

The Prince George's Post



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For County Bars, New Law Means More Security

By LOUIE DANE
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - A new law is forcing restaurants and bars across Prince George's County to beef up security.

County officials hope the new restrictions - which take effect Jan. 1 - will help prevent fights outside bars and nightclubs like the ones that led to the closings of the Thirsty Turtle in College Park and Music, Sports & Games in Capitol Heights.

"The whole objective is to try to provide a safe environment for all patrons," said Del. Michael Vaughn, D-Capitol Heights, who co-sponsored the legislation. "There have been questions and concerns, but at the end of the day this is trying to provide a safe environment for people in Prince George's County."

Vaughn, vice chair of the Prince George's House delegation, said he co-sponsored the legislation after police recommended additional security for restaurants that morph into entertainment hotspots at night.

Under the new law, restaurants that become dance clubs or play live music between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. are required to obtain annual \$1500 "Special Entertainment Permits" from the county liquor board and submit a police department-approved security plan detail-



PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA, THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Del. Michael Vaughn, D-Capitol Heights, co-sponsored the legislation.

ing violence prevention strategies.

The new law also requires owners of each establishment to attend a public hearing where citizens can discuss the affect on the neighborhood.

The original legislation was signed by Gov. Martin O'Malley in May 2010 and covered all restaurants and bars in the county. It was amended in June to cover only restaurants providing nighttime entertainment. Implementation of the law, which applies only to Prince George's County, was delayed until Jan. 1, 2012,

See **BARS**, Page A5



PHOTO COURTESY REP. HOYER'S OFFICE
Representative Steny H. Hoyer speaks about the national importance of the E-2 Hawkeye at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Hoyer Hosts Joint Base Groups

Community Groups Established to Advocate for Joint Base Andrews, Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center, and Patuxent River Naval Air Station

By PRESS OFFICER
Rep. Steny Hoyer's Office

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) hosted community leaders and representatives of the three local community groups established to advocate on behalf of Joint Base Andrews, Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center, and Patuxent River Naval Air Station for a day in Washington to meet with officials from the United States Navy and the Department of Defense. The group was

given the opportunity to engage in discussions with Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations and the Environment Dr. Dorothy Robyn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment Jackalyn Pfannenstiel, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Developmental Test and Evaluation Edward Greer.

"I want to thank the three alliances representing Joint Base Andrews, Indian Head

Naval Surface Warfare Center, and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station for coming together today to discuss issues that impact our military community," stated Congressman Hoyer. "Today's meeting comes at a time of great uncertainty, especially with regard to funding for the Pentagon budget. With the threat of sequestration, it is increasingly important that we are able to discuss the next steps for

See **HOYER**, Page A5

Young Football Players at Greater Concussion Risk Than Professionals

By CHRIS ECKARD
Capital News Service

BURTONSVILLE - From what he remembers, and it isn't much, Cameron Williams was cold.

On a steaming autumn day last year in Burtonville, the 13-year-old shivered as he walked back to his Unity Thunder football team's huddle, barely able to keep his eyes open. Dizzy, he'd been hit hard - really hard - twice that game.

His head ached for relief, but he knew how football players were supposed to act. How pain was a part of the game. Then he took two more vicious hits at practice the next day, and Cameron realized it was time to tell someone how much he was hurting.

His mother whisked him away to the family doctor, who told Cameron he'd been concussed twice in the past week.

Because of the undeveloped nature of their bodies, youth like Cameron could be at a higher risk for concussions than their professional counterparts, according to medical experts.

But of the estimated 4.5

million children who play organized youth football in the United States, his experiences aren't altogether uncommon. A 2006 study by the National Center for Injury Prevention found that 47 percent of high school football players sustain a concussion each season, and 35 percent of players said they had more than one in the same season.

As concerns regarding head safety in professional football continue to mount, a sea change at the sport's most formative level has taken hold. Thirty-five states, including Maryland and Washington, D.C., have enacted laws that formally strengthen the treatment and prevention of concussions in youth sports.

Cases such as Williams' have opened the eyes of administrators of the game. His league has adopted changes to make sure coaches are trained in first aid, including concussions.

Walter Moyer, Cameron's coach, said the league now screens parents before selecting teams to identify nurses and doctors. Those parents are spread across different teams to ensure medical help is available at every game.

"We only know so much as a coaching staff on what to do with treatment and such, so we need [that] extra help on hand," Moyer said. "The problem comes when the kid is a star kid and he has that desire to get back out there and a coach who may not be as well versed in the injury, and the coach tries to look out for the best interests of the team and the game instead of the kid."

Those worries have spread to parents as well.

"My feeling is that I'm entrusting my child into your care," said Clennie Murphy, a parent of two youth football players in Silver Spring. "You want to have somebody to have the best interests of your child."

While concussions in college football and the NFL have garnered more of the spotlight, medical experts said more focus is needed on injuries at lower levels.

"We know that our youth are at a greater risk for head injuries," said Dr. Robert Cantu, a co-director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at

See **RISK**, Page A3

Remember Pearl Harbor, Japanese-Americans

Thousands of Japanese Immigrants and Japanese-Americans Were Held Captive

By MARIKO HEWER
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - They lived within the narrow confines of a racetrack near San Bruno, Calif., surrounded by the sweat and stench of horses, abruptly exiled from their homes to become prisoners in their own country.

It was 1942, a few months after the Japanese attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor 70 years ago on Dec. 7, when Takashi Kariya, 17, and his family joined thousands of other Japanese immigrants and Japanese-Americans held captive at the Tanforan Assembly Center.

On Pearl Harbor Day, the United States takes time to honor American soldiers who died in the bombing attack. But it rarely makes note of the approximately 120,000 people of Japanese descent, two-thirds of them United States citizens, interned in camps after Pearl Harbor.

They were designated "alien enemies," and had no idea what would happen to them. They did not know whether they ever would see their homes, their neighbors and friends, or schoolmates again.

They were people like Kariya, now 86, and his future wife, Sachiko Nakamura, now 82.

At Tanforan, Kariya's family fared better than others because they were assigned to newly-built barracks, as opposed to the stables most people inhabited.

"It was really awful (for them) because it smelled, and you knew that it was a horse stable," Kariya said. "We were very fortunate."

Robbed of all privacy, his family nevertheless clung to something positive -- even if it was simply that their living conditions were tolerable.

In 1942, Nakamura, like her future husband, also moved to an assembly center that once housed livestock. The center's roof was open to the elements.

"You could hear everything," Nakamura said. "If a baby cried way on the other side of the building, you could hear it."

Her journey wouldn't end there. In August, the govern-

See **CAPTIVE**, Page A2

Medical Marijuana Work Group Scheduled to Make Recommendations

By ASHLEY M. LATTA
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - A medical marijuana work group created in the spring by the legislature will recommend by Friday two models for new legislation. One would assign medical marijuana distribution solely to academic institutions, while the other would permit physicians to recommend its use as treatment and establish state-regulated growers and distributors.

O'Malley signed SB 308, a law that provided an affirmative legal defense for marijuana use by patients who have been diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition that is "severe and resistant to conventional medicine."

But the new law does not permit the possession of medical marijuana in Maryland as lawmakers agreed that further research was needed before

See **MEDICAL**, Page A7



PHOTO BY E

Medical Marijuana Dispensary in San Francisco, CA

INSIDE

New Smoke Alarm Initiative

Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor has tasked all personnel with performing additional community outreach efforts during the month of December. This action comes on the heels of a tragic fire that claimed three lives in Lewisdale. Fire/EMS Station spend at least 2 hours on Saturdays and Mondays.
Community, Page A3

Maryland India Trade

Wrapping up a six-day trade mission to India in the Indian capital of New Delhi, Governor Martin O'Malley addressed the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and joined in the signing of an agreement that would create an India-Maryland Center in Maryland. to be operated by FICCI.
Business, Page A5

Coats for Kids

Members of the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department joined with the County Homeless Education Office, Department of Social Services, students from the University of Maryland, and Operation Warm in distributing 300 new coats designated for underprivileged children.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Movie Review

Sex plays an important role in "*Friends with Benefits*" -- but not as important as you'd expect, given the film's title and its easy-to-advertise premise of two attractive young people having no-strings-attached hanky-panky. At its core, it's just a regular ol' romantic comedy, except that it's about a guy and girl who are cynical about love.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard of the slow food movement, but what is "slow money" all about?

--- Phil Nimkoff,
New York, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Remembering Pearl Harbor, 70 years ago

Last week I asked my readers where they were on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, 1941. As for me, I was at home, in Saginaw, Michigan, listening to "Hopalong Cassidy" on the radio when the announcement broke into my show. I had no idea where Pearl Harbor was, nor how it would propel my country into World War II, seventy years ago this month.

Jill Flaherty Kimmel, formerly of Skyline, emailed that her mother was at Pearl Harbor that day. "She was sleeping and thought that they were practicing war games until she looked out the window. She called the base commander to tell him they were too loud! After that it was pretty horrifying. She remembered a band was practicing on the pier playing Oh Susanna when all hell broke loose. She hid in a broom closet and then went out to stand with a neighbor while their homes were strafed. Later that day she went to the hills surrounding the base to escape the mayhem. That's where all the civilians were told to go... until it was safe to come back." It was a few weeks before women and children were sent back to the mainland.

Jill's mother's name was Marie McDonald. Her father was a lieutenant on the USS Houston, out at sea at the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Neighbors

My 8th great-grandchild, Brayden James, was born in Cincinnati Dec. 2, weighing in at a whopping 11 pounds, 5 ounces. He is the grandson of my daughter Kathleen and her husband Jim Shearer, the son of their daughter Kathryn, and the

"little" brother of Jason, 22 months.

Former Morningsider Mike Dawes' cousin Georgia was married for 50 years to Dick Hall. Dick died recently and his viewing was at a funeral home in Alexandria, Va. Mike and Mary Dawes came from their home in North Carolina for the viewing, and ran into another former Morningsider, Phil Trimboli, and his wife Joyce, who'd driven in from South Carolina. The two men reminisced about growing up in Morningside when Mike lived at 5 Forest Drive and Phil lived at 418 Morgan Road.

As for Phil, he attended Morningside School, Suitland Junior and Suitland Senior High. His wife Joyce went to Surrattsville High School. Phil commented to Mike that he loved to hand dance and belonged to the DC Hand Dancing Club.

Jean Bohannon, of Upper Marlboro, turned 90 on Nov. 2 and celebrated with a party at her daughter Sharon's home. One gift was a well-researched list of her ancestry. She learned that she is the 8th great-granddaughter of Thomas Greene, Proprietary Governor of Maryland, 1647-1649; 9th great-granddaughter of Anne Arundel; 9th great-granddaughter of Cecil Calvert and Leonard Calvert; and related as well to many other famous Marylanders.

Changing landscape

The Bank of America on Old Branch Avenue in Clinton, will be merging with and moving its operations and staff to the Bank of America on Woodyard Road in Clinton. A pizza restaurant may be moving into the closed bank.

The Department of Transportation has awarded \$68 million to the District of Columbia for construction of a new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (known informally as the South Capitol Street Bridge). I wonder what this will do to my frequent trips into Washington, since I take Suitland Parkway to the bridge.

The Hillcrest Heights Library is closing beginning Dec. 12 for renovations. Plans include the addition of 60 public computers, a "Wi-Fi Café" and a small-group meeting room.

Christmas events

The Knights of Columbus, at 6311 Stewart Road in Forestville, is hosting a Christmas Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2-4 p.m. There will be food, games, crafts, face-painting, bingo and Santa. For planning purposes, call 301-249-2756 to indicate how many adults and children will be attending.

You are invited to meet Civil War Santa on Dec. 17 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, and tour the decorated historic house. Regular tour admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, one dollar for students and free for ages 4 and younger. The address is 9118 Brandywine Road. Call 301-868-1121 for information.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Beth Shipman, Dec. 9; Sharon Fowler and Diane Zirkle, Dec. 10; Michelle Anderson, Dec. 11; Bernie (Barber) Pace and Thomas Shipman Jr., Dec. 13; and Linda Gryskewicz, Dec. 15. Happy anniversary to Johnny and Helen Richardson, Dec. 14.

mess hall. But the Army did not make food a priority. Hominy, rotten fish and rice were standard fare.

In their respective camps, Nakamura and Kariya led different lives.

Nakamura, 13 when she arrived, attended the one-room school. They had no books, no paper, and no writing materials. The children's attention waned.

"We played with the mud that was caught in our shoes," she said. "We made mud balls, and we threw them at each other. Good recreation."

Kariya finished his senior year of high school in the camp, and then became a fireman. Later, he worked as a mail truck driver, picking up camp mail in Delta.

In the winter, camp residents built their own ice rink.

"We could order things from Sears, so we ordered skates," Kariya said. "We skated a lot. Not much else to do."

***For Nakamura, the end of internment came as abruptly as the beginning. On Aug. 15, 1945, authorities announced they were closing the camps. Detainees had to leave.

"We didn't have a place to go. We couldn't go back to Portland, because we had no home left there," she said.

Her father traveled alone and found work in Des Moines with the help of Quakers. Nakamura and her mother followed.

Nakamura began attending high school again, keenly conscious of the changes.

"It was a strange feeling, going from an all black-haired Japanese student body to an all-white school," she said.

Kariya spent less time in his

camp than his future wife, approximately a year. He was allowed to leave, as long as he went east. He travelled to Cleveland.

Once his parents were allowed to return to California at the end of the war, he returned to help them grow flowers. He recalled almost no overt prejudice.

"I can only remember one time a guy called me a Jap," he said. "I faced up to him and he backed down, and said, 'I'm sorry.' I wasn't going to take that kind of stuff."

Kariya attended junior college in California, and then went to Drake University in Iowa, where he met Nakamura.

While they were dating, doctors diagnosed Kariya with a heart defect, warning that it likely would kill him before he turned 50. He was 26 at the time. Having already endured so much, he had developed a certain level of fatalism that Nakamura shared.

"I thought, 'What the heck,'" she said. "We just accepted the fact that things could happen. So now he's 86 -- it was worth it."

"In the camps, there's a word that they always said (in Japanese), 'shikata ga nai,'" she said. "It means, 'Accept what you have to accept.' It was a good attitude."

Editor's Note: Mariko Hewer, a senior at the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism, is the granddaughter of Takashi Kariya and Sachiko Nakamura (who became Sachiko Kariya after marriage). The Kariyas live in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

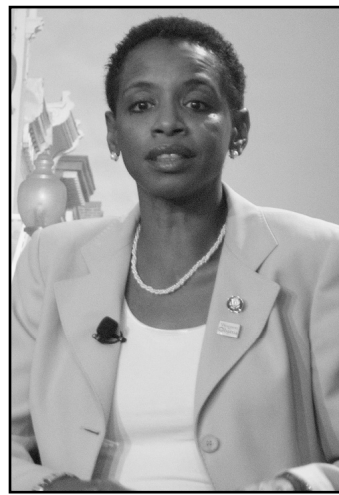
Congresswoman Edwards Announces 2012 Re-Election Campaign

Oxon Hill, MD - Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) announced her 2012 re-election campaign this evening at her annual holiday party surrounded by long-time friends and supporters. In her remarks, Congresswoman Edwards highlighted the need to continue focusing on job creation, hold CEO's accountable, protect Social Security and Medicare from Republican cuts, and increase college loans for working families.

"I look forward to continuing to work and fight every single day for the residents of Maryland's 4th Congressional

District," said Congresswoman Edwards. "Since being elected, I am proud to have held insurance companies accountable, defended Social Security and Medicare, secured \$38 million for our district to invest in job creation, and ensured that millions of Maryland students receive afterschool suppers. But there is a lot more work to be done. I will continue to advocate for strong proposals to create jobs, invest in our nation's infrastructure, protect our environment and the Chesapeake Bay, and give our children the education they need to compete in a 21st Century, global economy.

"I want to thank all my friends and supporters who share these values, and look



forward to building new relationships with residents of the 4th Congressional District. I will continue to be an outspoken leader for working families as we carry on this effort together in the next Congress and for many years to come."

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION,

Meetings for the Association are on the third Wednesday of each month September through June, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Median Center at the Brandywine Elementary School. Membership dues are \$30 a year per household. Checks can be sent to Brandywine North Keys Civic Association, Inc., PO Box 321, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. ((Visitors are welcome to attend

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

New Hope Fellowship North Location at Nottingham Myers Church will present a Christmas Cantata on Sunday September 18 at 2:00 PM. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful Christmas Music. The church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772. Pastor Daryl L. Williams. Church telephone number is 301-888-2171.

"KID'S NIGHT OUT"

World View Christian Center offers a night of fun from 6:30 PM- Midnight. There is extreme fun, outings and dinner that includes a night of fun

with Hide-N-Go Seek, Movies, Pizza, Bowling, Skating, Go Kart Track all inclusive in the price of only \$30.00. Phone: (301) 372-0053. To get more information please visit www.worldviewchristiancenter.com or info@worldviewchristiancenter.com.

MEDICAL & SURGICAL CLINICS OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Clinton Family Medical Center located at 10403 Hospital Drive Suite 103 in Clinton Maryland have office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 AM- 5:00 PM. If you need more information you can visit the website at www.familymedicalcarecenters.com or call (301) 856-8990.

HOLIDAY BREAK CAMP

Upper Marlboro Community Center located at 5400 Marlboro Race Track Road in Upper Marlboro, Maryland offers a Holiday Break Camp. The Camp will be available Tuesday, December 27, 2011 - Friday December 30, 2011. The Camp will be open from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

The fee is \$20 (R) / \$24 (NR). Call 301-627-2828 for more information.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Stephan Deville, Ernestine Dorsey, Shaunelle Hawkins, Darnell Johnson, Albert Makle, Annette Makle, Lisa Mckelvy, Arietha Savoy, and Renie Maxcine Spriggs.

PRESERVING AGRICULTURE: FARM AND FOREST LAND

Come and provide your feedback on the Prince George's County Preliminary Priority Preservation Area Functional Master Plan on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 7:00 PM. We will meet at the County

Administration Building in the first floor hearing room 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Doors will open at 6:00 PM for participants to view exhibits. Planning staff will be available to answer questions.) Your input is needed.

HOLIDAY BLESSINGS

I would like to thank everyone for your support this past year for providing me with information for my column. Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Neighborhood Events

Students Pack Food Baskets for Needy Families

Dozens of Students Pack Food Baskets for Needy Families Students Volunteer with the Public Safety Assistance Program

LARGO, Md.—Dozens of Prince George's Community College students, President Charlene M. Dukes and staff will pack 500 food baskets on December 16, 12 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., at Bunker Hill Fire/EMS Station #855 at 3716 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD. PGCC's outreach efforts will assist in providing food for thousands of needy Prince George's County residents during the holiday season through collaboration with the Prince George's County Public Safety Assistance Program, Inc.

After learning about the project and the need for volunteers, Dukes initiated a campus-wide call for participation. Employees, members of the college's Hillman Entrepreneurs Program, Pathways Student Leadership Program, and the Softball Team were encouraged to volunteer for the effort. Prince George's Community College also will provide transportation for students joining the service initiative.

"At this time of year, it is important for all of us to remember how privileged we are to have the resources to care for our families and loved ones. Many are not as fortunate," said Dukes. "It is an honor to be joined by staff members, student leaders, athletes and as we help provide a joyful holiday for our neighbors," she added.

Currently in its 27th year, the Prince George's County Public Safety Assistance Program, Inc., benefits needy families in Prince George's County and comprises representatives from the Office of the Sheriff, the Police Department, the Fire/EMS Department, Department of Corrections, Public Safety Communications and the Office of Homeland Security. The Public Safety Assistance Program will furnish Christmas food baskets to nearly 3,000 families in need of support.

Prince George's Community College is a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Two-year Education (CAE2Y) designated by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security for the years 2010 to 2015. Established in 1958, Prince George's Community College provides transfer and career programs that help students transfer to four-year colleges and universities and prepare them for the workforce. Each year, 40,000 students take part in more than 200 academic programs and workforce development and continuing education courses. Located in Largo, Maryland, Prince George's Community College has additional sites at Joint Base Andrews, University Town Center in Hyattsville, Laurel College Center, Skilled Trades Center in Camp Springs, and Westphalia Training Center in Upper Marlboro. For information, visit the college website at: www.pgcc.edu.

Captive from A1

ment moved her to the Minidoka internment camp, in Jerome County, Idaho.

"They loaded us into these long trains," Nakamura said. "I felt like a piece of cattle. The toilets weren't working, and they wouldn't let us out to even get some fresh air (for two days)."

Kariya went on a similar journey. After five months at Tanforan, he and his family were moved to Topaz, a camp near the town of Delta, Utah.

"It was such a dirty, dusty place," Kariya said. "Tar paper barracks, family of six in one room that was 20 by 24 feet."

In Minidoka, Nakamura lost her name and became a number.

"We were given an identification number," she said. "From then on, every time we had to identify ourselves, we gave our family identification number. I still remember it: 15097."

Minidoka had a hospital, an administration building, a mess hall, schools, a library, warehouses and approximately 40 blocks of barracks, divided into units.

The end unit housed Nakamura and her parents. It was outfitted with three cots, one pot-bellied stove and one electric bulb.

They did not have mattresses. Instead, each person received a single large pillowcase that they stuffed with straw.

"It's not much fun sleeping on straw," Nakamura said.

At Minidoka, the authorities assigned each family a specific

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Financial planning for later-life marriages



Couples who marry as young adults usually don't bring a lot of financial baggage to the table. But what if you're getting married in your 40s, 50s or later - after divorce, children and years of building assets have complicated your economic situation? Do you and your spouse-to-be have a game plan for how to comeing your finances?

There are many reasons to seek legal and financial advice before tying the knot. But before you bring in the professionals, there are a few steps you can take to better know where you stand:

First, catalog each person's preexisting assets and debts. Include assets like income from paychecks, Social Security, investment accounts, bank account balances, retirement benefits and equity in homes, cars and other major purchases. Debts might include ongoing expenses such as child support, insurance premiums, rent or mortgage payments, credit card balances, outstanding car loans and medical bills.

Use this information to launch discussions about:

What are your plans for sharing expenses and living arrangements?

Whose medical insurance will you opt for - your own employer's plan vs. spousal coverage?

How long until each of you qualifies for Medicare, and how will you pay for coverage until then?

How do you want your estates to be distributed? For example, how much of your pre-marriage assets should go to children from previous marriages?

You'll probably want to amend your wills, financial and medical powers of attorney, life insurance policies, retirement accounts, investment funds and any other accounts where beneficiaries or people who control your health or finances are named.

You also might want to draft a prenuptial agreement (prenup) - a written contract that basically outlines who gets what if you divorce or one of you dies. Having a prenup might prevent your spouse from challenging terms of your will or pre-existing trusts after you die (it happens).

Other financial considerations:

By federal law, you can bequeath an IRA to anyone you like, but spouses are entitled to inherit other non-IRA retirement benefits such as 401(k) and pension plans unless they sign away their rights.

Amounts accumulated in 401(k) plans during a marriage typically are considered marital property, so if you were previously divorced, the court should have divided your accounts through a qualified domestic relations order as part of the divorce settlement.

Division of pension benefits can be even more complicated, so make sure your attorney reviews prior divorce settlements very carefully when drafting your prenup.

If you were widowed, or married at least 10 years before divorcing, you can draw Social Security benefits based on your dead or former spouse's earnings if that's more favorable than your own accumulated benefit. However, if you remarry before age 60 (50, if disabled), that option goes away.

Prenups don't supersede Medicaid rules. The government considers your combined income when determining eligibility to receive Medicaid benefits, including long-term nursing home care.

Alimony payments from ex-spouses will almost certainly end when you remarry, so factor that into your new budget.

Widowed spouses of public employees often lose some or all of their survivor benefits upon remarriage, so research survivor annuity or health insurance policies carefully.

Congratulations on finding love later in life. Don't be put off by all the important financial decisions you'll need to make together, but do get sound legal and financial advice.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

New Smoke Alarm Initiative Starts - "Safety First, for the Holidays"

By MARK BRADY
PGC/EMS Press Information

Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor has tasked all personnel with performing additional community outreach efforts during the month of December. This action comes on the heels of a tragic fire that claimed three lives in Lewisdale last weekend. Bashoor's direction includes each Fire/EMS Station spending at least 2 hours on Saturdays and Mondays during the month of December going door-to-door in their communities. Additionally, Fire/EMS crews, as they clear incidents, will go immediately to neighbors homes with a primary objective to ensure everyone has a working smoke alarm. Firefighters will be providing free smoke alarms and fire safety information to as many homes as possible. Chief Bashoor has tagged this effort, "Safety First, for the Holidays."

If any citizens or resident has questions about the validity of someone knocking on your door, please be aware, all firefighter/medics have been instructed to wear a Fire/EMS Department uniform and carry Departmental and personal ID with them. Concerned residents may call our 24-hour operations center at 301-583-2200 with any questions.

Attached are portions of the memo that Fire Chief Bashoor has sent to all career, civilian and volunteer personnel in the Department detailing the plans for "Safety First - for the Holidays".

As many of you already know, a tragic residential fire on Griffen Street in Lewisdale recently resulted in three civilian

fatalities. While the operations, rescue, treatment and transport phases of this incident were all performed admirably, the absence of one simple working smoke alarm that could have protected the residents of this house should be extremely frustrating and disconcerting to all of us (firefighters).

On the day of the fire, a Post Incident Neighborhood Intervention Program (PINIP) (smoke alarm check) was carried out with an initial concentration in the community of Lewisdale. The following day, a broader county-wide effort was conducted. After these campaigns were completed and statistics were compiled, we were alarmed to discover that an amazing 25% of the homes we visited did not have a working smoke alarm. We all know the value of a working smoke alarm and we need to do everything possible to ensure every home in our County is afforded that protection. This deficiency strikes at the very core of our mission and we should all feel that this is unacceptable.

That is why I am asking all career, civilian and volunteer members of the Department to incorporate just a few simple and quick tasks into our day-to-day non-emergency activities whenever we interface with the public. In concert with our on-going Proactive Residential Information Distribution Effort (PRIDE), Safety First Program and PINIP campaigns, we will be adding a new multi-faceted program for the month of December. This new initiative is called "Safety First, for the Holidays", and includes the following:

- Upon clearing every call between the hours of 0900 and 2000, personnel on suppression

units are to offer and perform a smoke alarm check on the residence of the call, as well as in the homes to either immediate side and across the street or hallway from the incident location. To prepare, a small quantity of smoke alarms and fire safety literature should be stocked on each unit. On ambulance calls, when time and situation permits, the crew shall offer to check the smoke alarm. Considering the nature of emergency operations, we ask all personnel to exercise situational awareness and good common sense when extending this offer.

In addition to your contacts during emergency calls, on each Saturday and Monday through the month of December, every work site shall conduct a 2-hour neighborhood canvass (Understanding call volumes, this may be accomplished either through one two-hour block, or any reasonable combination of logged activities totaling two hours of effort). This involves going door-to-door in your community, equipped with a supply of smoke alarms, batteries and fire safety literature, knocking on doors to discuss basic fire safety tips, seasonal safety messaging, home escape planning, offer home safety checks and ensure that all homes we visit have a working smoke alarm.

All personnel are asked to present a professional appearance by wearing turnout gear, a uniform or clothing with identifying patches when conducting these intervention activities. All personnel should also remember to carry Fire/EMS Department and personal identification credentials on their person and be prepared and willing to present these credentials if requested by any resident or homeowner.



FILE PHOTO
Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor has tasked all personnel with performing additional community outreach efforts during the month of December.

To help jumpstart this effort, I will join Bowie, Company 839, on Saturday, December 3, 2011, for their first two-hour neighborhood canvass beginning at 1600 hours. Anyone wishing to participate is invited to meet us in the Bowie High School parking lot just before 1600. Furthermore, the entire Command Staff (both sworn and civilian) will be joining me in partnering with our stations throughout the County during the remainder of December to assist you in conducting your scheduled campaigns. Collectively we will make a difference in the lives of our citizens and visitors through our community outreach. We know that working smoke alarms save lives, our job now is to raise the awareness within our communities to keep everyone safe and free from needless tragedies.

Any Prince George's citizens and residents need not wait for a firefighter to knock on your door and provide you a smoke alarm. Simply call 301-864-SAFE (7233) and someone will come to your home and install a working smoke alarm, free of charge.

Risk from A1

Boston University and one of the field's foremost critics of collision sports in youth. "I think the risk-reward is just not there."

In February, the NFL announced it was urging all 50 states and the district to pass legislation that could help limit concussions among young football players.

The timing of the league's message was not random. The week before, former Chicago Bears defensive back Dave Duerson fatally shot himself in the heart at age 50 after a prolonged battle with depression stemming from a case of chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

CTE, a progressive degenerative brain disease normally associated with repeated blows to the head, had long been linked to boxers. It has now been connected to more than two dozen deceased former professional football players. Last year, an autopsy showed the disease was present in the brain of a 21-year-old University of Pennsylvania football player who hanged himself after having never been diagnosed with a concussion.

"Now that the public is more aware, we have a lot less problems on an individual basis within our own system," said Jon Almquist, the athletic training program administrator for Fairfax County Public Schools. "We used to have to fight tooth and nail and argue with the parents."

The more parents and coaches know, the better, Cantu said. His research at Boston University has shown that despite their small size and low speeds, youth are more at risk for head injuries than their pro-

fessional idols.

Their vulnerabilities, Cantu explained, stem from their still-growing bodies and brains. With disproportionately large heads and relatively weaker necks, young players offer an easier target than a filled-out adult. The neurons in their growing brains have not been fully protected with myelin, a fatty substance that insulates nerve cells.

The medical ramifications are staggering. Earlier this month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report noting that the number of emergency room visits for people under 19 with traumatic brain injuries increased from 153,375 to 248,418, or more than 60 percent, between 2001 and 2009. Experts said that the rise doesn't necessarily correlate to a rise in actual concussions, but rather a rise in awareness of the dangers of head injuries.

The true number of concussions among all sports, experts said, is likely much higher. Trained medical personnel are seldom on-site for youth games, and the recording of injuries is virtually nonexistent.

"What's happening with the school that reports eight [concussions]," Almquist said of high schools, "is that they're probably missing about 20."

Concussions might not even be the real worry, Cantu said. Rather, doctors are concerned about repeated "sub-concussive" blows youth experience from constant hitting in collision sports.

"That's what we're trying to eliminate with these youngsters," said Cantu, who has proposed a ban of all collision sports, including football, for youth under 14. "Not necessarily

the concussions, but the thousands upon thousands of sub-concussive blows that they may take before they even get to the age of 14."

Youth sports leagues have been reluctant to do away with football for players under 14. Instead, local sporting bodies such as the Greater Metropolitan Youth Football League have taken more steps to prevent injuries, replacing old helmets with better-fitting, newer ones, and inviting volunteer coaches to receive instruction from doctors.

Progress has also been made in the political arena. Gov. Martin O'Malley signed legislation in May that provides protection for student-athletes suspected of suffering concussions from sports. It stipulates that a licensed health-care professional must clear them before they can return to practice or games.

Other states lag behind. Football-crazed Georgia, for instance, has not passed concussion-related legislation, nor is it currently considering any. In Idaho, the law mandates only that the state board of education develop guidelines and information to educate coaches, athletes and parents about the nature and risk of concussions.

But tougher laws and stronger helmets can only go so far, some critics point out.

"Kids are going to be superstars when they are 18, 20 or 21 based on their genes and their work ethic," Cantu said. "It isn't going to be because they started banging heads at age 5. And banging heads at age 5 might mean that some of them won't get the chance to play when they're 20."

Helmets or not, there may

not even be a sure-fire way to prevent head injuries.

"The only way to really prevent a concussion is put a bubble wrap around a kid and not let him do anything," Almquist said. "You don't even have to hit your head to get a concussion. If you want to prevent them, put them in a rubber room."

The other end of the spectrum, as Cameron knows, is not at all pleasant.

After his initial concussion diagnosis, he missed the next three weeks of school, confined to his bed as lingering head pains tormented him.

Cameron longed to return to his place on the gridiron. So after nearly two months of rest and recovery, he strapped on his pads, laced up his cleats and headed to his team's season finale.

Cameron said he remembers some of that game - just not the last play, when another player blasted him from his blindside. The collision was violent, and the referee threw his flag. Williams' brain bruised again.

After his third concussion in a matter of months, Cameron's parents decided they'd seen enough.

"Football is a dangerous sport. It's not played by anyone or watched by anyone who is faint of heart. It's a violent sport. And anytime you've got kids to adults running at each other full speed, people can get hurt," said Cameron's father, Claude Williams.

Cameron's career was officially over, ended not by an ACL tear or a separated shoulder, but by one too many hits to his head.

"If I could [come back]," Williams said softly, "I would."

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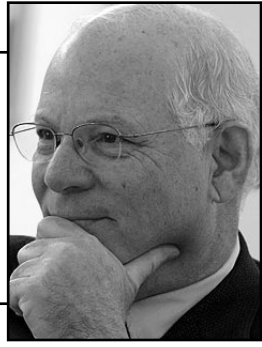
COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for
Prince George's County

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Lauds EPW Committee Vote to Consolidate FBI Headquarters

Physical consolidation will save the taxpayers' money and enhance national security

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), praised EPW Committee action today that will move the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) closer to consolidating the more than 20 FBI offices that are dispersed around the Greater Washington region to one location. The project is expected to bring greater physical and information security to the FBI, as well as provide an estimated annual cost savings of nearly \$44 million when the project is finalized.

“The FBI urgently needs a new home. The sheer over-crowding at the J. Edgar Hoover Building and the lack of physical and information security there and at 20 overflow offices scattered throughout the area at best complicates the FBI's important work, and at

worst severely compromises national security,” said Senator Cardin. “The Greater Washington Area has many viable options that will meet the specific requirements needed to restore efficiency and security to our nation's premier law-enforcement agency while saving taxpayer resources. Such a move will be advantageous to the agency as a whole, as well as each of the 17,300 employees of the FBI headquarters, approximately 40 percent of whom currently reside in Maryland.”

The EPW Resolution directs the General Services Administration to enter into a private sector lease. The terms require a private firm to build a 2.1 million square foot, secure facility on federally owned land that would be leased to the FBI. At the end of the lease term, the ownership of the building would be turned over to the Federal government at no additional cost. The FBI headquarters provision must also be approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee before it is final.

To Be Equal

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Child Poverty: A Moral Outrage and Wake Up Call

“A country that does not stand for and protect its children – our seed corn for the future – does not stand for anything.”

Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund

Last week the Census Bureau delivered disturbing news about how the Great Recession and its aftermath are affecting the most vulnerable among us – America's school children. Out of a total of 3,142 counties in the United States, 653 saw significant increases in poverty among school-aged children from 2007-2010 – an increase of 20 percent. Nationally, 19.8 percent of school children are now living in poverty.

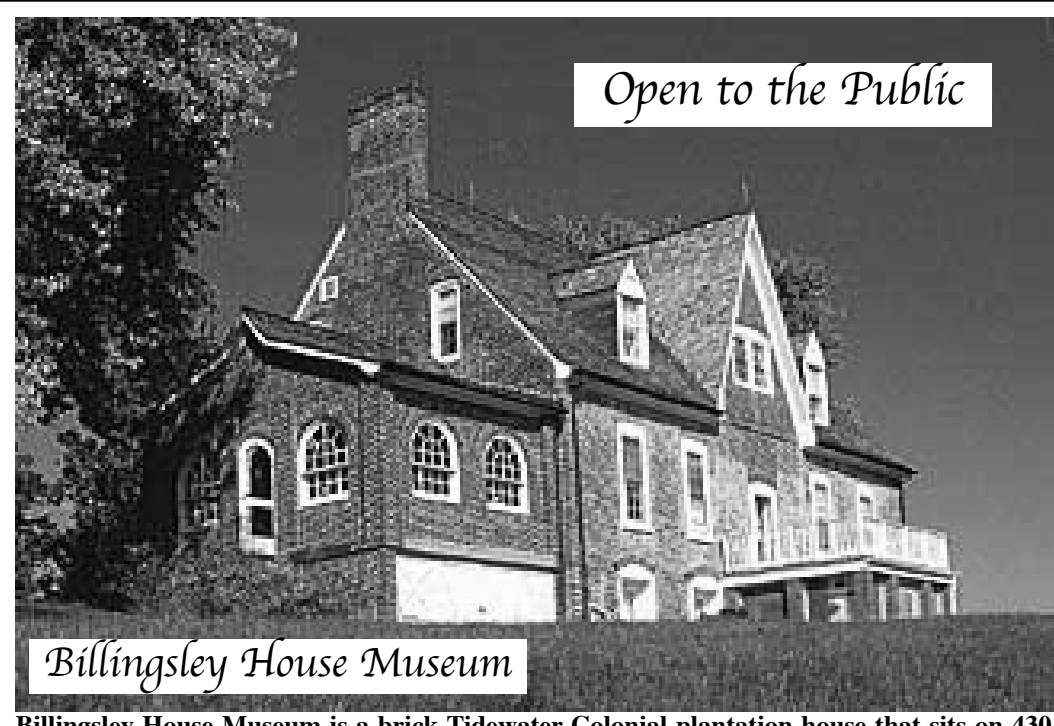
This poverty increase has hit large, urban school systems the hardest with 96 of the 100 biggest school districts reporting increases in the number of poor children. In Detroit, 47 percent of school children are poor. In New York, the poverty rate rose to 29 percent, up from 26.6 percent in 2007. This is a moral outrage. While the debate drags on in Washington about the right balance of spending cuts and taxes, a real and preventable tragedy is unfolding before our eyes. Through no fault of their own, millions more children whose parents have lost jobs, are in need of free school lunches, are going without health care and, as depicted in a recent “60 Minutes” segment, are homeless and even living in cars.

The new Census Bureau report comes on the heels of news in September that the number of poor people in America has risen to 46.2 million – that's 15 percent of all citizens and the

largest number in 52 years. Many previously middle class families are finding themselves standing in line at food banks and homeless shelters. And, according to the Children's Defense Fund, one in three African American and Hispanic children are living in poverty. This should be a loud and urgent wake-up call to Congress and policy makers.

By the end of this year, only weeks away, if Congress fails to act, already struggling families face the end of the payroll tax cut. This would add about \$1000 to a family's tax bill. The extension of unemployment benefits is also in jeopardy. According to the non-partisan Center for Budget Policy and Priorities, unemployment benefits together with supports like the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit are keeping 7 million people out of poverty.

Beth Davalos, who runs Families in Transition in Seminole County, Florida, was interviewed for the “60 Minutes” segment on children living in cars. She explained in stark terms the impact poverty is having on a kindergarten child she was trying to help: “That little 5-year-old was so troubled over where she would be sleeping, she was not thinking about 2 + 2.” The fact is, we should not even be talking about child poverty in the richest nation on earth. We have the means, we simply need to summon the will to end it. If we can find the money to bail out Wall Street and give tax breaks to the wealthy, surely we can find the resources to provide food, shelter, health care and a good education for our children.



Open to the Public

Billingsley House Museum

Billingsley House Museum is a brick Tidewater Colonial plantation house that sits on 430 acres overlooking the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Western Branch. The house and land were named for Major John Billingsley, the original 1662 land grant owner. Even though Major Billingsley never lived on the property and there have been 27 title adjustments over its long history, the name “Billingsley” remains. The present house was built around 1740 by the prominent Weems family on or very near the site of an older 1695 house built by Colonel James Hollyday, first Chief Justice of the Prince George's County Court. Billingsley has been substantially altered and modernized both in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, however, it is still one of the oldest structures remaining in the County and a unique example of a plantation house. As such, it is of great historical and architectural importance.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Young People Standing Up for Themselves and for Our Nation

As a teenager, many of Barbara Johns's wildest fantasies were about a surprising subject: a new school. “My imagination would run rampant—and I would dream that some mighty man of great wealth built us a new school building or that our parents got together and surprised us with this grand new building and we had a big celebration—and I even imagined that a great storm came through and blew down the main building and splattered the shacks to splinters—and out of this wreckage rose this magnificent building and all the students were joyous and even the teachers cried...”

Then a day came when 16-year-old Barbara decided to put her dreams into action. “It was time that Negroes were treated equally with whites, time that they had a decent school, time for the students themselves to do something about it. There wasn't any fear. I just thought—this is your moment. Seize it!”

The year was 1951, and Barbara was a junior at segregated Robert R. Moton High School in Prince Edward County, Virginia. As her younger sister Joan later remembered, “Most of the school supplies that we got were torn and tattered, and we didn't have enough supplies to write with. The school we went to was overcrowded. Consequently, the county decided to build three tarpaper shacks for us to hold classes in. A tarpaper shack looks like a dilapidated black building, which is similar to a chicken coop on a farm... It was a very difficult setting for trying to learn. And I remember we were always talking about how bad the conditions were but we didn't know what to do about it. So one day, my sister and a group of students that she chose decided to do something about it.”

The “something about it” Barbara did was to organize and lead the student body at Moton High in a strike in April 1951. More than 400 students walked out of classes to protest their school's terrible conditions and

demand facilities more like the county's White high school. NAACP attorneys Spottswood Robinson and Oliver Hill became involved after Barbara's persistent calls to their Richmond office and after the students agreed they were willing to fight for a desegregated school rather than just a better segregated one. The legal case against the Prince Edward County school board was ultimately bundled with four similar cases by NAACP attorneys in Brown vs. Board of Education et al., leading to the landmark Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in public schools in 1954.

Barbara Johns's courageous decision to do something about her dream helped change history just like the brave actions of so many other children and youths during the Civil Rights Movement. Sadly, the triumph of Brown vs. Board of Education was not the end of the story for Black children in Prince Edward County. As disgraceful as the conditions were at their old woefully unequal schools, more disgraceful was what came next. Instead of

complying with the U.S. Supreme Court decision, the state of Virginia pursued a campaign of “massive resistance,” enacting a variety of new laws and policies designed to prevent public school desegregation. More court decisions followed declaring Virginia's actions illegal. While other districts eventually gave in, Prince Edward County's Board of Supervisors continued to refuse to desegregate their schools and voted in June 1959 to shut down the county's entire public school system.

A number of White schools quickly reopened as segregated “private schools,” supported by tuition grants from the state and tax credits from the county. They became the model for similar “segregation academies” across the South today. No schools were available in Prince Edward County for Black children or poor White families in the largely rural community who couldn't afford the modest tuition charged at the new private schools. The

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