (SEED) will be hosted on September 20th at the SEED office, 6201 Riverdale Road in Riverdale. KAIROS will host the third workshop on September 27th. KAIROS is located at 5601 Old Branch Avenue in Camp Springs.

There is no charge for this workshop. The focus of the workshop will be to provide information to homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments or are anticipating that they will soon be behind. The workshop will answer questions such as: What happens when you miss your mortgage payment? What should you do?

All workshops will be on Thursdays from 6 — 9 p.m. unless

otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required. To reserve a seat, call Prince George's County's Homeownership Center at 301.883.5570.

• **The Largo Lions Football team of Prince George's County Maryland** — needs a renovated playing field. The team has playing on this field for over 15 years with no preventive maintenance for normal wear and tear...During the next 5 months, in an effort to raise funds to renovate the current field for the 2008-2009 school year, at each of the football games we will be giving away several door prizes to attendees that support our team. For more information please call 301-318-9188.

COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Make Preventing and Curing Sickle Cell Disease a National Priority

By Senators Benjamin L. Cardin and Thomas Carper

In recent years, a lot of attention has focused on a few debilitating diseases that affect millions of Americans. Coordinated public and private efforts — including targeted biomedical research, awareness campaigns, and patient advocacy — have enabled us to make remarkable progress toward conquering many of these diseases. But other, less prevalent diseases that are just as serious have received scant attention. Sickle cell disease — a devastating genetic disorder that affects red blood cells — is such a disease, and greater awareness and more resources are required if we are to defeat it.

September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, and many Americans have never heard of the

The lack of public information about the disease is also a problem. Although virtually every state in America has screened newborns for sickle cell since 1986, most adults do not know their sickle cell trait status. Individuals with sickle cell trait do not have the disease, but they carry a gene that increases their children's chances of having it. In cases where both parents have sickle cell trait, there is a 1 in 4 chance — with each pregnancy — that their child will have sickle cell disease. Awareness of one's sickle cell trait status is perhaps the single most effective way to reduce the incidence of the disease.

Many sickle cell patients also require blood transfusion, and most patients do best if they can receive blood transfusions from genetically similar donors. Yet too few individuals of African, Latino, Mediterranean, and South Asian heritage — groups with the highest incidence of sickle cell disease — are aware that they can help sickle cell patients by donating their blood.

Finally, sickle cell's challenges require greater leadership at the federal level, where national needs can be identified and effective national strategies can be developed.

Research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has led to the development of more effective newborn screening tools, the identification of blood transfusion as a way to reduce the risk of strokes, and an FDA-approved treatment that aids in the prevention of painful sickle cell episodes. Scientists believe that we are on the cusp of developing more accurate screening tools for sickle cell disease, personalizing therapies according to individuals' profiles, and discovering actual preventions. With increased resources, so much more is possible.

The Administration and Congress must work together if we are going to prevent or cure sickle cell disease. We must build on the steps taken in previous Congresses and ensure that the NIH has the resources to build on promising sickle cell research projects. We also must encourage additional support from public and private sources. According to a 2006 Pediatrics article, only \$1,000 per patient per year is spent on sickle cell disease research, an amount that pales in comparison to the funds devoted to other, better-known diseases.

During National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, we should begin to bridge the gap between need and results. It is time to promote increased attention to sickle cell disease in our nation's medical schools and academic medical centers so that health professionals are trained appropriately to diagnose and treat sickle cell patients.

We also need to put our money where it will get the best results — into more research and education about this devastating disease.

“...sickle cell's challenges require greater leadership at the federal level, where national needs can be identified and effective national strategies can be developed.”

disease or know little about it. They are unaware that this disease — which creates oxygen-depleted red blood cells that become “sickle”-shaped and block small blood vessels — causes pain so severe that a flare up is often referred to as a “crisis.” These sickle cell “crises” can lead to stroke, organ failure, and death.

Experts estimate that between 70,000 and 80,000 Americans have sickle cell disease, and more than 1,300 babies are born with the condition each year. Although sickle cell disease is a rare, it is by far the most common genetic blood disorder in this country.

Unfortunately, the treatment of sickle cell disease has been hampered by too few resources and lack of information. Health care providers must be familiar with the symptoms of sickle cell and be able to properly diagnose and treat the disease — especially in hospital emergency departments where patients frequently seek treatment during a pain crisis. However, too many health care professionals have not received in-depth training about sickle cell disease.

In Delaware, for example, the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children is the only hospital in the state that serves the pediatric sickle cell population. In Maryland, Johns Hopkins houses the state's only clinic dedicated specifically to the medical care of adults with sickle cell. There needs to be greater availability of comprehensive health care services for both children and adults suffering for sickle cell disease.

The Counseling Corner

Your School Guidance Counselor

by The American Counseling Association

Most parents seem to know very little about all that their child's school counselor has to offer. That's too bad, because it means a valuable educational resource is being wasted.

School counselors today aren't simply offering career and college guidance, or only dealing with classroom troublemakers. They're trained, experienced professionals who are an important part of a school's educational program, and who offer students and parents assistance in a wide variety of areas.

School counselors are certified or licensed by the state. Most states require counselors to hold at least a Masters degree and many require classroom teaching experience.

School counselors are specially trained to deal with young people and help them reach their educational goals. Through standardized testing and monitoring of classroom performance, counselors help advise teachers, students and parents on which classes will offer a student the appropriate challenges and the best educational outcomes.

That guidance portion of a school counselor's work progresses with older students to advising them on which classes can best fulfill their educational and career goals, as well as explaining options for colleges, technical training or other directions after high school.

However, a school counselor's work goes far beyond testing and educational guidance. As trained counselors they assist students in a variety of potential problem areas. From drug issues to bullying situations to improving study skills, school counselors can help students, and families, to better handle the challenges that students today face. While school counselors don't have magic wands that make problems disappear, they can offer techniques and approaches that can assist students and parents in coping with problem areas.

Don't wait for a crisis to talk with your child's school counselor. An introductory meeting early in the year provides a chance to meet the counselor, to discuss your

child, and to learn what assistance might be available. Even more important is to contact that counselor quickly when problems first appear. Slipping grades, or abrupt changes in a child's attitude, behavior or friends, can all be signs that help is needed. That's when a counseling professional can make a real difference.

“The Counseling Corner” is provided as a public service by the American Counseling Association, the nation's largest organization of counseling professionals. Learn more about the counseling profession at the ACA web site, www.counseling.org.

“Slipping grades, or abrupt changes in a child's attitude, behavior or friends, can all be signs that help is needed.”



Earth Talk

The Slowing of the Gulf Stream

Dear EarthTalk: What is the issue with the Gulf Stream in relation to global warming? Could it really stop or disappear altogether? If so, what are the ramifications of this? — Lynn Eytel, Clark Summit, PA

Part of the Ocean Conveyor Belt, a great river of ocean water that traverses the saltwater sections of the globe, the Gulf Stream stretches from the Gulf of Mexico up the eastern seaboard of the U.S., where it splits, one stream heading for Canada's Atlantic coast and the other for northern Europe and Greenland. By taking warm water from the equatorial Pacific Ocean and carrying it into the colder North Atlantic, the Gulf Stream warms up the eastern U.S. and northwestern Europe by about five degrees Celsius, making those regions much more hospitable than they would otherwise be.

Among the greatest fears scientists have about global warming is that it will cause the massive ice fields of Greenland and other locales at the northern end of the Gulf Stream to melt rapidly, sending surges of cold water into the ocean system and interrupting the flow of the Ocean Conveyor Belt. One doomsday scenario is that such an event would stop or disrupt the whole Ocean Conveyor Belt system, plunging Western Europe into a new ice age without the benefit of the warmth delivered by the Gulf Stream. “The possibility exists that a disruption of the Atlantic currents might have implications far beyond a colder northwest Europe, perhaps bringing dramatic climactic changes to the entire planet,” says Bill McGuire, a geophysical hazards professor at University College London's Benfield Hazard Research Centre.

Computer models simulating ocean-atmosphere climate dynamics indicate that the North Atlantic region would cool between three and five degrees Celsius if Conveyor circulation were totally disrupted. “It would produce winters twice as cold as the worst winters on record in the eastern United States in the past century,” says Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Robert Gagosian.

The slowing of the Gulf Stream has been directly linked with dramatic regional cooling before, says McGuire. “Just 10,000 years ago, during a climactic cold snap known as the Younger Dryas, the current was severely weakened, causing northern European temperatures to fall by as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit,” he says. And 10,000 years earlier—at the height of the last ice age when most of northwestern Europe was a frozen wasteland—the Gulf Stream had just two-thirds of the strength it has now.

A less dramatic prediction sees the Gulf Stream slowing down but not stopping entirely, causing the east coast of North America and northwestern Europe to suffer only minor winter temperature dips. And some scientists even put forth the optimistic hypothesis that the cooling effects of a weakened Gulf Stream could actually help offset the higher temperatures otherwise caused by global warming.

To McGuire, these uncertainties underscore that fact that human-induced global warming is “nothing more nor less than a great planetary experiment, many of the outcomes of which we cannot predict.” Whether or not we can trim our addiction to fossil fuels might just be the determining factor in whether global warming wreaks havoc around the world, or just causes us minor annoyances.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Voice. Student Culture. Student Excellence.

Dear Editor,

I am humbled to announce that on August 23, 2007, I was sworn in to serve as the Student Member of the Prince George's County Board of Education for the 2007/2008 school year.

The trust that my peers have vested in me, to effectively

“By continuing to forge partnerships between both our County's and State's education, faith-based, business, and political communities, I am confident that we can finally eliminate the negative connotations so often applied to our youth population, while still recognizing the importance of student voice and the student vote.”

tively represent their needs, will not be taken for granted. I am fully aware of the responsibility that I have to my constituents as well as my colleagues.

I pledged to advocate for a change in mindset, expectations, and performance—a modification in not only how the public views Prince George's County students, but in how we view ourselves. This pledge was founded in my belief that achievement is a product of not only one's environment, but also of one's personal mindset. A Yoruba proverb states that “with your hands you make your success, with your hands you destroy success.”

I plan to work towards creating school environments that highlight the success and achievements of our student bodies. By continuing to forge partnerships between both our County's and State's education, faith-based, business, and political communities, I am confident that we can finally eliminate the negative connotations so often applied to our youth population, while still recognizing the importance of student voice and the student vote.

I am eternally grateful for everyone that has shown their unwavering support: my family, church, friends, teachers, administrators, mentors, and community in general. They have all helped cultivate me into the person that I am today. I look forward to continuing to work towards the betterment of our community by uniting those who share a vested interest and responsibility to it.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Haywood L. Perry III, Student Member
Prince George's County Board of Education

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

BUSINESS

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Early Savings Reap Long-Term Payoff

I lived paycheck to paycheck during my early twenties. Saving didn't seem feasible there were just too many expenses. And, like many, during my early workforce years I neglected to have a portion of my paycheck automatically put into a retirement account.

It's ironic that when you're young and struggling you can make the biggest impact on your financial future. Now, quite a few years later, my 401(k) is finally in decent shape and I'm onto the next hurdle — saving for my kids' college education.

Here are a few ideas to help get you or your children on the right track:

The power of compounding. At 22, you're twice as far from age 65 as from birth, so it's hard to think seriously about retirement. But compound earnings — where interest earned on your savings in turn generates more earning — can snowball over time. Here's an example:

Say you're 22, earn \$30,000 a year and put aside 6 percent of pay (\$150 a month) until age 65. At an 8 percent average annual rate of return, your \$77,400 investment will grow to \$619,000 by then. But if you don't begin saving until 32 and set aside the same monthly amount, you'll only accumulate \$274,000 by 65 — a huge difference. By increasing the percentage of pay you save and factoring in annual raises, your savings will skyrocket even further.

Be tax smart. If you don't participate in your employer's 401(k) plan, you're missing a great savings opportunity. Money is deducted from your paycheck before being taxed, which lowers your taxable income and thus, your taxes. You aren't taxed until withdrawal at retirement, when your taxable income and tax rate may be much lower.

Many companies match a portion of your contributions as an incentive to save commonly 50 percent of your first 3 percent of pay saved, or better. That's like getting a 50 percent rate of return. Be sure to contribute enough to take full advantage of the match; otherwise, you're throwing away a sizeable gift. Practical Money Skills for Life, a free personal financial management site sponsored by Visa USA, has a complete guide to 401(k) plans and other employer-provided benefits (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/benefits).

If a 401(k) plan isn't available, try a Roth IRA. Although initial contributions are taxed, you'll never pay taxes on the earnings, which will grow rapidly with compounding. The earlier you contribute to a Roth, the bigger your tax savings. As always, consult a financial professional regarding your personal situation.

Trouble saving? Start small. Put leftover change in a jar each night and skip a few lattes. Every few weeks, deposit the money in a high-yield, money market savings account (find the best ones at www.bankrate.com). You'll be surprised how quickly it accumulates. Whenever you get a raise or bonus, bank at least part — or better yet, increase your 401(k) contribution.

Saving is never easy, but if you establish good habits early on, you'll find the long-term rewards are too good to pass up.

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

The Small Business Initiative Invites You to WSSC Procurement Day

On Wednesday, September 19th, from 9:00 a.m. — 12 p.m.. The event will be held at 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A in Largo. Register online at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's website, www.pgcedc.com.

NASA Goddard Heads-Off Development in Nanotechnology, Spurring Progress

NASA Engineers Pioneer Low-Cost Nanotech Production Method

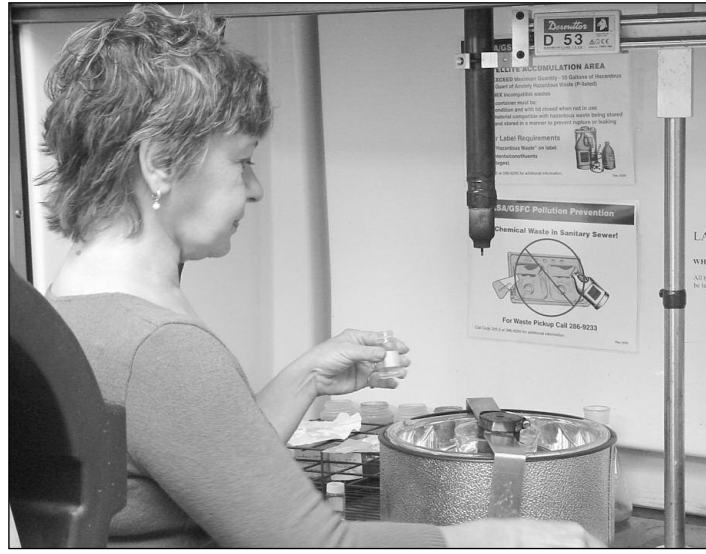
Courtesy NASA

(GREENBELT, MD) — A NASA-developed innovative process is making waves in the nanotechnology field and spurring the development of new companies in the process. Nanotailor, a new company based in Austin, TX, has licensed NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's unique single-walled carbon nanotube (SWCNT) fabrication process with plans to make high-quality, low-cost SWCNTs available commercially. Potential markets for the technology are vast and include medical, construction, manufacturing, and imaging, to name just a few. The license provides Nanotailor a springboard from which to grow its business, while helping to make affordable nanotechnology available to a broad range of industries.

One of the basic nanotechnology structures, a carbon nanotube is a graphite sheet one atomic layer thick of carbon that is wrapped on itself to create an extraordinarily thin, strong tube. Although carbon nanotubes were discovered more than 15 years ago, their use has been limited due to the complex, dangerous, and expensive methods for their production.

This unwieldy process has made SWCNTs cost-prohibitive until now. "The nanotech industry is growing by more than 40 percent a year, but multi-walled carbon nanotubes have been the primary technology used. Single-walled technology just hasn't taken off because of the cost," notes Nanotailor president Ramon Perales. "If we can get the cost down, we can be a step ahead and make higher quality nanotechnology more affordable."

NASA Goddard, located in Greenbelt, Md. is helping nanotech-



PHOTOS COURTESY NASA GSFC INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM OFFICE

nology companies like Nanotailor do just that through a simpler, safer, and much less costly manufacturing process for SWCNTs. Developed by retired GSFC researcher Dr. Jeannette Benavides, the key to the innovation is the ability to produce bundles of SWCNTs without using a metal catalyst, dramatically reducing pre- and post-production costs while generating higher yields of better quality product. Other start-up companies that have licensed the process include Idaho Space Materials in Boise and E-City NanoTechnologies in the metro Baltimore area.

With a license agreement in place, Nanotailor has built and tested a prototype based on NASA Goddard's process, and is now working on commercialization efforts with a plan to go to market by the end of 2007. Device integrators and nanotechnology-based device companies will likely be among Nanotailor's first customers, though the company hopes to cater to a wide variety of industries and research organizations. "All industries currently using multi-walled tubes will be able to benefit from

Left: NASA Goddard researcher Dr. Jeannette Benavides sets up her innovative, low-cost process for manufacturing carbon nanotubes, which has been licensed by Nanotailor and two other start-ups.

Below: NASA Goddard's innovative CNT manufacturing process uses helium arc welding to vaporize a carbon rod (anode), with the nanotubes forming in the soot deposited onto a water-cooled carbon cathode.



PHOTOS COURTESY NASA GSFC INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM OFFICE

this technology," notes Nanotailor chief technology officer Reginald Parker. "We're lowering the cost per gram while greatly improving the integrity of the nanotubes. A better product at a lower price will help us bring higher quality nanotechnology to biomaterials, advanced materials, space exploration, highway and building construction... the list goes on and on."

This technology transfer success story was made possible by the efforts of NASA's Innovative

Partnerships Program (IPP), which has a two-part focus: (1) forming partnerships between NASA and industry, academia, or other government agencies to support the space program and (2) transferring NASA technology to new applications.

"NASA is committed to working with small businesses so they may be successful. It's good for technology, for NASA, and for the U.S. economy," said Nona Minnifield Cheeks, Chief of the IPP Office at NASA Goddard.

Merkle Names Reis General Counsel

First In-House General Counsel Also Picks Up Title of Senior VP

Courtesy MERKLE

(LANHAM, MD) —Merkle (www.merkleinc.com), one of the nation's largest database marketing agencies, announced the appointment of Jason Reis as Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Mr. Reis is Merkle's first in-house general legal counsel.

Mr. Reis brings to the position over 13 years of experience. Previously, Mr. Reis was a partner in the Reston, Va. offices of DLA Piper, a firm with 3,400 lawyers in 25 countries worldwide. At DLA Piper, Mr. Reis served as primary outside general corporate counsel to a variety of domestic and international public and private companies. He served as lead counsel in

over 50 merger and acquisition transactions for public and private companies and investors, and regularly counseled clients on matters involving corporate governance, equity and debt financing, litigation, labor and employment, strategic alliances, intellectual property and other matters.

Merkle President and CEO, David Williams said, "As a company, Merkle reached the point in its growth where it made sense to introduce the role of full-time corporate counsel. Jason is a strong addition to Merkle's core leadership team, and we are extremely excited to be bringing him on board. His extensive and impressive professional career in advising corporations on a range of com-

plex legal concerns will be a valuable asset to Merkle as the compa-



PHOTO COURTESY MERKLE

Jason Reis

ny looks ahead."

Reis said, "Merkle has an outstanding reputation as a fast-growing, innovative marketing agency. Analysts consistently recognize the company's highly effective and unique data-driven approach, and Merkle's leadership is demonstrated by its sustained high rate of growth and its ability to attract and retain major national corporations. I am extremely pleased to be joining the company and its stellar management team at such a dynamic time in its corporate his-

tory, and look forward to serving as general counsel."

Mr. Reis received his J.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo and earned a B.S. in environmental science and political science from the University of Michigan. He is a member of various state bar associations, including New York, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia and Texas.

About Merkle

Merkle is one of the nation's largest providers of data-driven marketing solutions that enable large national organizations to maximize the results from their marketing investment. Merkle provides customer strategy, business intelligence and analytics, data sourcing, media targeting and measurement, and marketing technology solutions to Fortune 1000 companies and leading nonprofit organizations.

With over 850 employees, the privately held corporation is headquartered near Washington, D.C. in Lanham, Maryland with additional locations in Boston, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, Seattle and Hagerstown, Maryland.

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Out on the TOWN

Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix

Fantasy Flick Wins-Over Critic

By STEVE RHODES
www.InternetReviews.com

In HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX, Harry Potter, as always, finds himself in big trouble. In the film's opening sequence, we witness Harry helping out some muggles — normal folks who aren't like Harry. Helping them is permitted, but "The Ministry" strictly forbids wizards from using spells, even for humanitarian reasons, in the presence of muggles.

If I get some of the terminology wrong, please forgive me, since I've never been fond of Harry and Co. — until now that is. If there were an association for non-fans, I guess I should have been a member but no longer.

This, the fifth in the Potter series of seven episodes, is the first one I've completely liked. I did not like the first two, and I found the second two better but rather mediocre.

I have no such reservations about HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX, as I thoroughly enjoyed it. In contrast, my son, once a Potter loyalist, has become disillusioned with the series, finding them too repeti-



PHOTO COURTESY BSUBULLDOGS.COM

In the silver-screen adaptation of J.K. Rowling's HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX, the fifth chapter in the beloved book series, everyone's favorite wizard-in-training (Daniel Radcliffe) finds himself in increasingly perilous situations.

He did not like this one, as his comments at the end of this review explain.

Daniel Radcliffe again plays Harry Potter, and Radcliffe is noticeably aging. No longer the innocent boy, Harry is now more of a troubled man.

Indeed much of the narrative of HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX feels lifted out of STAR WARS, as Harry battles his demons and tries not to let his anger pull him to the Potter series version of the dark side.

I rather enjoyed the challenges Harry's emotional roller coaster created for him. Definitely a much darker story than the first four, it is also rich-

er and more compelling. The script peppers the dialog with enough natural humor to keep Harry's troubles from becoming too morose. And, the wonderful special effects are quite marvelous without having too many overly showy sequences. In particular, there are several new, fascinating strange creatures.

Of all of the effects, my favorites are the interdepartmental memos at The Ministry. They are delivered via self-guided paper airplanes, which take elevators to get to the next floor.

Of course, Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), the dark lord (a.k.a. "He Who Must Not Be Named"), returns as usual. It

seems like every Potter story is about his return or rumors of his return.

By far, the best of the characters this time is Dolores Umbridge, the Defense Against the Dark Arts professor. In a scene-stealing performance, Umbridge is played deliciously by Imelda Staunton, who giggles with pseudo-innocence as she takes over the school with her Machiavellian techniques. She is a sadist of the first order and a great party pooper to boot.

I can't believe I'm saying this, but, for the first time, I am actually looking forward to the next Potter film.

RATING (0 TO **): *****

The Bluebird Blues Festival Comes to Largo

PGCC is "Honoring the Blues Tradition - 15 Years and Counting"

Courtesy PGCC

(LARGO, MD) — Prince George's Community College's 15th Annual Bluebird Blues Festival is Sunday, September 16th, from 12:30 — 6 p.m. Admission is free for blues lovers and families to enjoy a day filled with fun, food, giveaways, children's activities, a variety of vendors, and some of the best-loved blues performers on two stages. This year's theme is "Honoring the Blues Tradition-15 Years and Counting."

New this year is Colours, Northwestern High School's student blues band which performs music from nationally-known artists Albert King to Buddy Guy. Like the festival, the group has been in existence for 15 years. The band will perform first at the festival.

"Da Gator," WPFW 89.3 FM blues deejay, will host the main stage in front of the Novak Field House. A performance by Maryland-based blues and boogie pianist and saxophonist Deanna Bogart will open the stage. The following act, Hardway Connection, a seven-member group from the Washington metropolitan area has a smooth, passionate, sometimes funky blues sound that will surely excite the crowd. Next on stage is Bobby Parker, one of the most exciting guitar-playing performers in modern blues history. This year's headliner, Otis Clay, one of the premier deep soul and gospel



PHOTO BY NATALIE COLE

Last year at the Bluebird Blues Festival hosted by Prince George's Community College, the Jewels (from left) Grace Ruffin, Sandra Bears and Marjorie Clark gave a powerful performance that had the crowd dancing to the Blues.

singers working today will close the show. Clay's raw, fiery vocals drive an energetic and danceable blend of soul, R&B and blues.

Bill Wax, program director of Bluesville on XM Satellite Radio, will host the Nap Turner stage in Queen Anne Fine Arts building. K.J. James, one of the most beloved bluesmen will open in his legendary guitar and vocal blues style. The next event features noted authority on the blues, Barry Lee Pearson hosting the blues workshop. Pearson, who is also a professor at the University of Maryland, will provide a history of blues music. The next act is Terry "Harmonica" Bean, with a classic and traditional harmonica

style of the blues. Then, the guitar and harmonica duo Cephas and Wiggins will take the stage, playing a distinctive style of Piedmont blues. The Jewels, who have performed with the legendary James Brown, appearing throughout the United States and internationally, will be the last performance of the evening.

Charlene M. Dukes, president of PGCC, and Jim Handly, NBC4 news anchor, also will make remarks during the festival. Sponsors of the 15th Annual Bluebird Blues Festival are Prince George's Community College, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Office of the County

Executive, NBC4, Comcast, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Southern Management Corporation, Bank of America, Thompson Hospitality, Prince George's Community College Bookstore and Holiday Inn Express.

Prince George's Community College is a comprehensive, public, post-secondary institution that provides high quality academic instruction, workforce development and continuing education to the citizens of Prince George's County. The college awards associate's degrees, letters of recognition and program certificates. For more information, visit the college Web site at www.pgcc.edu.

Calendar of Events

September 13 — September 19

2007

Thursday, September 13

Take advantage of a great opportunity to network and learn about the advantages of membership in the Baltimore Washington Chamber of Commerce. This free "Membership 101" Seminar will be held at the BWCC Office located at 312 Marshall Avenue, Suite 104 in Laurel.

Friday, September 14

The Town of Berwyn Heights will hold an Ice Cream Social from 7 — 9 p.m. on the second floor of the Berwyn Heights Town Center located at 5700 Berwyn Road. For more information, call 301.474.5000.

Greenbelt American Legion Hall, Post 136 will host a night of blues in Prince George's County with Mary Shaver and the Smokin' Polecats headlining at the Legion Hall from 9 p.m. — 1 a.m. For more information, call 301.345.0136.

A bull roast will be held at Laurel Park Raceway to benefit Columbia Ravens Football, Inc. From 8 p.m. until midnight, enjoy music by DJ Bobby Nyk. Nyk was named "Baltimore's Best DJ" by Baltimore Magazine. For more information, call 301.470.5439.

Saturday, September 15

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church invites you to attend the church's Annual Missionary Benefit Day from all day from 9 a.m. The event will feature a gigantic yard sale, community vendors, garden items, hand-made crafts and ribs, franks, and more. All proceeds will benefit Wycliffe Bible Translators, Bob and Salme Bugenhagen serving in Papua New Guinea. Bethany Lutheran Church is located at 5501 Silver Hill Road in Forestville. To rent a table/space or for more information please contact the church at 301.568.3000.

Bring your favorite doll and join the Friends of Belair Estate for Tea at Belair Mansion. Special guests at the Tea will be Raggedy Ann and her brother Andy. A special part of childhood since her birth on September 7, 1915, Raggedy Ann continues as one of America's favorite icons. Help us share her special day with your doll friend ...and join us in singing Happy Birthday to this very special doll friend. The Dolls Tea Party will include finger sandwiches, traditional scones, cream and jam, and desserts. Cost is \$18. per person; advance reservations/payment are required. (VISA and Mastercard are accepted for phone reservations.) For more information or to reserve a spot, call 301.809.3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Also on Saturday, the University of Maryland's Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center will feature Notes of Hope 2007 with Mandolin U. Shrinivas performing with U. Rajesh on Mandolin, S.V. Ramani on Ghatam, Samir Chatterjee on Tabla. The performance will feature a dance troupe from Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind. The price of seating will range from \$20- \$50; students will be admitted for \$10 and group discounts will be available. For more information, call the event's sponsor, Asha for Education, at 240.593.5027.

Between 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. come visit a Roman army camp and talk with Legion members about the daily life of Roman soldiers. This free event will give participants the chance to view authentic Roman battle attire and watch demonstrations of battle tactics and weaponry. Tours of Marietta House Museum will also be available from noon until close of the event. Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale. For more information please call 301.464.5291; TTY 301.699.2544 or visit the museum's website at www.pgpc.org.

Sunday, September 16

The Roman Legion members will also be performing at the Marietta House Museum Sunday from 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 18

Marion Meares Ministries invites all women to attend the "Pathways to Purpose" eight-week series to where participants will learn how to form lasting relationships with other women in a small group setting. The weekly meetins will last from 7 — 9 p.m. and will be held at Evangel Cathedral, 13901 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774. For more information, call 301.249.9400.

Wednesday, September 19

Bowie State University will hold its Fall Career Fair from 9:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Building, Bowie State University, Bowie, MD. Attendees are advised to bring resumes.

Hispanic Festival

Join members of the community for the Prince George's County's Hispanic communities at the Hispanic Festival Saturday, September 16th, from noon — 6 p.m. Lane Manor Park, located at 7601 West Park Drive in Adelphi.

Local vendors will bring ethnic cuisine and live entertainment, games and rides for children, arts and crafts and more. For more information, call 301.445.4500.

The 8th Annual Rod and Custom Car Show

Cruise for a Cure will take place on September 15th at the Brandywine Lions Park located at Rt. 301 & Cherry Tree Crossing Rd, Brandywine. The event will feature rods, customs, antiques, and muscle cars, live entertainment, auction, music, games, and vendors.

The event is sponsored by the Tri-County Cruisers and benefits the American Cancer Society. Rain date is Sept. 22. For more information, call 301.292.3238.

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SPORTS

Gary Russell, Jr. Featured at Congressman's Birthday Bash Wynn Shows Support for Beltway Community's Young Top Boxer

By EMILY APATOV
Prince George's Post Staff
Writer

(BOWIE, MD) — 19-year-old bantamweight boxer Gary Russell, Jr. of Capitol Heights was invited to attend the Birthday Bash of Congressman Albert Wynn at the Bowie Baysox Stadium on Saturday, September 8th. Wynn invited Gary Jr. to appear at his event and to promote the talented young athlete's skill set and to recognize the teen's recent accomplishment: qualifying for the US Olympic Boxing Team.

"Making it to the trials is a great accomplishment. Winning is almost a greater accomplishment," said Wynn.

President of the Patriots Technology and Training Center Thurman Jones served as the liaison between the Congressman and the boxer. "He (Wynn) wants to know people who are doing good in the community. He wants people to get to know people who are doing positive things."

The gifted teen fits Jones' profile of a positive member of the community: since the age of seven, Gary Jr. has held onto strength and endurance training requirements to prepare himself for a career in professional boxing the tradition of his grand-uncle Bob Foster, light heavyweight champion of the world in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Gary Jr. has built a strong performance record, picking up the U.S. Championships title for his weight class at the Olympic Training Center in March 2005 and also taking home the bronze medal at the 2005 World Amateur Boxing Championships in Mianyang

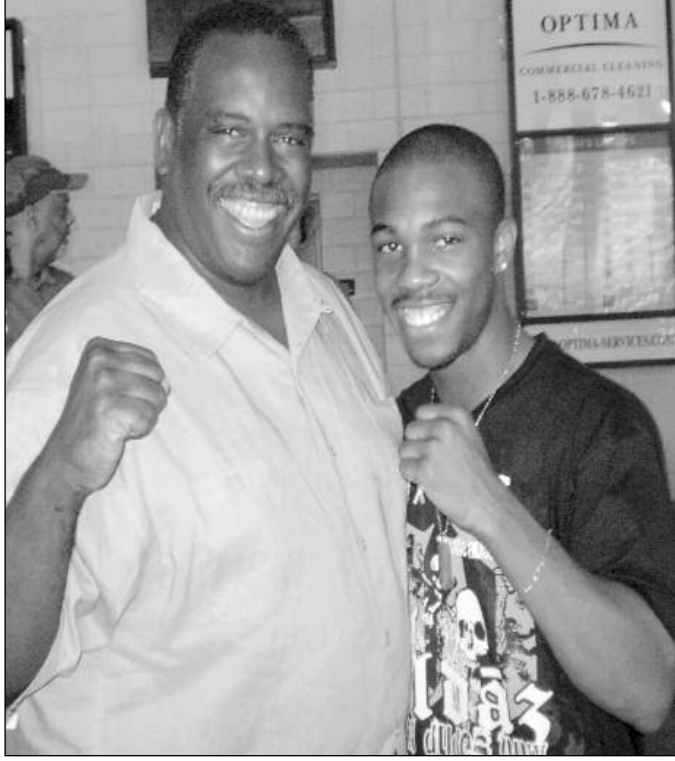


PHOTO BY CATHERINE VASSILKOVA

Congressman Albert Wynn (left) appears at his birthday celebration Saturday with Capitol Heights boxing phenomenon Gary Russell Jr.

City, China.

In a heated tournament at the Olympic Team trials last month, Gary Jr. lost in the tournament's preliminary round to an old rival, Roberto Marroquin. The loss - his first in the United States since 1999 - sent him into the loser's bracket at the tournament, forcing the athlete to fight for seven straight days and beat every other competitor. Gary Jr. would win against Marroquin twice to earn his place on the Olympic team.

Gary Jr. still must secure his position on the US Olympic team by competing successfully on the international boxing stage. Gary Jr. will compete in the World Championships October 23rd — November 3rd in Chicago, IL; if he places in the top 4, he will be guaranteed a spot on the Olympic team.

Gary Jr.'s conditioning trainer Floyd "Pretty Boy" Semour, a member of the

1992 Olympic Boxing team for the Bahamas, anticipates that Gary Jr. won't find this requirement to be a hurdle. "Gary has done something that only 3 people in history have done - Holyfield, Roy Jones Jr., and Floyd Mayweather lost in the US Olympic trials box-off," Semour said matter-of-factly.

"Once you go into the losers bracket its hard to get out because you have to beat everybody - including the guy who beat you. You have to fight every day for seven days," he continued.

To Semour, Gary is like the other great champions who shared his luck in the US Olympic Boxing Team trials. "For him to go to the world championships in Chicago, for him not to qualify, I can't even think about it. He's on the line right now of becoming a great champion, all it is keeping him motivated."



PHOTO BY MAURICE FITZGERALD

North Carolina Central fans, pictured above, hope for the best as their team faced off against the Bowie State Bulldogs at the Prince George's Classic Football Game last year.

Tickets to Prince George's County Classic Now On Sale

3- Day Event to Feature Golf and College Football

Courtesy PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CLASSIC

(PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD) — Tickets are currently on sale for the fourth annual Prince George's Classic weekend of events. Sponsored by State Farm® and hosted by the Prince George's Black Chamber of Commerce (PGBCC). The Classic is a three day cultural extravaganza celebrating black college football, educational achievement, school pageantry, tradition, community pride and unity within Prince George's County.

The three day celebration commences on Thursday, September 27th, with the First Tee of Prince George's County Golf Classic at Enterprise Golf Course. Golfers will be treated to a fun-filled day of food, beverages and prizes. Registration and breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. The tournament will be played in a Captain's Choice format and the shotgun start is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. An awards ceremony will take place after the golf tournament. Registration fees are \$1,000 for a foursome and \$275 for an individual. Proceeds will support the First Tee of Prince George's County. To register, please visit the Prince George's Classic Web site — www.princegeorgesclassic.com — or call 301.249.2040.

To officially kick off the fourth annual Prince George's Classic weekend, the Prince George's Black Chamber of Commerce will host a special welcome reception at the Greenbelt Marriott Hotel on September 27th at 7 p.m. This event attracts prominent political, business and community leaders within Prince George's County and the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan areas, as well as university presidents, athletic directors, distinguished alumni, sponsors, and partners of the Classic. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased by contacting the PGBCC's office at 301.567.9650 or by e-mailing info@pgblackchamber.org.

"Thanks to the many partners and supporters of this year's Classic, we can provide the community with a multitude of exciting and entertaining events," said Mike Little, president and founder of Prince George's Classic, Inc. "This is truly a weekend of fun for the entire family," he added.

The festivities will continue with the highly anticipated Prince George's Classic Battle of the Bands scheduled for Friday, September 28th at the University of Maryland's Comcast Center. Seven area high school performing marching bands, along with Bowie State University's "Symphony of Soul," will showcase their musical skills and talents. There will also be a special guest appearance by Tigger, the very popular radio personality on WPGC, 95.5FM. The battle begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$12 at the door for students with valid school identification; and \$15 at the door for all oth-

ers. Toddlers three and under are free. Fans can purchase tickets through the Classic's Web site; charge-by-phone at 301.314.7070 or 800.462.8377; and at the Comcast Center's ticket office.

Several events are scheduled on game day, Saturday, September 29th. The day begins with a fashion show and luncheon hosted by WHUR's on-air personality and news anchor for the Steve Harvey Morning Show, Taylor Thomas. The headline designer is Karen Domino White, founder of Jean Therapy — a clothing line consisting of unique and exotic denim wear — and the daughter of legendary Rock n' Roll Hall of Famer, Fats Domino.

The fashion show begins at 12 noon and will take place at the Greenbelt Marriott Hotel. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased through the Classic's Web site or on www.brownpapertickets.com. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Haynes & Frederick Scholarship Foundation.

Then it's game time as the Bulldogs of Bowie State University (BSU) take on the Fighting Tigers of Saint Paul's College. This Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association show down will take place at the campus of Bowie State University's Bulldog Stadium. The kickoff is at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students with valid school identification. Adult tickets are available at all Ticket Master outlets; via the Internet at www.ticketmaster.com; charge-by-phone at 800.326.4000; and at BSU's box office. Student tickets can only be purchased at BSU's box office. For discounted group tickets of 20 or more, people should contact 301.860.4062.

The day's events will culminate with the Prince George's Classic Red Carpet Step Show featuring Black Greek lettered sororities and fraternities from the National Pan-Hellenic Council, affectionately known as the "Divine Nine." The step show will be held at the Prince George's Community College, Queen Anne Fine Arts Building, Hallam Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets will cost \$20 if purchased in advance or \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased through the Classic's Web site or on www.brownpapertickets.com.

"We are encouraging everyone to purchase their Classic tickets in advance," said LeAmber Howell, event manager for the Prince George's Classic. "We are expecting sellout crowds for many of the events and would hate for someone to miss out on any of the activities."

The fourth annual Prince George's Classic is sponsored by State Farm®; Southwest Airlines; Comcast; Pepco; The Columbia Bank; B&W Solutions; Downtown Locker Room; HBCU Connect; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; and the Prince George's County Public Schools.

Hoes of St. John's College Helps Team to International Victory

USA Baseball National Team Takes Home Bronze in Mexico

Courtesy ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS

(IXTAPA, MEXICO) — St. John's College senior baseball student-athlete LJ Hoes of Mitchellville recently returned with some hardware from Mexico. Hoes was a member of the USA Baseball Junior National Team that earned a bronze medal at the COPABE "AAA" Pan American Junior Championships.

Hoes was one of four players to start all five games in the tournament. He finished with four hits and three RBI and scored a team-high five runs. Hoes was 3-4 with an RBI in the 13-1 win over Panama in the opener. In the bronze medal game against Canada, Hoes was 1-3 and scored the first run of the game en route to a 6-2 triumph.

Hoes was selected for the tournament after a series of practices, intrasquad scrimmages and exhibition games in Joplin, MO.



PHOTO COURTESY ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

USA Baseball Junior National Team member LJ Hoes practiced twice each day and at night to prepare for the COPABE "AAA" Pan American Junior Championships in Mexico where the team placed third.

Of the 33 players invited, Hoes was one of 20 players selected for the Junior National Team. Hoes impressed the coaching staff by batting .357 with three RBI in four exhibition games.

Playing in an 11-country field, the United States finished third with a 4-2 record. Their only two losses were to Mexico (Silver Medalists) and Cuba (Gold Medalists). By finishing

third, the Junior National Team earned a selection to the 2008 International Baseball Federation "AAA" World Championships.

Hoes is a three-time All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference selection. In his junior season last year, Hoes batted .488 with seven home runs, 40 RBI and 23 stolen bases in 31 games for the Cadets.

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 -Phyllis Bottoms

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Loan Company Sought Preferred Status

By **ROB TRICHINELLI**
Capital News Service

(WASHINGTON, DC) - A leading student loan company attempted to obtain special placement on the University of Maryland's preferred lender list last year, according to university officials and a government report released Tuesday.

Nelnet, based in Lincoln, Neb., tried in March 2006 to leverage its support of several university events - including \$7,500 for "Maryland Day" - into being one of the companies recommended by the university for student loans. The attempt was rebuffed, university officials said.

Nelnet's actions were "perhaps the most egregious example" of a lender offering "donations or other funds in exchange for preferential treatment," the report by a U.S. Senate committee said, adding the request was rejected and other officials were notified.

An employee in the University of Maryland's office of development, which does fund-raising, came to Sarah Bauder, the director of financial aid, and said Nelnet wanted to be rated favorably for students seeking loans.

"Unbeknownst to me, Nelnet was working with our development office and our alumni office," said Bauder. "Development didn't know we had a lender list." She added that the employee approached her "innocently."

Bauder refused the request and notified the chief executive officer of Nelnet Education Services, David A. Bottegale. She also notified the office of University President C.D. "Dan" Mote.

Nelnet was one of 16 lenders, representing 72 percent of the nation's student loans, engaged in questionable practices, according to the report, which was prepared by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's, D-Mass., staff, for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

The report said Nelnet gave \$50,000 to sponsor the University's 2006 "Maryland Day," but Millree Williams, a university spokesman, disputed the numbers. He said that while "roughly \$50,000" came from Nelnet to support a documentary marking the university's 150th anniversary, only an additional \$7,500 went toward Maryland Day. Nelnet was "one of many sponsors" of Maryland Day, Williams said. At first, he said he thought the company simply wanted to benefit from exposure to students, until it became clear that "Nelnet wanted to leverage" the backing into preferential treatment.

"We said, 'Absolutely not,'" said Williams. "Lending institutions or financial service providers have to compete like any other."

Eric Solomon, a spokesman for Nelnet, called the report's findings "old news" and referred to a company statement that said, "Nelnet has helped lead the student loan industry to increase transparency in our relationships with colleges and universities. We publicly released a review of our own business practices on our Web site, which included references to virtually all of the matters in the report."

Part of Nelnet's internal review said the action was "neither condoned nor

authorized, and was inconsistent with Nelnet's policies against prohibited inducements." The review stated that the employee was no longer employed by Nelnet.

"I can only imagine what happened to the employee," said Bauder, but she said she does know that employee was working for another lender "within 48 hours." "This is kind of a hot issue," said Andrew Friedson, student body president at the University of Maryland. "It's obviously disturbing and distressing, as a student. ... But not every company is bad and not every student loan officer is bad."

At the University of Maryland, lenders answer a biannual survey, and a committee - which Bauder is not on - maintains a list of favored lenders, which is presented to students seeking loans.

With more than 24,000 undergraduates at the university, and the average freshman receiving several thousand dollars in loans, a student loan company on the preferred list stands to attract much more business.

The list decisions are based on survey answers and other "qualitative measures," Bauder said, including customer service quality and pricing.

"People don't just ask to be on the preferred lender list," she said, calling the list stringently regulated and "stagnant."

Nelnet also approached Bauder directly about participating in Maryland Day; the company was giving away a number of scholarships at a Maryland Day game. "(Nelnet) asked me specifically to be at the booth with them," she said, adding that she

District Heights Mayor Adopts Post

Bridge from A1

standing Committees of the National Conference of Black Mayors. The Committees consider and make recommendations on resolutions and policy statements related to their various areas of responsibility.

The Committees are also vehicles through which NCBM interacts with United States Congress, Office of the President of the United States, Federal agencies, and industry leaders on matters of policy.

Mayor Walls also serves as Vice President, The Maryland Black Mayors Inc., National Treasurer of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO), Member, The National League of Cities, National Transportation and Infrastructure Policy and Advocacy Committee, Democratic Mayors and Municipal Officials, and the Young Elected Officials Network.

Mayor James L. Walls, Jr. is also currently the youngest serving Mayor in the State of Maryland and the Youngest Mayor ever elected in the City of District Heights, Maryland.

"I look forward to working with the Committee, and to the potential for real and lasting solutions it may reveal", the Mayor concluded.

Morningside

Morningside from A2

Hills where she has lived most of her life. She is survived by her loving care-giver, Ann Marie Dineen. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's with burial in the family plot at Cedar Hill.

Jean T. Beall, of Berlin, MD., and formerly of Suitland, died Aug. 31. She was the wife of Carlton G. Beall Sr.; mother of Carlton G. Beall Jr. and his wife Judy, Richard T. Beall and his wife Linda; grandmother of Sharon, Richard, Michele, Julie, Carlton III, Noelle and Wayne; and great-grandmother of 13. Services were at Trinity

Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Patricia Epperly, Sept. 13; Elnora McCall, Sept. 15; Dolores McDonald and Steven Warren, Sept. 16; Agnes Barber, Kimberly Brewer, Everett Mason, Jr. and Joan Stakem, Sept. 17; our daughter-in-law Sandy McHale, Sept. 18.

Happy 38th anniversary to Les and Kathy Hedrick on Sept. 13, and happy 4th anniversary to Sal and Kathy (Blankenship) Biberaj, Sept. 14.

And to the U.S. Air Force, happy 60th anniversary!

Medicaid Squeeze 13 Percent

Medicaid from A1

Federal officials said the change is an effort to cut back on waste and fraud, claiming it would save taxpayers \$3.6 billion over the next five years. Billing Medicaid for general transportation costs — rather than strictly for medical services — is a "pervasive problem" among school jurisdictions nationwide, said Mary Kahn, a spokeswoman with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, which announced both cuts. For example, federal health inspectors found that \$96 million given to New York City's Education Department in Medicaid claims should not have been allowed because the claims did not meet all state and federal requirements.

Kahn said Medicaid will con-

tinue to pay for specific services required during a student's journey out and from school, such as an oxygen tank or a special seat. The student transport cuts came two weeks after the government announced another plan that would effectively block children from qualifying for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) if their families earned 250 percent or more of the poverty limit — \$51,625 for a family of four.

The Bush administration has said the SCHIP change is intended to force states to focus more on insuring children from poorer families.

The move will cause 3,700 Maryland children to lose insur-

ance, Raggio said. "All of these changes compounded make it difficult for states to meet the needs of their students," she said.

Officials could not say how many Maryland children would be affected by the bus cuts. Those cuts will have a relatively small financial effect on Maryland, but Folkemer pointed to other examples of Medicaid tightening its reimbursement rules for state programs. A May proposal that is still pending would prohibit hospitals from billing Medicaid for expenses associated with training graduate students, which it has been doing since the 1960s, he said.

A rule from August reduces billable rehabilitation services, particularly for foster care and mental rehabilitation, Folkemer said.

Neither rule was announced on a Friday, he said, but that does not make them any less painful to the state. "It's really cutting way back on services the state had been providing through Medicaid," Folkemer said.

Brandywine-Aquasco

Bridge from A2

served after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Pre-Homecoming services will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 20th. The guest speaker will be Rev. Antoine Love, Covington Point United Methodist Church of Waldorf, MD. On Friday, the guest speaker will be Rev. Sandra Hall Smith of Coopers United Methodist Church of Dunkirk, MD.

Friends and Family Community Day Fair

Solid Rock Baptist Church will sponsor a fair on Saturday, September 15th, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Brandywine Elementary School located at 14101 Brandywine Road in Brandywine. There will be preaching by Rev. George Harrison II, Pastor, a presentation by the Kappa Kappa Phi step dancing team, Spirit Force cheer leaders, Razorback cheer leaders, Gospel music, and a presentation by the Baden Volunteer Fire Department.

Children's entertainment will include face painting, a

Gospel puppet show led by Rev. Melvin, Gospel coloring book lessons, balloons and Gospel signing songs for children. There will be distinguished guest appearances.

There will be free hot dogs, cold soft drinks and water. Yard sale spaces are available at the price of a \$10 donation per space. The yard sale will last between 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. For additional information, please call 301.372.8628. All proceeds will go to the Solid Rock Baptist Church.

Solid Waste Transfer Station Study

The results on the site selection criteria solid waste transfer study will be discussed on September 19th from 7:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m. in the County Council Hearing Room, First Floor, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro.

For more information, contact Maria Martin or Scott Rowe at 301.952.3650.

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*** (NAPSAs)-Sports bring people together. In fact, many WNBA stars are finding that not only are they closer on the court, they're bonding off the court as well. For ticket information and game schedules, visit wnba.com.

*** Bob Greene, author of "The Best Life Diet," says dieters should eat more vegetables for weight loss and good health. To help meet the daily recommended goal, Greene keeps frozen and canned vegetables such as Green Giant on hand. To learn more, visit www.eatbetteramerica.com/bestlife.

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C-21 Ashby & Assoc., (202) 543-8060

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3 BR, 1 BA, 1832 SF TH
Local Agent: Faith Roselle,
Rosselle Rlty, 301-570-9300

9112 Tuckerman St • Lanham
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Local Agent: Gladwin Dcoasta,
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07 PGCPS SAT

SAT from A1

mean dropping from 496 to 491. In the Math diagnostic, the county mean fell from 424 to 420, with the state mean decreasing from 505 to 497. In writing, county public schools dropped from 433 to 429 as Maryland schools dropped from 491 to 487.

When the College Board announced SAT@ scores this week for the class of 2007, the data showed the largest and most diverse class of SAT takers on record. Nationwide, nearly 1.5 million students (1,494,531) in the class of 2007 took the SAT, and minority students comprised nearly four out of 10 test-takers.

Nationally, this year's average score in critical reading is 502, a 1-point decline compared to last year, or a change of 0.20 percent. The average scores in mathematics and writing declined 3 points each compared to a year ago, bringing the scores to 515 and 494, or a change of 0.58 percent and 0.60 percent, respectively.

Crossing Guards

Crossing Guards from A1

trust in us, and you have handled the responsibility with honor," said Barrett. The PGPD is in need of additional crossing guards and is currently recruiting. Anyone interested in a rewarding part-time position as a School Crossing Guard should contact the Prince George's County Police Department's Crossing Guard Office at 301.731.4510.

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