

# News Clips Report

Date	HeadLine	Outlet
03/18/2009	Youths push for nonviolence	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	Leggett agrees to support education, affordable housing	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	School Notes	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	Community briefs	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	Residents want college to find new solution	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	County police reports	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	People and Places	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	People and Places	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	People and Places	The Gazette Papers
03/18/2009	Couple describe a life-changing path	Gazette, The
03/18/2009	Fish, frogs lose in Montgomery College pond draining	Gazette, The
03/18/2009	Montgomery County's budget cuts bad, could have been worse, most say	Gazette, The
03/18/2009	NOAA LAUNCHES ONLINE GAME THAT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT ESTUARIES	PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest
03/18/2009	Spending plan reflects national economic woes	Gazette, The
03/18/2009	Such stuff as dreams are made on	Gazette, The
03/17/2009	Obituaries	The Washington Post
03/17/2009	Metro Entertainment Religion Corrections Business Health Post Magazine Archives Advertising: Kaplan	The Washington Post
03/17/2009	Generals sweep twinbill	Evening Times, The
03/17/2009	Md. County Budget Blueprints Cut Jobs, Services Montgomery, Prince George's Union Officials Oppose P	Washington Post - Online
03/16/2009	Comment period for upcounty hospital application extended	Gazette, The
03/16/2009	FLCC lacrosse gets first victory	Finger Lakes Times, The
03/16/2009	FOUR MEN'S GOLFERS COMPETE AT INAUGURAL DUKE COCA-COLA INDIVIDUAL COLLEGIATE	PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest
03/16/2009	Leggett Proposes \$4.4 Billion Budget Plan	Washington Post - Online
03/16/2009	Md. Counties Plan Budget Cuts	Washington Post - Online
03/16/2009	Md. County Budget Blueprints Cut Jobs, Services	Washington Post - Online
03/16/2009	MONTGOMERY COUNCIL SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR COUNTY PLANNING BOARD POSITION	PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest
03/16/2009	Montgomery, Pr. George's Budget Plans Cut Jobs, Services Leggett Proposes \$4.4 Billion in Spending;	Washington Post - Online
03/13/2009	ALSO PLAYING	The Washington Post
03/13/2009	College urged to create campus smoking area	Gazette, The
03/11/2009	School Notes	The Gazette Papers
03/10/2009	Beauty beyond the surface	Howard County Times
03/09/2009	Science center effort gathers momentum	Gazette, The
03/07/2009	MONTGOMERY COUNCILMEMBER BERLINER TO HOST FREE FORUM FOR SENIORS ON MARCH 6	PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest

# News Clips Report

## Youths push for nonviolence The Gazette Papers

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Youths push for nonviolence

Concert organizers to meet with residents while promoting their message online and in the community

by Jason Tomassini | Staff Writer

A week after a nonviolence concert in downtown Silver Spring ended in fighting and sparked residents' concerns about the security and safety downtown, the youth organizers of the event say they are even more dedicated to stopping teen violence.

Youths connected to the concert will spread the nonviolence message through online groups, poster campaigns and community outreach and also hope meet with residents that felt threatened by last week's violence.

"The fight is just a signal that says we need to improve what we did," said Juan Hinojosa, a Silver Spring International Middle School student and member of Mixed Unity, a youth group that planned the concert.

About 7,000 people gathered March 7 on Ellsworth Drive for a "Stop the Violence" concert organized by Mixed Unity, which formed after the shooting death of Montgomery Blair High School freshman Tai Lam on Nov. 1, 2008.

As a go-go band was playing the last performance of the night, a fight broke out and spread away from the stage to the surrounding blocks in downtown Silver Spring before about 45 officers joined the roughly 30 officers and private security patrolling the event to help quell the violence, Montgomery County police said last week. Thirty-five were arrested or cited for offenses including assault and disorderly conduct. Of the 35, 18 were adults and 17 juveniles, said Lucille Baur, a police spokeswoman.

Initial reports from police indicated only 16 arrests were made.

Third District Lt. Paul Liquorie said in a phone interview Tuesday that extra officers were stationed downtown because of the warm weather and the event, but had police "realized the draw that this event and the last band was going to have we would have upped staff even more."

In the future, police will work more closely with event planners to determine the size of the crowds and adjust security accordingly, Liquorie said.

The concert was planned largely by a group of about 30 teenagers who met for months to organize and promote the concert, which was intended to honor Lam and limit feelings of violence among their peers. Youth organizers said the fighting is an example of the very problems the concert was hoping to address.

"We didn't expect for that to happen, but because it happened it helped everyone to see the problem we are dealing with," said Peter Balogun, a spiritual counselor with Mixed Unity.

Mixed Unity has met to talk about the concert and plan future events, which they said will not be on the scale of the March 7 concert.

A Facebook group called "Please Stop the Violence: DC Metro Area" was started March 9 by Montgomery Blair High School students including Mixed Unity members and already has more than 1,400 members. The group was given 3,000 bracelets by Montgomery County Police and will sell them for \$1 each to benefit Lam's family.

Two groups that include downtown officials, nonprofit officials, security and police were established to discuss security issues and planning issues for future events on Ellsworth Drive, said Downtown Silver Spring manager Jennifer Nettles of The Peterson Cos., the management company that helped sponsor the event.

# News Clips Report

While there may not be another youth event of that size at City Plaza, Nettles said youth will continue to be involved in future events as planners or employees.

The concert sparked discussion on neighborhood listservs, with some residents saying the fighting perpetuated a trend of unruly teens that downtown security fails to control.

Comments on the Seven Oaks and Evanswood Citizen Association listserv ranged from admiration for the youth who planned the concert to some suggesting a 10 p.m. curfew for youth downtown. Others claim they won't visit the downtown again.

"The thing people object to is the thugs, the guys with bad attitudes," said Seven Oaks-Evanswood resident Brent Gilroy of the nighttime scene along Ellsworth Drive. "You sit down to have a nice dinner and you hear [expletives]."

Gilroy said in a phone interview Monday that Downtown Silver Spring management needs to adopt a "zero tolerance policy for vile behavior and thuggery." Nettles said crime and fighting among teens downtown has declined in recent years.

Only extreme and excessive cursing or yelling can result in a disorderly conduct charge, Liquorie said, but failure to control behavior and quality-of-life issues can result in bigger problems.

"If someone acts disorderly and someone feeds off that, it spreads to another group and it can kind of feed on itself," Liquorie said. Liquorie added that The Peterson Cos. and police are considering programs that would reward teens with coupons for behaving positively downtown.

Another resident, John Haslinger, said in a phone interview Monday that the behavior downtown is "not that bad" and by avoiding Ellsworth Drive, his neighbors would deprive youth of positive role models and give businesses incentive to cater to teens even more.

"Our presence, and a presence in great numbers, makes those practicing inappropriate loudness or profanity less able to do it," Haslinger said. "If they are all in their own element, they can do that."

Mark Gabriele, president of SOECA, said his neighborhood will meet with The Peterson Cos. and county police April 2 to discuss the concert and how to improve the environment downtown.

But if residents truly want to address the problem, they should meet with the teens themselves, said Howa Toure a Montgomery College sophomore in Mixed Unity who hopes her group will be welcomed to neighborhood meetings.

"Instead of talking about the problem," Toure said, "come out and solve the problem."

# News Clips Report

## Leggett agrees to support education, affordable housing The Gazette Papers

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Leggett agrees to support education, affordable housing

by Robert Dongu | Staff Writer

With a push from area church leaders, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett said last week he would support making a Montgomery College education available to any eligible student as part of next year's budget cycle.

If the County Council agrees, Montgomery would be the first county in the country to do so, according to Action in Montgomery, a nonprofit comprised of county congregational members.

Leggett's recommended budget, released Monday, includes a community college tuition increase that would raise tuition \$3 per credit hour for county residents, \$6 for Maryland residents and \$9 for out-of-state students.

AIM officials said rising tuition shows the need to make two-year college available for all students.

"College should not be tied to the market," said AIM spokeswoman Alisa Glassman, who said the money could be raised from the county and corporate sponsors.

Elizabeth Homan, a spokeswoman for Montgomery College, said the college's Board of Trustees recommended the increase to Leggett as a way to respond to the school's rising enrollment. Homan said the college has received more money for financial aid to help cover the tuition increase.

"It's an effort to assist some students," she said.

At an AIM meeting March 10 at the Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville, Leggett (D) agreed to back the college program and said he would propose to add \$19 million for the county's Housing Initiative Fund. The \$19 million, which would come from the county general fund, was included in Leggett's proposed \$58 million for the initiative, said Mary Anderson, a county spokeswoman. The total from the general fund last year was about \$9 million to 10 million, she said.

Leggett told AIM it would be a challenge to get the council's support for spending increases during an economic downturn.

"Philosophically, emotionally and spiritually, I agree with all [of AIM's requests]," Leggett said. "But it's not simply if I agree with all those things; it is important that the entire county government is in support of those things."

Leggett told AIM his proposal to the housing fund would be "a huge increase."

"There will be a very strong effort, in my opinion, to reduce that [the fund's] number, to not make certain that we have the resources to move forward," he said. "Be prepared to move forward and to fight, and to fight hard, that the revenues remain in the budget."

Before Leggett spoke, Department of Recreation Director Gabriel Albernoz said renovations remain on schedule for Good Hope, Plum Gar, Ross Boddy and Scotland community centers. AIM has supported renovating the centers.

"The money is safe. ... We're moving full-speed ahead," Albernoz said.

Winston Churchill High School student Mohammad Abbas helped push the county to renovate the Scotland Community Center in Potomac. At a "house meeting" during the AIM event, he said he uses the community center all the time but also wants other opportunities.

"I like school, and I study hard," said Abbas, a junior. "I'm doing my part as a student, but I'm worried about my future. ... I want to go to college."

# News Clips Report

The meeting moderator asked Abbas if he's willing to do something about it. "That's why I'm here," Abbas responded.

His mother, Amal Abbas, is barely able to make ends meet working full time at Macy's at Montgomery Mall. Her husband died three years ago.

"My big problem is I don't know how I will afford to send my three children to college," she said. "Education is No. 1. If my children have a good education, it will save their lives in the future."

The Abbas' story is not uncommon for the Rev. Jacqueline Jones-Smith of Good Hope Union United Methodist Church in Silver Spring. Jones-Smith's church is a part of AIM.

"We have a number of young people that are concerned about [affording college]," Jones-Smith said Friday.

While donations at Good Hope Union are steady, Jones-Smith and her members are feeling the effects of the economic downturn. Younger retirees are coming back to work to supplement their income, she said. And some members are being forced to put off graduate school.

Since the church has numerous volunteers, Jones-Smith said she has avoided some of the financial struggles of larger churches that employ more people.

"So far, we haven't had to cut back in terms of our Sunday school and Bible study," she said.

# News Clips Report

## **School Notes The Gazette Papers**

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

School Notes | Melissa J. Brachfeld  
Disability Support Services

to host information night

Montgomery College Disability Support Services will hold its information night 7-9 p.m. March 24 in the Technical Center Building, Room 136, on the school's Rockville campus.

Topics for the evening include how to apply for support services, what documentation is required, how course placement is determined, what college expects of students and what accommodations are available at Montgomery College.

Montgomery College is located at 51 Mannakee St. in Rockville.

For more information, call Disability Support Services at 240-567-5058.

# News Clips Report

## Community briefs The Gazette Papers

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
Community briefs

### Upcoming tour of Takoma Park and Silver Spring

The Silver Foxes group of Takoma Park will sponsor a tour of some areas of interest in Takoma Park and Silver Spring for residents age 55 and older from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 31.

Some areas the group will visit include the Cafritz Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College and the college's planetarium for a presentation called "Splendors of the Universe." Participants will be served vegetarian cuisine at the College Café of nearby Columbia Union College in Takoma Park.

The event is free to attend, but participants are asked to register by Thursday by calling the Takoma Park Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 or on the department's Web site at [www.tprecreation.org](http://www.tprecreation.org).

# News Clips Report

## Residents want college to find new solution The Gazette Papers

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Residents want college to find new solution

Two meetings held to brainstorm ideas for keeping smokers out of neighborhoods, while allowing community access to campus

by Nathan Carrick | Staff Writer

Rockville residents affected by Montgomery College's decision to close an access point to campus last week say the college needs to rescind its ban on tobacco products or find another solution that allows the entryway to be reopened.

Since college officials erected a fence two weeks ago to keep students, faculty and other smokers from leaving the campus and using Princeton Place to light up, residents of the surrounding neighborhoods have met twice to lobby their complaints and come up with solutions to the problem.

Dr. Judy E. Ackerman, vice president and provost of the Rockville campus, said the college would take into consideration the ideas suggested at the meetings. The college's Board of Trustees met Tuesday night after Gazette deadline.

Rockville city officials have strongly urged college officials to work with the community on finding a solution.

College officials erected the 6-foot-high chain-link fence between the campus and Princeton Place as a way to stem complaints from residents that students were loitering in neighborhoods as they looked for a place to smoke after Montgomery College put a no-tobacco policy in place Aug. 1.

The first meeting, on Thursday, was in front of the Montgomery College Student Senate at the Rockville campus.

"The fence between the Rockville campus and Princeton Place is an immediate solution to an immediate problem," said Bret Eaton, a spokesman for Montgomery College.

"Our challenge is to balance the responsibilities of the college with the quality of life concerns expressed by nearby homeowners and the desires of bikers and pedestrians who have been inconvenienced by the fence. The college will continue to collaborate with all of the stakeholders involved to reach a solution," he said.

The second meeting, Monday night at the Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts in Rockville Town Square, was a brainstorming session called by the college and the city. More than 100 people attended.

Residents felt it was a step in the right direction, but it came far too late.

"First, the meeting has been repeatedly delayed," said Mark Pierzchala, a candidate for Rockville City Council and resident of Plymouth Woods. "We are now seven months since the onset of problems. Second, it seems very odd that there would be a brainstorming meeting at this point."

Elise Gussow, president of the Plymouth Woods Homeowners Association, said the solution is obvious.

"The only way to get people off Princeton Place is to designate a smoking area," she said. "I feel like the community would be better served if Montgomery College representatives had addressed some of the issues earlier."

When the college enacted its tobacco-free policy, it suggested smokers use public streets, like Mannakee Street and Rockville Pike, as options. But student and faculty smokers began congregating on Princeton Place, a residential cul-de-sac at the northwest corner of campus.

Residents of Princeton Place and the surrounding community raised concern over the effects of the congregation,



# News Clips Report

including cleanliness, safety and health.

Some wanted the access point — a gap in the fence — closed. Others, who use the access point regularly, preferred that that college modify its no-tobacco policy.

"I'm too old to climb over a fence," Sandra Schwartz, 70, of College Gardens said at the Student Senate meeting. "You're laughing, but I thought about it. The whole thing is crazy. Now I'm cutting through private property to get to the college."

Even college faculty members are unhappy about the current policy.

"Why are you being so uncompromising?" Robert Ciapetta, a reading professor and Plymouth Woods resident, asked administrators at the Student Senate meeting. "It seems ridiculous to banish people and have them walk off campus ... What is your problem?"

# News Clips Report

## County police reports The Gazette Papers

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
County police reports

### Strong-arm robbery

-On Feb. 27: Between 10 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on the campus of Montgomery College, 255 Mannakee St. in Rockville. Two suspects jumped the male victim and took his property. Suspect No. 1 was described as a black male, 18-22, 5 feet 2 inches tall, corn rowed hair, thin build, black jacket. Suspect No. 2 was described as a black male, 18-22, 5 feet 6 inches tall, dreadlocks, thin build, black jacket.

# News Clips Report

## People and Places The Gazette Papers

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

People and Places | Stephanie Siegel and Jen Beasley

Montgomery Women honors stars at the Annual Power Tea

Montgomery Women, a leadership and political action committee for women, presented two awards honoring Montgomery County women at its annual Power Tea held March 8 at the Strathmore Mansion.

Nancy Floreen, Chair of Montgomery Women and a member of the County Council, presented the first Shining Star award to Carol Trawick of Bethesda, a veteran Montgomery County leader and head of the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation, which also presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Montgomery College to be given to an outstanding female student. It was the fifth such scholarship to be awarded by the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation.

Dr. Yvette Butler, of Silver Spring, received the Rising Star Award for her work as founder and CEO of GapBuster Learning Center, Inc., a non-profit educational enrichment program designed to close the achievement gap for students from kindergarten to eighth grade.

Butler was presented with the Rising Star by Pilar Torres of Silver Spring, co-founder of Centro Familia and a past recipient. The award was established in honor of the memory of activist Phyllis Campbell Newsome who bettered the lives of countless families as Director of Community Advocacy for the Washington Council of Agencies. Butler told the 115-member audience her journey to help others began with a promise to her mother—who died of breast cancer when she was nine—to become a doctor.

Both women were presented with engraved glass trophies to commemorate the honor.

In accepting the first Shining Star award, created in memory of two Montgomery Women founders, Delegate Jane Lawton and Councilmember Marilyn Praisner, Trawick paid tribute to women activist leaders she met when she first came to Montgomery County 30 years ago: Rosalie Silverman, Betty Mae Kramer and Esther Gelman.

# News Clips Report

## People and Places The Gazette Papers

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

by Amber Parcher | People and Places

Cancer Society to recruit new members in Wheaton meeting

The American Cancer Society is hosting a team meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. today at its Wheaton headquarters, 11331 Amherst Ave., for the upcoming Relay for Life of Rockville. New teams are welcome to the meeting. The Relay for Life will be held May 30 at Montgomery College in Rockville. The race will raise funds for cancer research, honor those who have lost the battle to cancer and celebrate the lives of those who have survived. For more information on the relay, visit [www.main.acsevents](http://www.main.acsevents).

# News Clips Report

## People and Places The Gazette Papers

**03/18/2009**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

People and Places | susan singer-bart

Financial forum to offer business advice

Meet financial lenders at a free forum at the Germantown Innovation Center at Montgomery College on March 27.

Learn how to improve your credit and how to create an effective business plan at the forum, set for 9:30 a.m. to noon at the center, 20271 Goldenrod Lane, second floor.

The forum is sponsored by the county Department of Economic Development, the state Department of Business and Economic Development's office of small business and local lending institutions.

Register by March 23 by e-mailing [Jacqueline.arnold@montgomery](mailto:Jacqueline.arnold@montgomery)

# News Clips Report

## Couple describe a life-changing path Gazette, The

**03/18/2009**

Randy Motz and Georgia Harris wrote about hiking the 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail. Their trail names are Windtalker and Mom, respectively.

Featured Jobs

Loading...

More News

<SW\_Photo=8702>

Some people avoid getting into a rut by trying something new every once in a while: dance lessons, a class at Montgomery College, perhaps a trip to Asia. For Randy Motz and Georgia Harris, it was hiking the 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail, end to end.

Their 2006 journey from Georgia to Maine took six months, during which time they faced and overcame many challenges, both physical and emotional.

Motz and Harris documented their experiences in 'Solemates: Lessons on Life, Love & Marriage from the Appalachian Trail.'

'Imagine an adventure so different, so massive, so formidable, and so enduring that not only their marriage vows are challenged but their still-developing fundamental human traits are called upon every single day,' they write in the book's introduction.

Hiking the trail was Harris' idea. While driving along Interstate 70, she noticed a footbridge crossing above the road that was marked as part of the Appalachian Trail. She says her first thought was 'Hey, let's do this.'

She presented the idea to Motz.

'When she first mentioned it, I said, Are you sure that's what you want to do?' Motz says.

It was.

Harris has regularly pursued physical and mental challenges, like getting her black belt in Taekwondo when she was 30.

'I'm all about living your dreams and not being stuck in a rut,' she says.

Harris, a then 47-year-old NIST employee, and Motz, a then 56-year-old recording studio employee, began to prepare. They did some shorter hikes to get in shape, read books, joined a handful of hiking and trail clubs, and gathered all the necessary gear. They decided that there would be no quitting unless one of them got injured.

'We started it together; we wanted to finish it together,' Motz says.

Harris travels a lot for work and they have children, so before the hike, they didn't enjoy much alone time in their 14-year marriage, Harris says.

They relied on each other for motivation, and insisted on walking together, rather than separating and meeting up at the end of the day, as some hiking pairs do, Motz says.

'We encouraged each other [and] developed an incredible amount of compassion for each other,' Motz says.

All the time in the wilderness served as a reminder of how small they are compared to the rest of Mother Nature's

# News Clips Report

wonders.

'It gave us a better perspective on how we fit into the whole cycle of life,' Motz says.

The couple would pass the hours talking about the future, finances and retirement plans. Sometimes they would just hike in silence, then talk about the day when they stopped for a meal.

Each chapter of the book begins with a quote from a well-known public figure and ends with tips for couples written by Harris. Mixed in with the couple's account of their experience are contributions from other people hiking the trail at the same time, people Motz and Harris refer to as their 'trail family.'

The couple averaged 12 to 13 miles a day on steep and grueling trails. Despite physical and mental exhaustion, Harris says the experience offers a tremendous feeling of freedom. The absence of mail, errands like grocery shopping, filling the gas tank and carpooling led to mixed feelings when it was over.

'It's incredibly bittersweet,' she says.

The journey, says Motz, taught them that everything they needed to survive was either on their back or in each other. The result was a change in lifestyle when they got back.

'When we got home, we started cleaning house,' Motz says.

The couple got rid of a lot of unnecessary belongings, slowed the pace of their lives, took time to relax and did more enjoyable things together. They began eating healthier and going to bed earlier (hikers go to bed shortly after sundown) and spending more time with their family.

Motz, a self-described 'news junkie' dramatically cut back the amount of time he indulged in media reports. He says he and Harris noticed that the headlines when they returned seemed to be the same as before they had left, only with different people involved.

'What we experienced was so dramatic and so life changing that we wanted to share that experience with people,' Motz says.

Both Harris and Motz say they hope their book inspires people to pursue their dreams, regardless of age.

'If you've got dreams, put it on the calendar, schedule it. Don't just think about it,' Harris says.

Georgia Harris and Randy Motz will present 'The Joys of Backpacking as a Couple' at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, at REI, 1701 Rockville Pike. For more information about this or other upcoming presentations, e-mail [info@rmghadventures.com](mailto:info@rmghadventures.com).

'Solemates: Lessons on Life, Love & Marriage from the Appalachian Trail' is available for purchase at [www.rmghadventures.com](http://www.rmghadventures.com) and at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

# News Clips Report

## **Fish, frogs lose in Montgomery College pond draining Gazette, The**

**03/18/2009**

Montgomery College's decision to drain a storm-water management pond for a construction project without removing the fish and wildlife that inhabited it has angered many students and faculty on the Rockville campus. 'It's disgusting,' said Evin Eldridge, 20, who is to graduate from Montgomery College in the fall. 'The most ironic thing is this is going to be a biology center.' A new, roughly \$60 million science center is being built on the Rockville campus. The planned four-story building will house the biology, chemistry, physics, engineering and geosciences departments. The building will feature a greenhouse and a rooftop observatory and is expected to earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold certification for its energy-saving and environmental features.

The pond was to be drained as part of the construction. As of Tuesday, most of the water had been removed.

Fish that were in the pond either were pumped out into the stream or scooped up with other debris, said college spokesman Brett Eaton.

That upset many faculty members and students, who said the work showed a callous disregard for the animals that lived in the man-made pond. More than 50 people were present at a student Senate forum Thursday when the topic was raised, but just four spoke against it.

Eldridge had hoped the outcry would cause the college to reconsider its position and capture the mosquito fish and koi, a variety of carp, and turtles, frogs and other wildlife that inhabit the pond and relocate them to other ponds.

College administrators often tout the importance of social responsibility, but were not living up to it themselves, Eldridge said.

The construction plan should have included the cost of moving the animals and fish, said Debra Anderson, department chairwoman of the Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education at the college.

College officials estimated the cost of relocating the fish and wildlife at \$20,000, but did not believe it would be the best use of funds because the wildlife have lived in a polluted environment and could contaminate other ponds with diseases they might carry, college officials said. 'Montgomery College understands the emotions generated by wildlife inhabiting our campuses,' Eaton said. The new science center is needed to meet the number of students who want to take classes in science, math and engineering, he said. Construction of the building is expected to be completed in 2011.

As part of the project, a new storm-water management pond will be built that will improve the landscaping and do a better job of filtering out the debris, oil and other pollutants that run off the college's parking lot into the pond before entering a stream, Eaton said, adding that wildlife was likely to return.

Moving the koi and mosquito fish to other ponds, even if they survived the move, would be a bad idea because they could have a detrimental environmental impact on their new home, said Rebecca Thomas, an assistant professor in the biology department. 'Koi are an invasive species,' she said. Because koi tear up the plants at the bottom of ponds when they feed, they make those ponds uninhabitable to many other fish, Thomas said. 'Koi end up destroying other fish populations,' she added. 'In the end, [moving them] could cause more harm.'



# News Clips Report

## Montgomery County's budget cuts bad, could have been worse, most say Gazette, The

03/18/2009

As the impact of County Executive Isiah Leggett's spending proposal for next year was sinking in Tuesday, many observers said the plan made the best of the worst, while some council members complained that union cost-of-living cuts had been assumed in the budget even though they haven't been finalized. Leggett's \$4.4 billion budget eliminates 400 jobs from the county's workforce, including 234 filled positions. The plan excludes a property tax rate increase and includes a \$690 tax credit for homeowners. Median-priced homes at \$380,000 would still see a \$200, or 8 percent, increase in their tax bills. Leggett's spending plan closes a \$520 million budget gap for the next fiscal year, which begins in July. The budget grows 1.9 percent, or \$82.7 million, over the current budget, the smallest increase in 18 years. 'We have to keep in mind that the economy has not yet bottomed out,' Leggett (D) said during Monday's presentation in Rockville. 'More state budget cuts may be on the horizon. And even if the council approves my recommended budget just as it is, we are projecting a budget shortfall next year of over \$370 million.' Like most counties in the region, Montgomery's coffers have suffered from the economic downturn, with the county taking in much less in tax revenues than originally anticipated. A similar situation is expected next year. 'There's a lot of agreement between the executive and council on closing the gap: to not raise tax rates, cut spending in areas that are nonessential services, protect the safety net and try to avoid layoffs,' said council President Philip M. Andrews (D-Dist. 3) of Gaithersburg.

Many of the employee cuts would come in the Department of Transportation, with the elimination of part-time bus drivers. Health and Human Services would see the next largest workforce reduction, with the elimination of some community health nurses.

For HHS Director Uma Ahluwalia, protecting the service safety net for the county's most vulnerable residents was of utmost importance. 'That portion of our budget did well: Homeless services were not cut, emergency assistance dollars are increasing,' she said. 'There will be service impacts in some places. Overall, this is the best we could have come up with. It could have been worse.' HHS would lose 15 employees to layoffs in Leggett's proposal, but Ahluwalia hopes to shift those workers into now-vacant positions.

Cost-of-living increases for the county's employee unions also were cut from the spending plan, resulting in the county's fire union filing an unfair labor complaint against Leggett. Members of the county's three school unions already agreed to forgo their COLAs, saving the county \$89 million. Many of the employees still would get step increases.

Leaders of the police and government employee unions have agreed to the COLA eliminations, but the agreements have not been ratified.

That led council members Michael J. Knapp and Valerie Ervin to criticize Leggett for assuming that employee unions, specifically the fire union, would agree to the COLA elimination. As the funding authority, the council has the final say on whether to eliminate COLAs. 'I think he sent us over an unbalanced budget. I feel like we got left holding a very large bag,' said Ervin (D-Dist. 5) of Silver Spring. 'I think the executive had good intentions on things like protecting the safety net, but this is a budget about labor, and I'm concerned about what this means over the next two months.' Leggett's combination of cuts and small increases passed the test of budget watchdog Marvin Weinman, president of the county's Taxpayer's League. 'For years, no one would touch the issue of salary and compensation, even though it accounts for 75 percent of the budget,' Weinman said. 'There are some things included, like the ambulance fee, which is a mixed bag, but this is a budget the public should be endorsing.' Leggett once again included a proposed ambulance fee in his budget plan to help pay for fire and rescue expenses. The fee, which would generate an estimated \$14 million in annual revenues, was removed from the budget by the County Council last year and was called 'dead on arrival' this week by the county's volunteer firefighters, who oppose the fee.

Knapp and Andrews also criticized Leggett for including the ambulance fee in his spending plan.

Leggett has said the fee is needed to fund part of the 2.7 percent, or \$5 million, increase for the police department to serve an expanding county. To fund the increase to the police department's budget, Leggett's plan would expand the county's speed camera program from 36 cameras to 66 cameras.

For education, Leggett's plan includes a \$5.9 million, or 2.8 percent, increase for Montgomery College, funded partly through a tuition increase of up to \$9 per credit hour, depending on a student's residency status. The increase is \$2.1

# News Clips Report

million less than the college's request. College President Brian K. Johnson said the college was 'grateful' that Leggett was close to funding the request, which was increased because of a greater need for financial aid, staffing new buildings and higher utilities' and employee benefit costs.

The executive also proposes funding 99 percent, or \$2.12 billion, of the school system's \$2.13 billion request. Leggett's proposal is about 3 percent more than the system's budget last year. 'This was a tough budget, one in which it's hard not to make people unhappy,' said Councilman Marc Elrich (D-At large) of Takoma Park. 'We may have differences on which items are in and which are out, but I have no quibble with [Leggett] in how he put it together.' The proposal moves to the County Council, which will pass a budget in May.

Staff Writer Marcus Moore contributed to this report.

# News Clips Report

## **NOAA LAUNCHES ONLINE GAME THAT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT ESTUARIES**

**PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest**

**03/18/2009**

WASHINGTON, March 17 -- The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration issued the following press release:

NOAA's National Ocean Service launched a new educational online game "WaterLife: Where Rivers Meet the Sea" today at the annual meeting of the National Science Teachers Association in New Orleans, La. Developed through a partnership with Montgomery (Md.) College's Computer Gaming and Simulation program and designed in cooperation with NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System for students at the fourth through seventh grade level, the web-based game provides science instruction through a series of challenges and animations.

"Our students had the opportunity of a lifetime to design a game that will make a difference in the education of middle school students," said Deborah Solomon, the professor at Montgomery College. "This year-long project provided my students with some true real-life work experience that will benefit not only them, but future generations."

The game occurs inside the ecosystem of an estuary on the West Coast of the United States. Following a young girl named Valerie, players interact with Oscar the sea otter, and the fictional Claminator, a geoduck clam. To succeed, players must learn about the factors that produce healthy estuaries, food webs, and why estuaries are essential to both ocean life and to humans. Students recycle and clean up trash, remove obstructions in waterways, replant the habitat to bring back food webs, and battle pollution monsters to restore Oscar's home. The game is available at <http://games.noaa.gov/>.

"This educational tool provides a series of possibilities for students to explore our nation's biologically rich and economically important estuaries and learn more about NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System," according to Atziri Ibanez, national education coordinator for the reserve system which incorporates 27 estuarine reserves in 21 states and Puerto Rico. "The game will work together with the newly developed Estuaries 101 Curriculum to create awareness and knowledge of the rich biological and physical processes of estuaries."

"WaterLife: Where Rivers Meet the Sea" is being launched in conjunction with the National Science Teachers Association conference in New Orleans. Each year thousands of science educators meet to bring the very latest science content, research findings, and teaching techniques to the classroom teacher.

NOAA's National Ocean Service is an active partner with NSTA in the development of teacher training materials using NOAA content. Montgomery College is a public open admissions community college with three campuses, plus workforce development and continuing education centers and off site programs throughout Montgomery County, Md. The college serves nearly 60,000 students a year through both credit and non-credit programs in more than 100 areas of study.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com).

Copyright © 2009 US Fed News (HT Syndication)

# News Clips Report

## Spending plan reflects national economic woes Gazette, The

03/18/2009

As the impact of County Executive Isiah Leggett's spending proposal for next year was sinking in Tuesday, many observers said the plan made the best of the worst, while some council members complained that union cost-of-living cuts had been assumed in the budget even though they haven't been finalized. Leggett's \$4.4 billion budget eliminates 400 jobs from the county's workforce, including 234 filled positions. The plan excludes a property tax rate increase and includes a \$690 tax credit for homeowners. Median-priced homes at \$380,000 would still see a \$200, or 8 percent, increase in their tax bills. Leggett's spending plan closes a \$520 million budget gap for the next fiscal year, which begins in July. The budget grows 1.9 percent, or \$82.7 million, over the current budget, the smallest increase in 18 years. 'We have to keep in mind that the economy has not yet bottomed out,' Leggett (D) said during Monday's presentation in Rockville. 'More state budget cuts may be on the horizon. And even if the council approves my recommended budget just as it is, we are projecting a budget shortfall next year of over \$370 million.' Like most counties in the region, Montgomery's coffers have suffered from the economic downturn, with the county taking in much less in tax revenues than originally anticipated. A similar situation is expected next year. 'There's a lot of agreement between the executive and council on closing the gap: to not raise tax rates, cut spending in areas that are nonessential services, protect the safety net and try to avoid layoffs,' said council President Philip M. Andrews (D-Dist. 3) of Gaithersburg.

Many of the employee cuts would come in the Department of Transportation, with the elimination of part-time bus drivers. Health and Human Services would see the next largest workforce reduction, with the elimination of some community health nurses.

For HHS Director Uma Ahluwalia, protecting the service safety net for the county's most vulnerable residents was of utmost importance. 'That portion of our budget did well: Homeless services were not cut, emergency assistance dollars are increasing,' she said. 'There will be service impacts in some places. Overall, this is the best we could have come up with. It could have been worse.' HHS would lose 15 employees to layoffs in Leggett's proposal, but Ahluwalia hopes to shift those workers into now-vacant positions.

Cost-of-living increases for the county's employee unions also were cut from the spending plan, resulting in the county's fire union filing an unfair labor complaint against Leggett. Members of the county's three school unions already agreed to forgo their COLAs, saving the county \$89 million. Many of the employees still would get step increases.

Leaders of the police and government employee unions have agreed to the COLA eliminations, but the agreements have not been ratified.

That led council members Michael J. Knapp and Valerie Ervin to criticize Leggett for assuming that employee unions, specifically the fire union, would agree to the COLA elimination. As the funding authority, the council has the final say on whether to eliminate COLAs. 'I think he sent us over an unbalanced budget. I feel like we got left holding a very large bag,' said Ervin (D-Dist. 5) of Silver Spring. 'I think the executive had good intentions on things like protecting the safety net, but this is a budget about labor, and I'm concerned about what this means over the next two months.' Leggett's combination of cuts and small increases passed the test of budget watchdog Marvin Weinman, president of the county's Taxpayer's League. 'For years, no one would touch the issue of salary and compensation, even though it accounts for 75 percent of the budget,' Weinman said. 'There are some things included, like the ambulance fee, which is a mixed bag, but this is a budget the public should be endorsing.' Leggett once again included a proposed ambulance fee in his budget plan to help pay for fire and rescue expenses. The fee, which would generate an estimated \$14 million in annual revenues, was removed from the budget by the County Council last year and was called 'dead on arrival' this week by the county's volunteer firefighters, who oppose the fee.

Knapp and Andrews also criticized Leggett for including the ambulance fee in his spending plan.

Leggett has said the fee is needed to fund part of the 2.7 percent, or \$5 million, increase for the police department to serve an expanding county. To fund the increase to the police department's budget, Leggett's plan would expand the county's speed camera program from 36 cameras to 66 cameras.

For education, Leggett's plan includes a \$5.9 million, or 2.8 percent, increase for Montgomery College, funded partly through a tuition increase of up to \$9 per credit hour, depending on a student's residency status. The increase is \$2.1

# News Clips Report

million less than the college's request. College President Brian K. Johnson said the college was 'grateful' that Leggett was close to funding the request, which was increased because of a greater need for financial aid, staffing new buildings and higher utilities' and employee benefit costs.

The executive also proposes funding 99 percent, or \$2.12 billion, of the school system's \$2.13 billion request. Leggett's proposal is about 3 percent more than the system's budget last year. 'This was a tough budget, one in which it's hard not to make people unhappy,' said Councilman Marc Elrich (D-At large) of Takoma Park. 'We may have differences on which items are in and which are out, but I have no quibble with [Leggett] in how he put it together.' The proposal moves to the County Council, which will pass a budget in May.

Staff Writer Marcus Moore contributed to this report.

# News Clips Report

## Such stuff as dreams are made on Gazette, The

03/18/2009

Montgomery College's WillPower!

story by Chris Slattery | Staff Writer

\

mike bailey

William Shakespeare is the subject of 'WillPower!' a weeklong festival that's free and open to the public. Among the events scheduled are a performance of 'The Comedy of Errors' with Dennis Henry as Dromio of Ephesus, Rick Blunt as Dromio of Syracuse and Kelly McKinnon as the Courtesan.

Featured Jobs

Loading...

More News

<SW\_Photo=8683>

Connie Morella knows how to find common ground.

The Bethesda resident and college professor represented Maryland's 8th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1987 to 2003, then served as permanent representative to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) from 2003 to 2007. But she goes back to her English teacher roots when she needs to get a message across.

<SW\_Photo=8684> 'I could quote Shakespeare to the OECD,' she says, 'He's a person who's known all around the world, whose work has been translated into every language. Thirty of the world's top industrialized nations [comprise the OECD] and all of them understand what Shakespeare has to say.'

Next week, when Morella addresses not world leaders but students, she's confident that Shakespeare's messages will ring true. This is the eighth annual celebration of Shakespeare at Montgomery College (MC) they call it 'WillPower!' and Morella will be on hand to deliver the Adrian Webber Memorial Lecture at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 25.

Morella, who taught English at MC while she served in Congress, is planning a talk called 'Did Shakespeare Hate Women? Love Women? And Why Do We Care?' She says the theme brings together two of her passions: Shakespeare and feminism.

<SW\_Photo=8685> Was Shakespeare a feminist? That, as he himself might say, is the question. Born April 23, 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England, William Shakespeare has become, nearly four centuries after his death, the most widely read writer in the English language. And while there's been speculation about the Bard's politics, sexuality, even whether or not he actually wrote the plays that have been attributed to him, Morella says she's basing her lecture on the actions and attitudes of Shakespeare's female characters particularly the ones who will be seen in free performances by the American Shakespeare Center on tour.

'Are the women in his plays villains, victims or victors?' she muses. 'I thought it'd be kind of fun to look at whether they seem crafty and ambitious fighting against the male standards of the day and to measure them by today's standards, too.'

'Because Shakespeare conformed to contemporary attitudes toward women, but he also transcended them.'

<SW\_Photo=8686> Morella points to individual female Shakespearean characters to show how vividly he portrayed a full

# News Clips Report

spectrum of women.

'When you call a play Macbeth,' when you call a play Hamlet,' it's obvious Shakespeare wrote mostly about men.

'But there are a variety of women in all these plays: Lady Macbeth shows naked ambition; she's devious and shows that women can be as ambitious as men. In *The Taming of the Shrew*, Catherine is witty feisty, too. Portia [in *The Merchant of Venice*] is wise. It's fun! You can go through every play and see different examples.'

<SW\_Photo=8687> And while Morella's speech is part of the action, MC theater professor KenYatta Rogers says the weeklong WillPower! festival is really about giving students the tools with which to make Shakespeare part of their lives.

'The focal point of our festival is always about reading and doing,' says Rogers. 'Access, access, access.'

WillPower! offers a variety of ways to access Shakespeare, from performances of *'A Comedy of Errors'* and *'Hamlet'* by the American Shakespeare Center (ASC) on Tour, the touring arm of the American Shakespeare Center and the Blackfriars Playhouse, to workshops on everything from stage combat to meter and rhetoric.

There's *'The Sound and the Fury'*, a workshop Rogers will hold with fellow professor Sasha Olinick that explores Shakespeare's text through sound and movement. There's a lecture on the use of speech and silence in *'Hamlet'*. There's a workshop on staging conditions in the 17th century theater world, and one on bringing Shakespeare's poetry to life.

'It's not just academicians participating,' says Rogers, 'but people from all walks of life. We have a biology teacher speaking about *The Four Humours: Medicine in the Time of Shakespeare*.' We talk about the structure of the theater itself, what it really was like in Shakespeare's day, with a wall of humanity that brings the audience close to the action.'

During Elizabeth I's reign, he says, the English theater model was interactive and audience-driven. As a teacher, as an actor, as a lover of Shakespeare, he'd like to see it approached that way again.

'There was this constant interplay between the playwright, the performers and the audience,' he says. 'The theater was a playground.' And we can always assign (texts) but to understand them students have to play' with the play itself.

'We want to give people the tools they need to do that.'

Rogers says that the guest speakers, like Morella, are invited to choose their own topics, to share the Shakespearean ideas that appeal to them.

'We say: What interests you? What can you teach with a passion?' he explains. 'And this year, with the great Hamlet-Ophelia scenes, there's so much to examine with regard to misogyny and the role of women.'

Morella will tackle not just Ophelia's victimization but also the role of Gertrude, struggling to hold on to her power as Queen. In the end, though, she says it's not so much about individual characters but rather about Shakespeare and the way his work has become part of the human psyche.

'I have always had a love for Shakespeare,' she says. 'He's the most widely known and read playwright in the world 38 plays, all the sonnets.

'Shakespeare put things into words with such eloquence.'

Montgomery College presents 'WillPower!A Celebration of Shakespeare' with events taking place Monday through Thursday, March 23 through 27 at the MC's Theatre Arts Arena, located on the Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St. Connie Morella will deliver the Adrian Webber Memorial Lecture at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 25. The American Shakespeare Center (ASC) on Tour will perform *'A Comedy of Errors'* at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, and *'Hamlet'* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26. For a complete schedule of events, call 240-567-4001 or 240-567-4008, or visit [www.willpowerfestival.org](http://www.willpowerfestival.org).

# News Clips Report

## Obituaries The Washington Post

**03/17/2009**

Obituaries

Melvin G. Catlett Masonry Contractor

Melvin G. Catlett, 87, a partner in his family's masonry contracting firm for more than 50 years, died of heart disease Feb. 26 at Suburban Hospital. He lived in Bethesda.

Mr. Catlett, who never retired, joined George Seidl and Sons in 1940, four years after his father-in-law established the firm in Bethesda. Until recently, he continued to report to work every day to handle the payroll and taxes for the business.

He was a native of Hedgesville, W.Va. During World War II, he served in the Army as a communications specialist in the 35th Infantry Division of the Third Army, and he took part in the Battle of the Bulge and the Allied drive to the Rhine River.

He graduated from Montgomery College and attended American University. He was a life member of the Concord Club and the Freemasons, and he volunteered with Bethesda Meals on Wheels until a few days before his death.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Catherine Seidl Catlett of Bethesda; two daughters, Nancy Magill of Marietta, Ga., and Catherine Collins of Dade City, Fla.; three brothers; a sister; and a grandson.

-- Patricia Sullivan



# News Clips Report

**Metro Entertainment Religion Corrections Business Health Post Magazine Archives**

**Advertising: Kaplan**

**The Washington Post**

**03/17/2009**

A Section CORRECTIONS

-- A listing in the March 13 Weekend section gave the incorrect date for "Jeopardy!" tryouts at Montgomery College. The tryouts will be April 4.

-- The March 13 Weekend section listed performances by the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance on March 15 at George Mason University Center for the Arts and March 17 at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center. The tour has been canceled.

# News Clips Report

## Generals sweep twinbill Evening Times, The

**03/17/2009**

COLLEGE BASEBALL -

HERKIMER COUNTY CC 7, NORTHERN ESSEX CC 5, first game

HERKIMER COUNTY CC 14, NORTHERN ESSEX CC 1, five innings, second game

GERMANTOWN, Md. Matt Gonyea pitched a complete game in his first start of the year and helped Herkimer County Community College complete a sweep of Mondays doubleheader against Northern Essex Community College.

Gonyea, a sophomore right-hander from Dolgeville, struck out seven batters and walked one in a 14-1 victory that was shortened to five innings by the NJCAAs 10-run rule. He allowed three hits and one run as the Generals improved their record to 3-0 on their season-opening trip to Maryland.

Ron Patterson got the scoring started in Game 2 with a two-run home run in the first inning and Nate Sanzo doubled in two more runs to help the Generals jump ahead 5-0 in their first at-bat. Sanzo doubled twice in the game, Al Ferenti doubled twice, singled and drove in four runs, and leadoff hitter Nick Bloom doubled, twice, singled, scored three runs, stole a base and drove in a run.

The first game saw the Generals overcome an early deficit and win 7-5. Three Herkimer errors led to five Northern Essex runs in the first two innings before the Knights got sloppy in the field, as well. Northern Essex would commit four errors and allow Herkimer to eventually take the lead when Chris Massar doubled home two runs in the three-run fourth.

Ferenti earned his first college victory with two solid innings in relief of Corey Stapleton. Tom Wyasek picked up a save.

We did a good job battling back after falling behind early, Herkimer coach Jason Rathbun said of the Game 1 victory.

The Generals seven runs came on six hits.

Herkimer plays a single nine-inning game Tuesday at Allegany Community College.

HERKIMER COUNTY CC 22, MONTGOMERY COLLEGE-ROCKVILLE 0, five innings

ROCKVILLE, Md. Andy Eggleston pitched five innings of one-hit ball in his collegiate mound debut Sunday as the Herkimer County Community College Generals opened their 2009 season with an abbreviated 22-0 victory over Knights of Montgomery College of Rockville.

Eggleston struck out seven batters and walked one before the scheduled nine-inning game was stopped after five by the NJCAAs 10-run rule.

The Generals took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Ron Patterson tripled with one out and scored on Al Ferentis sacrifice fly.

Herkimer nine runs in the second inning and six each in the third and fourth. Kris Barone drove in two runs with a double in the second and Chris Massar, Egglestons former scholastic teammate at Johnson City, smashed a three-run home run later in the inning. Nate Sanzos bases-loaded triple was the big blow in the fourth inning.

Sanzo went 4-for-4 with three runs batted in. Ryan Hajjar singled twice, doubled and drove in two runs and George Hajjar had two hits, an RBI and a stolen base.

The Generals travel to Montgomery Colleges Germantown campus Monday for a doubleheader against Massachusetts Northern Essex Community College.

ST. JOHNS UNIVERSITY 14, SUNY-ALBANY 7

# News Clips Report

QUEENS, N.Y. Former Little Falls Miner Joe Witkowski had two hits and scored two runs for St. Johns University Sunday in the Red Storms 14-7 win over the SUNY-Albany Great Danes.

Witkowski walked and scored on an error in the second inning when the Red Storm (7-6) scored four times to take the lead. He also singled and scored in the fifth inning and singled again in the sixth.

Adam Cutspec, a freshman from Fort Plain and a Little Falls DiamonDawg-to-be this summer, walked twice, doubled and scored a run for the Great Danes (2-10).

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS 7, CLARKSON UNIVERSITY 5

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. John Ripepi drove in a run for the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Sunday in the Trailblazers 7-5 win over Clarkson University's Golden Knights.

Leading off and playing shortstop, Ripepi bunted for a hit and drove in a run with a ground out. His RBI gave the Trailblazers (4-1) a 4-3 lead in the fourth inning.

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts scored three times in the bottom of the eighth inning at Chain O Lakes Park to pull out the victory after falling behind 5-4.

Compiled From Evening Times Staff Reports

# News Clips Report

## **Md. County Budget Blueprints Cut Jobs, Services Montgomery, Prince George's Union Officials Oppose P Washington Post - Online**

**03/17/2009**

Government officials in Maryland's two largest suburbs, faced with deep potential budget shortfalls, yesterday proposed eliminating more than 700 jobs, imposing an additional unpaid furlough in one county and making spending cuts that union officials in both counties pledged to resist.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) recommended shrinking the size of government by 400 jobs, scaling back bus service on more than 20 routes and raising community college tuition. In Prince George's, County Executive Jack B. Johnson (D) proposed getting rid of more than 300 jobs, forcing workers to take additional unpaid leave and cutting school funding.

Governments throughout the region are contemplating deep cuts and tax increases as income and real estate tax revenue fall, a trend expected to persist into the next budget year.

Leggett's \$4.42 billion budget blueprint, which the County Council must vote on, would not raise property tax revenue above the local limit that ties increases to the rate of inflation. Leggett would provide a \$690 tax credit for primary residences, but the bill for a median-priced home of \$380,000 would still increase nearly 8 percent, or \$200.

In confronting a shortfall exceeding \$500 million for fiscal 2010, Leggett said residents must adjust expectations for the level of services the county can afford. 'It will not be easy, but better days are ahead,' Leggett said. Overall spending would rise 1.9 percent, the smallest year-to-year increase in 18 years. For public schools and Montgomery College campuses, funding would increase 3 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively. To help fund the increase, tuition and fees for college students would rise \$3 per credit hour for county residents, \$6 for other Maryland residents and \$9 for out-of-state students.

Leggett's job-elimination plan would touch nearly every department, including part-time bus drivers, community health nurses and library staff. County workers would not receive planned cost-of-living raises, according to the proposal, although about two-thirds of all employees would still receive annual step raises based on years of service.

Drivers on Montgomery's streets would see the number of stationary speed cameras increase to 60 under Leggett's plan. With the additional cameras, the program is projected to raise \$15.7 million for the budget year that begins July 1.

To help balance the books, Leggett would also seek a waiver from an annual state education funding obligation. The move would free up about \$50 million while providing the school system with the same overall level of funding because of the federal stimulus package. Schools Superintendent Jerry D. Weast called the plan 'the least painful of all the options for both our system and our taxpayers.' Even before Leggett's announcement, the volunteer firefighters' organization scheduled a news conference to declare his budget 'dead on arrival' because it relies on the creation of an ambulance transport fee, which would raise about \$14 million.

John Sparks, president of the union representing career firefighters, said he planned to challenge Leggett's decision not to fund pay raises without the union's blessing. Leggett is legally required to fund employee contracts unless the union renegotiates, but Leggett said he feared that the firefighters' position would unravel deals cut with other unions.

Leggett's plan includes some new investments, such as providing health care for 3,000 uninsured residents and nearly \$58 million for affordable housing. But the list of trims to health and human services programs is particularly long, with cuts in mental health care for children and some addiction services.

Most council members have said they are not prepared to back the proposal. They gave mixed reviews as they thumbed through the four-pound budget book. Duchy Trachtenberg (D-At Large) called the package 'sobering' and urged colleagues to 'demonstrate real leadership and where necessary take a different path toward fiscal responsibility.' Council member Michael Knapp (D-Upcounty) questioned some of Leggett's budget assumptions that he called 'a lot of wishful thinking.' In Prince George's, Johnson's \$2.58 billion spending plan, which must also be voted on by the County Council, represents a 3.5 percent dip in spending from the current year. Faced with a \$113 million gap, Johnson made cuts in nearly every department: He reduced school funding by 3.7 percent; the community college by 2 percent; human services

# News Clips Report

by 11.5 percent; and public safety by 4.3 percent.

With the deterioration of the real estate market, Johnson said, the county is near 'rock bottom.' 'While we were able to benefit from a strong economy by investing in our communities for a number of years, it is clear to everyone that those times are over,' Johnson said. For county workers, Johnson would maintain a hiring freeze, require an additional 10-day unpaid furlough on top of one earlier this year and eliminate cost-of-living and merit raises. Job reductions, he said, would save about \$20 million. The second round of furloughs, which would begin July 1, would trim \$17.5 million.

Johnson's plan includes the elimination of 170 public safety jobs, which he said would mostly affect civilian positions. But Doug Bartholomew, president of the Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association, said the loss of 25 employees from the department would put firefighters' lives in jeopardy. 'It will affect the safety of our firefighters and the safety of our community,' he said. Johnson said he hopes to avoid layoffs with additional revenue that could be raised if he is successful in pressing for legislation before the General Assembly. Prince George's is unable to ask residents to pay more in property taxes without help from state lawmakers because of a voter-imposed cap passed in 1978.

A Johnson-backed measure would shift funding of school buses to the Washington Suburban Transit District and save the county about \$30 million. Del. Aisha Braveboy (D-Prince George's) and Del. Justin Ross (D-Prince George's) have also introduced legislation that would allow the county to transfer to its budget about \$30 million from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's surplus. 'We'll only be successful if the members of the General Assembly approve these pieces of legislation,' Johnson said. 'We can't duck from this. We can't wish it away.'

# News Clips Report

## **Comment period for upcounty hospital application extended Gazette, The**

**03/16/2009**

The Maryland Health Care Commission has extended the written comment period for the public to weigh in on the Holy Cross Hospital project proposed for the Montgomery County-Germantown campus.

The decision to extend the comment period came Thursday after Holy Cross filed changes to its application on Feb. 27, one business day before the deadline for accepting public comments. The commission will accept comments until 5 p.m. March 25.

Holy Cross officials downplayed the significance of the change in the hospital's application for a certificate of need, a document the commission must issue before a hospital can be built. Yolanda Gaskins, a hospital spokeswoman, said the amended application contains largely the same information as the original document but is presented and organized differently. The application was amended to reflect changes the commission made to state standards for acute care hospitals that went into effect in late January, Gaskins said.

Adventist HealthCare, which is planning a 100-bed hospital in Clarksburg, has yet to submit a written opinion to the commission on the Holy Cross project. Thomas Grant, a spokesman for Adventist, said the organization would file an opinion by the March 25 deadline.

Adventist has been planning a hospital and related buildings in Clarksburg for eight years, only to see Holy Cross announce its plans for a 93-bed hospital in Germantown last summer. Adventist administrators have criticized the Holy Cross project as a threat to the economic health of their 24-hour emergency center.

Holy Cross executives and administrators at Montgomery College-Germantown have touted the proposed hospital as an important tool for economic expansion and improved access to health care.

The Clarksburg Civic Association filed a letter with the health care commission on March 2 opposing the Holy Cross project, the only upcounty organization to submit an opinion to state regulators. The letter, signed by civic association president Kathie Hulley, said the Holy Cross project 'will have a large detrimental effect' on employment, medical care access and community planning in Clarksburg.

Those wishing to submit written comments on the application may do so by writing to the Maryland Health Care Commission, 4160 Patterson Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215. The commission seeks to limit comments to details in the state's health plan, a copy of which can be obtained by calling 410-764-5982.

# News Clips Report

## **FLCC lacrosse gets first victory Finger Lakes Times, The**

**03/16/2009**

The Finger Lakes Community College Lacrosse team is hoping for that spark to engulf their campaign after they trounced Montgomery College On Saturday 20-9 for their first victory of the season.

Mike Eagan led the way for the Lakers (1-3) with eight points, including three goals and five assists. Canandaigua grad A.J. Groot supplied a team-high six goals (1 assist), while fellow alum Shawn Fleming added five helpers and two tallies.

Pal-Macs Pete Maklos and Penn Yan alum Brad Ames each netted goals for FLCC. Mike Palvino stopped six shots in net. The Lakers hit the field today in Lincroft, N.J. against Brookdale College at 1.

### **WOMENS LACROSSE**

Potsdam 16, Keuka 6

GENEVA The Storm (0-1) gave up ten first half goals and were out-shot 24-16 in the game in the season-opening loss.

Keukas Jennifer Bush opened the game with the first of four first half tallies for the Storm before the Bears scored the next three.

Potsdam (2-1) stretched five consecutive goals between the first and second halves. Allie Nettles paced the Bears with six goals.

Jenn York and Brenna Leach led Keuka with two scores apiece, while Bush dumped in four assists to go along with her opening tally.

Audrey Randall made three saves in net for the Storm. Keuka did win the ground ball category by a 21-16 count.

### **BASEBALL**

Maryland club 4, FLCC 3

FLCC 11, Maryland club 2

COLLEGE PARK, Md. Honeoye grad Ben Ward provided three hits and two RBIs in the second of FLCCs doubleheader with the University of Maryland club team.

Sean Loomis contributed three hits and two RBIs as well, while Jordan Bergado added two hits and one RBI. The Lakers finished with 14 hits.

In game one, FLCC led 2-0 before UM scored four runs in the sixth inning. Ward registered an RBI double.

# News Clips Report

## **FOUR MEN'S GOLFERS COMPETE AT INAUGURAL DUKE COCA-COLA INDIVIDUAL COLLEGIATE**

**PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest**

**03/16/2009**

DURHAM, N.C., Oct. 14 -- Coastal Carolina University issued the following press release:

The Coastal Carolina University men's golf program had four players compete at the inaugural Duke Coca-Cola Individual Collegiate, Oct. 13-14. The two-day, 54-hole non-team event featured a 63-player field at the Duke University Golf Club (6,961 yards, par 71).

Redshirt sophomore Steve Delmar (Gaithersburg, Md./Gaithersburg (Montgomery College)) led the Chanticleer effort in a tie for 27th at 228, with sophomore David Dannelly (Easley, S.C./Easley) one shot behind at 229 in a tie for 30th. Freshman Charlie Winegardner (Lothian, Md./Calverton School) tied for 36th at 230, while freshman Michael Murray (White Lake, Mich./Bradenton (Fla.) Prep) wrapped up the Chant effort in a tie for 46th at 236. North Carolina's Philip Chauncey fired a final round two-under 69 to claim the tournament win with a one-over 214 (74-71-69).

The Chanticleers return to action Fri.-Sun., Oct. 24-26 at the Bank of Tennessee/Ridges Invitational at The Ridges Golf Club in Johnson City, Tenn. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com).

Copyright © 2009 US Fed News (HT Syndication)



# News Clips Report

## **Leggett Proposes \$4.4 Billion Budget Plan**

**Washington Post - Online**

**Rockville, MD**

**Ann Marimow**

**03/16/2009**

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) proposed a \$4.4 billion spending plan this morning that would eliminate 400 government jobs, raise tuition for community college students and reduce funding for a long list of programs for seniors and teenagers.

The budget blueprint, which must be approved by the County Council this spring, would not raise the county's property tax rate. But the bill for a median-priced home of \$380,000 would still increase nearly 8 percent or \$200.

In confronting a more than \$500 million shortfall for fiscal 2010, Leggett said Montgomery is not immune to the national economic crisis and declining housing market. Residents, he said, must adjust their expectations for government services. 'We cannot provide the same level of services people have come to expect. It's just not sustainable,' Leggett said at a news conference in Rockville. 'It will not be easy, but better days are ahead.' Overall county spending would rise 1.9 percent, the smallest year-to-year increase in 18 years. For public schools and Montgomery College campuses, funding would increase 3 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively. But tuition and fees for college students would rise \$3 per credit hour for county residents, \$6 for other Maryland residents and \$9 for out-of-state students.

Under Leggett's plan, government employees, including teachers and other school system workers, would not receive planned cost-of-living pay raises. School officials also said they would back Leggett's proposal to free up about \$50 million by seeking a waiver from an annual education funding obligation through the State Board of Education.

Schools Superintendent Jerry D. Weast called the plan 'the least painful of all the options for both our system and our taxpayers.' Even before Leggett's announcement, there were signs of resistance to some elements of his proposal. The volunteer firefighters' organization called his budget 'dead on arrival' in a news release, because it relies on the creation of an ambulance transport fee to raise about \$14 million. A majority of council members had urged Leggett not to include the fee in his budget because they are not prepared to pass legislation to establish such a fee.

# News Clips Report

## Md. Counties Plan Budget Cuts Washington Post - Online

**03/16/2009**

Leggett Proposes \$4.4 Billion in Spending; Johnson Unveils \$2.58 Billion Blueprint

TOOLBOX

Resize

Save/Share +

COMMENT

Your browser's settings may be preventing you from commenting on and viewing comments about this item. See instructions for fixing the problem.

Discussion Policy

CLOSE

Comments that include profanity or personal attacks or other inappropriate comments or material will be removed from the site. Additionally, entries that are unsigned or contain 'signatures' by someone other than the actual author will be removed. Finally, we will take steps to block users who violate any of our posting standards, terms of use or privacy policies or any other policies governing this site. Please review the full rules governing commentaries and discussions. You are fully responsible for the content that you post.

Who's Blogging

Links to this article

Washington Post Staff Writers

Government officials in Maryland's two largest suburban counties today proposed spending plans that would eliminate hundreds of jobs and cut back on services, as they seek to balance local budgets hit hard by the economic downturn.

This Story

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) proposed a \$4.4 billion plan that would eliminate 400 government jobs, raise tuition for community college students and reduce funding for a long list of programs for seniors and teenagers.

In Prince George's, County Executive Jack B. Johnson (D) proposed a \$2.58 billion budget that would slash 307 county jobs, including 170 positions in public safety, continue unpaid furloughs, and reduce funding for schools. His budget proposal is \$93.3 million, or 3.5 percent, less than this year's spending plan.

The budget blueprint in Montgomery, which must be approved by the County Council this spring, would not raise the county's property tax rate. But the bill for a median-priced home of \$380,000 would still increase nearly 8 percent or \$200.

In confronting a more than \$500 million shortfall for fiscal 2010, Leggett said Montgomery is not immune to the national economic crisis and declining housing market. Residents, he said, must adjust their expectations for government services.

'We cannot provide the same level of services people have come to expect. It's just not sustainable,' Leggett said at a news conference in Rockville. 'It will not be easy, but better days are ahead.'

Overall county spending would rise 1.9 percent, the smallest year-to-year increase in 18 years. For public schools and Montgomery College campuses, funding would increase 3 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively. But tuition and fees for

# News Clips Report

college students would rise \$3 per credit hour for county residents, \$6 for other Maryland residents and \$9 for out-of-state students.

Under Leggett's plan, government employees, including teachers and other school system workers, would not receive planned cost-of-living pay raises. School officials also said they would back Leggett's proposal to free up about \$50 million by seeking a waiver from an annual education funding obligation through the State Board of Education.

Schools Superintendent Jerry D. Weast called the plan 'the least painful of all the options for both our system and our taxpayers.'

Even before Leggett's announcement, there were signs of resistance to some elements of his proposal. The volunteer firefighters' organization called his budget 'dead on arrival' in a news release, because it relies on the creation of an ambulance transport fee to raise about \$14 million. A majority of council members had urged Leggett not to include the fee in his budget because they are not prepared to pass legislation to establish such a fee.

Like many jurisdictions in the region, Prince George's financial outlook was rosy just two years ago, at the height of economic boom as homeowners bought, sold and refinanced homes.

But with the deterioration of the real estate market, Prince George's has nearly hit 'rock bottom,' Johnson said.

# News Clips Report

## Md. County Budget Blueprints Cut Jobs, Services Washington Post - Online

**03/16/2009**

Government officials in Maryland's two largest suburbs, faced with deep potential budget shortfalls, yesterday proposed eliminating more than 700 jobs, imposing an additional unpaid furlough in one county, and making spending cuts that union officials in both counties pledged to resist.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) recommended shrinking the size of government by 400 jobs, scaling back bus service on more than 20 routes and raising community college tuition. In Prince George's, County Executive Jack B. Johnson (D) proposed getting rid of more than 300 jobs, forcing workers to take additional unpaid leave and cutting school funding.

Governments throughout the region are contemplating deep cuts and tax increases as they respond to declining income and real estate tax revenue, a trend expected to persist into the next budget year.

Leggett's \$4.4 billion budget blueprint, which must be approved by the County Council, would not raise property tax revenue above the local limit that ties increases to the rate of inflation. Leggett would provide a \$690 tax credit for primary residences, but the bill for a median-priced home of \$380,000 would still increase nearly 8 percent, or \$200.

In confronting a shortfall exceeding \$500 million for fiscal 2010, Leggett said residents must adjust expectations for the level of services the county can afford. 'It will not be easy, but better days are ahead,' Leggett said. Overall spending would rise 1.9 percent, the smallest year-to-year increase in 18 years. For public schools and Montgomery College campuses, funding would increase 3 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively. To help fund the increase, tuition and fees for college students would rise \$3 per credit hour for county residents, \$6 for other Maryland residents and \$9 for out-of-state students.

Leggett's job-elimination plan would touch nearly every department, including part-time bus drivers, community health nurses and library staff. County workers would not receive planned cost-of-living raises, according to the proposal, although about two-thirds of all employees would still receive annual step raises based on years of service.

Drivers on Montgomery's streets would see the number of stationary speed cameras increase to 60 under Leggett's plan. With the additional cameras, the program is projected to raise \$15.7 million for the budget year that begins July 1.

To help balance the books, Leggett would also seek a waiver from an annual state education funding obligation. The move would free up about \$50 million while providing the school system with the same overall level of funding because of the federal stimulus package. Schools Superintendent Jerry D. Weast called the plan 'the least painful of all the options for both our system and our taxpayers.' Even before Leggett's announcement, the volunteer firefighters' organization scheduled a news conference to declare his budget 'dead on arrival' because it relies on the creation of an ambulance transport fee that would raise about \$14 million. Most council members have said they are not prepared to back the proposal.

John Sparks, president of the union representing career firefighters, said he planned to challenge Leggett's decision not to fund pay raises without the union's blessing. Leggett is legally required to fund employee contracts unless the union renegotiates, but Leggett said he feared that the firefighters' position would unravel deals cut with other unions.

Leggett's plan includes some new investments, such as providing health care for 3,000 uninsured residents and nearly \$58 million for affordable housing. But the list of trims to health and human services programs was particularly long, with cuts in mental health care for children and some addiction services.

Council members gave mixed reviews as they thumbed through the four-pound budget book. Duchy Trachtenberg (D-At Large) called the package 'sobering' and urged colleagues to 'demonstrate real leadership and where necessary, take a different path toward fiscal responsibility.' Council member Michael Knapp (D-Upcounty) questioned some of Leggett's budget assumptions that he called 'a lot of wishful thinking.' In Prince George's, Johnson's \$2.58 billion spending plan, which must also be approved by the County Council, represents a 3.5 percent dip in spending from the current year. Faced with a \$113 million gap, Johnson made cuts in nearly every department: He reduced school funding by 3.7 percent; the community college by 2 percent; human services by 11.5 percent; and public safety by 4.3 percent.

# News Clips Report

With the deterioration of the real estate market, Johnson said the county is near 'rock bottom.' 'While we were able to benefit from a strong economy by investing in our communities for a number of years, it is clear to everyone that those times are over,' Johnson said. For county workers, Johnson would maintain a hiring freeze, require an additional 10-day unpaid furlough on top of one earlier this year and eliminate cost-of-living and merit raises. Job reductions, he said, would save about \$20 million. The second round of furloughs, which would begin July 1, would trim \$17.5 million.

Johnson's plan includes the elimination of 170 public safety jobs, which he said would mostly affect civilian positions. But Doug Bartholomew, president of the Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association, said the loss of 25 employees from the department would put firefighters' lives in jeopardy. 'It will affect the safety of our firefighters and the safety of our community,' he said. Johnson said he hopes to avoid layoffs with additional revenue that could be raised if he is successful in pressing for legislation before the General Assembly. Prince George's is unable to ask residents to pay more in property taxes without help from state lawmakers because of a voter-imposed cap passed in 1978.

A Johnson-backed measure would shift funding of school buses to the Washington Suburban Transit District and save the county about \$30 million. Del. Aisha Braveboy (D-Prince George's) and Del. Justin Ross (D-Prince George's) have also introduced legislation that would allow the county to transfer to its budget about \$30 million from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's surplus. 'We'll only be successful if the members of the General Assembly approve these pieces of legislation,' Johnson said. 'We can't duck from this. We can't wish it away.'

# News Clips Report

## **MONTGOMERY COUNCIL SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR COUNTY PLANNING BOARD POSITION PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest**

**03/16/2009**

ROCKVILLE, Md., March 5 -- Montgomery County issued the following City Council news release:

The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants to fill one vacancy on the Montgomery County Planning Board. The term of John Robinson (Democrat) will expire on June 14. Mr. Robinson has served two terms and is not eligible for reappointment.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m., on Wednesday, April 22.

No more than three members of the Planning Board may be from the same political party, and all members must be residents and registered voters of Montgomery County when appointed. Members serve four-year terms and are limited to two full terms. The position can be filled by a Democrat; a Republican; a voter who declines to affiliate with a party; or by a member of another party officially recognized by the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

In addition to Mr. Robinson, the current board members are Chairman Royce Hanson, a Democrat; Joseph Alfandre, a Democrat; Jean B. Cryor, a Republican; and Amy Presley, a Republican. Annual compensation for board members currently is \$30,000.

The Planning Board serves as the Council's principal adviser on land use planning and community planning. Planning Board members also serve as commissioners of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The Planning Board's responsibilities with regard to planning include preparation and amendment of the County General Plan; preparation and amendment of Master Plans and functional plans; formulation of subdivision regulations; preparation of, or recommendations, on text amendments to the County Zoning Ordinance; implementation of the subdivision process by reviewing and approving all preliminary plans, site plans and other plans for development; advice on the planning implication of capital facilities and programs of the County government, Montgomery College, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and Montgomery County Public Schools; commenting, under its Mandatory Referral authority, on plans for public facilities of local, state and federal agencies; and approval of the work program and the annual operating budget for the Planning Department and the commission's bi-county offices.

The Planning Board sits as the Park Commission and approves the annual Parks Department operating budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget; land acquisition contracts and major development contracts for parks; development plans for individual park facilities; policies for park operations; and park user fees.

The Montgomery County Planning Board meets all day every Thursday and often meets on one other evening a week. The entire Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission meets the third Wednesday of every month. On average, a Planning Board member can expect to spend at least two full days a week in scheduled and informal meetings. Additionally, substantial time is required for preparatory work and other activities related to Planning Board responsibilities.

Letters expressing interest, including a resume listing professional and civic experience, should be addressed to: Council President Phil Andrews, County Council Office, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 22. It is the Council's policy not to consider applications received after the deadline. After the April 22 closing date, Councilmembers will review the letters of application and select applicants for interviews to be held in June.

Letters of application are made public as part of the appointment process. The names of all applicants are published and available for public review and interviews are conducted in public. A resume of professional and civic experience should be included with letters of application. A financial statement of assets, debts, income and family property interests will be required of all applicants. Only the candidates appointed will be required to make their financial statements available to the public. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com).

# News Clips Report

## **Montgomery, Pr. George's Budget Plans Cut Jobs, Services Leggett Proposes \$4.4 Billion in Spending; Washington Post - Online**

**03/16/2009**

Government officials in Maryland's two largest suburban counties today proposed spending plans that would eliminate hundreds of jobs and cut back on services, as they seek to balance local budgets hit hard by the economic downturn.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) proposed a \$4.4 billion plan that would eliminate 400 government jobs, raise tuition for community college students and reduce funding for a long list of programs for seniors and teenagers.

In Prince George's, County Executive Jack B. Johnson (D) proposed a \$2.58 billion budget that would slash 307 county jobs, including 170 positions in public safety, continue unpaid furloughs, and reduce funding for schools. His budget proposal is \$93.3 million, or 3.5 percent, less than this year's spending plan.

The budget blueprint in Montgomery, which must be approved by the County Council this spring, would not raise the county's property tax rate. But the bill for a median-priced home of \$380,000 would still increase nearly 8 percent or \$200.

In confronting a more than \$500 million shortfall for fiscal 2010, Leggett said Montgomery is not immune to the national economic crisis and declining housing market. Residents, he said, must adjust their expectations for government services. 'We cannot provide the same level of services people have come to expect. It's just not sustainable,' Leggett said at a news conference in Rockville. 'It will not be easy, but better days are ahead.' Overall county spending would rise 1.9 percent, the smallest year-to-year increase in 18 years. For public schools and Montgomery College campuses, funding would increase 3 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively. But tuition and fees for college students would rise \$3 per credit hour for county residents, \$6 for other Maryland residents and \$9 for out-of-state students.

Under Leggett's plan, government employees, including teachers and other school system workers, would not receive planned cost-of-living pay raises. School officials also said they would back Leggett's proposal to free up about \$50 million by seeking a waiver from an annual education funding obligation through the State Board of Education.

Schools Superintendent Jerry D. Weast called the plan 'the least painful of all the options for both our system and our taxpayers.' Even before Leggett's announcement, there were signs of resistance to some elements of his proposal. The volunteer firefighters' organization called his budget 'dead on arrival' in a news release, because it relies on the creation of an ambulance transport fee to raise about \$14 million. A majority of council members had urged Leggett not to include the fee in his budget because they are not prepared to pass legislation to establish such a fee.

Like many jurisdictions in the region, Prince George's financial outlook was rosy just two years ago, at the height of economic boom as homeowners bought, sold and refinanced homes.

But with the deterioration of the real estate market, Prince George's has nearly hit 'rock bottom,' Johnson said. 'While we were able to benefit from a strong economy by investing in our communities for a number of years, it is clear to everyone that those times are over,' Johnson said. Johnson said the reduction of the Prince George's payroll would save the county about \$20 million, and the two-week furloughs would save an additional \$17.5 million. Johnson said the layoffs in public safety would mostly be civilian positions, but he noted that the loss of the civilian jobs could have an impact on the number of police officers on patrol.

In September, Johnson forced all 5,600 employees to take two weeks of unpaid leave. He said that the new furloughs would be for 10 days and would begin July 1.

Johnson said he hopes to stave off the layoffs through additional revenue provided by legislation being considered by state lawmakers. The General Assembly has a little more than three weeks left in its annual session.

The lion's share of the Prince George's budget goes to the school system, which receives \$1.6 billion. The proposed spending plan calls for reducing the school's funding by \$24 million, or 3.7 percent.

Johnson did not propose a tax rate increase. Prince George's has a law that makes such increases difficult.

# News Clips Report

The budget, which needs County Council approval, would go into effect July 1.



# News Clips Report

**ALSO PLAYING**  
**The Washington Post**

**03/13/2009**

ALSO PLAYING

Maryland

College

DANCE

ROBERT E. PARILLA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, MONTGOMERY COLLEGE "Sleeping Beauty: A Fairy's Tale."  
Metropolitan Ballet Theatre presents the storybook ballet, Saturday at 1 and 5. 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. 240-567-5301 or <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac>.

# News Clips Report

## College urged to create campus smoking area Gazette, The

**03/13/2009**

Residents say fence prevents smokers from gathering in neighborhoods, but creates other problems

\

Nathan Carrick/The Gazette

Montgomery College erected this chain-link fence last week as a way to keep students from walking off campus and into nearby neighborhoods to smoke. However, some Rockville residents say the fence eliminates easy access to the campus.

Featured Jobs

Loading...

More News

<SW\_Photo=8683>

Calling Montgomery College officials bullies for erecting a 6-foot-high chain-link fence separating the Rockville campus and the College Gardens neighborhood, City Council members on Monday promised to strongly pressure the college to create designated smoking area on campus.

Neighbors on Princeton Place and surrounding residential streets have mixed emotions about the fence, which went up last week and closes the gap that allowed for a free flow of pedestrian and bicycle traffic between the college and the community.

For some, it offers relief from the smokers who congregated on the sidewalk to skirt the college's tobacco-free policy. For others, the closure represents a major inconvenience and means they will have significantly farther to travel to access the college's facilities.

Several residents spoke both in support and opposition to the fence closing at Monday's City Council meeting.

Roberta Farber, who lives on Princeton Place, said closing the fence has been a relief to her and her neighbors.

'Since Montgomery College closed the fence our street looks like it did when I moved there 30 years ago,' Farber said.

However, some students are smoking on the college's side of the fence and throwing their cigarette butts over into the residents' backyards, Farber said.

Others opposed the closing for eliminating pedestrian and bicycle access through the fence.

Elyse Gussow, president of Plymouth Woods Condominiums Inc., said a petition being circulated has collected more than 200 signatures.

'We want to keep the smokers off Princeton Place and keep the fence open,' Gussow said.

Councilman John B. Britton asked the city attorney to review legal issues with both closing the fence and instituting the smoking ban. Some of the issues include the college's obligation for pedestrian and bicycle accessibility and nuisance, suggesting there is a possibility for legal action.

Mayor Susan R. Hoffmann said she wanted to wait until after a March 16 community meeting before taking further action.

'Montgomery College should be warned that this is their last opportunity to do the right thing and designate a smoking

# News Clips Report

area on campus and if they fail to find a way to do that, then we as a body will in fact be reaching out to our state and county officials from whom this college receives their funding,' Hoffmann said.

Residents have testified in front of the college's Board of Trustees, Rockville City Council and the Rockville Planning Commission to complain about the smoking problem.

Most blame the school's tobacco-free policy, which it adopted in August, for creating the issue.

The school has remained steadfast in its refusal to rescind or modify the policy to allow a designated smoking area on campus.

A meeting between community members, college officials and city officials to discuss the ongoing issue is scheduled for March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockville Library in Town Square.

There will also be a meeting Thursday at 4 p.m. in Room CC015 of the Campus Center building at the college with community members and college officials.

# News Clips Report

## **School Notes | The Gazette Papers**

**03/11/2009**

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

School Notes |

Disability Support Services

to host information night

Montgomery College Disability Support Services will hold its information night 7-9 p.m. March 24 in the Technical Center Building, Room 136, on the school's Rockville campus.

Topics for the evening include how to apply for support services, what documentation is required, how course placement is determined, what college expects of students and what accommodations are available at Montgomery College.

Montgomery College is located at 51 Mannakee St. in Rockville.

For more information, call Disability Support Services at 240-567-5058.

Share good news about your school! Send items to Melissa A. Chadwick via e-mail at [mchadwick@gazette.net](mailto:mchadwick@gazette.net), by fax to 301-670-7183 or by mail to 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Photos will also be considered.

# News Clips Report

## Beauty beyond the surface Howard County Times

**03/10/2009**

New magazine features the attractiveness within

gglenn@patuxent.com

When Eliane Adebiyi was a 7-year-old girl living with her grandparents in Cameroon, she loved to braid hair. After living for a time in Paris, she moved to Mitchellville while in high school in 1993 to be with her mother, and had dreams of pursuing a career as a hair stylist after graduation.

While attending Montgomery College, she met her husband, who encouraged her to enroll in Dudley Beauty College in Washington, which she did in 2000. And now, not only does she co-own L&O House of Beauty in Lanham with her mother, but she also has her own magazine, Lady Elegance, which she publishes from her Main Street office in Laurel.

The magazine was originally published as Hair Elegance, but on Feb. 21 she relaunched the publication with the new name at a reception and dinner party, with a fashion show and live entertainment.

'Hair Elegance was just a hair magazine, but I wanted a more multicultural lifestyle magazine, which Lady Elegance is,' she said.

The inaugural issue of Lady Elegance, which will be published four times a year, features articles on adoption, a childcare mission in Uganda, President Obama's economic plan, having that first baby, a column on spirituality and a teen corner.

The teen section stems from a group, Jewlz, that Adebiyi established for the magazine to get young girls involved in community service and other positive activities. Her 15-year-old daughter, Abigale, is the teen editor for the section.

The majority of Lady Elegance's articles have a common thread: to tell stories of challenges and life experiences with a positive message. And Adebiyi is collecting them from as far away as Iran to as close to home as Laurel.

'We're reaching out to every community because we all have lots in common -- we raise children, have dreams -- and we can learn from one another,' she said. 'I want the articles to inspire and uplift. ... I want people to say, 'because of this story, I didn't give up but pushed harder to strive to be the best person I can be and did things I never thought I could do.' That's my goal.'

Adebiyi also sees her message as the main criteria in picking those who will grace Lady Elegance's cover.

'We define beauty by 'what have you done at the end of the day to uplift someone,' ' she said. 'If you happen to be pretty, that's OK, but for us, beauty comes in all shapes and sizes.'

Adebiyi's only restriction is on using celebrities on her covers. Instead she uses someone like the former single mother on the cover of the first issue.

'When readers see the cover, I want them to see their neighbor or someone they can relate to,' she said.

Adebiyi had two of her children when she was a teenager, and said she knows what other women may be going through - juggling school, careers and daycare -- and what it feels like to be looked down on. 'It was a painful time in my life,' she said.

According to Adebiyi, when she met her husband, who owns New Evolution Graphics on Main Street, he supported her ambitions and got her involved in the church at a time when she wasn't sure about her faith. 'I didn't think people cared. My husband was a Godsend because I had drive but not a lot of help and he helped me,' Adebiyi said.

In addition to her own experiences, she said the stories of her salon clients motivated her to want to start a magazine featuring women who had triumphed over various odds.

# News Clips Report

'As I was doing hair and transforming women's outer beauty, we shared stories, we cried, laughed and uplifted each other, and I thought, 'how about sharing these stories in a magazine?' ' she said.

Her mother, Odette Vieyra, said, 'I told her to try and make the magazine work and I'd back her up. I'm so proud of her. I believe God wanted her to do this.'

As an active member of the Tabernacle Church in Laurel, Adebisi said it's natural for spirituality to be reflected in the stories that appear in Lady Elegance, and many of the first-person articles have a faith-based message.

'I am a believer, but in Lady Elegance, I'm reaching out to believers and non-believers. I'm not trying to preach to people, but sharing the goodness of God in my life and the stories of others,' she said.

During the relaunch party, Adebisi presented her church's copastor, Dr. Manon Gurley, with an award for her work in the Laurel community. Gurley, who wrote a spiritual column in Lady Elegance, said, 'It's a good magazine filled with uplifting articles and it's wonderful to have it in Laurel.'

Although 15,000 copies of the magazine are printed and available for free in varied locations, the majority of Adebisi's marketing resources are used to promote Lady Elegance to an international readership on the Internet.

Additionally, this past summer, Adebisi used a friend's wedding in Paris to promote the magazine, and featured photos and interviews from the trip in her reader's corner section of the magazine. This summer she plans to take her promotional campaign to Beijing.

'I believe God has something he wants me to accomplish with this magazine and I don't know exactly what all of that is,' she said. 'But I know God will provide what needs to be done to make it happen.'

# News Clips Report

## Science center effort gathers momentum Gazette, The

03/09/2009

Organizers of the Rockville Science Center project have no money, no site to build on and no firm commitments of support, but say they have a renewed focus on making the dream of a place that promotes the sciences come true.

The boards of trustees and volunteers, who recently applied for nonprofit status, have re-energized their efforts since the first of the year with monthly Science Cafs. 'At the moment, we're ready and hoping not only to draw upon people who would like to be involved, but we want to build a cadre of individuals who are willing to put the sweat equity into the program and help us make it happen,' said Rockville City Councilwoman Phyllis R. Marcuccio, who also serves on the center's organizing committee.

The idea for a facility that would feature exhibits and hands-on activities began with the Rockville Consortium for Science, a group of residents whose goals include educating people on the sciences. The consortium holds the popular Rockville Science Day each spring that draws several hundred visitors. 'The concept of Science Day is what the Rockville Science Center would be like if we had one,' said Robert Ekman, president of the consortium.

This year Science Day will be held April 26 at Montgomery College's Rockville campus. The group completed a feasibility study in 2006, and members of the group, including then-mayor Larry Giammo and Marcuccio, visited with businesses and the scientific community to see where they might find support.

The next step toward the goal of creating the Rockville Science Center is raising funds.

According to the feasibility study, building the center could cost up to \$7 million, compared with \$1.5 million to renovate an existing space. The City of Rockville funded the \$59,300 study, but has said private funding must be found to pay for building the center.

Once the center is established, 'then our goal will shift to supporting a science center,' Ekman said. The Maryland Science Center in Baltimore has given the group its tacit support. 'They have told us, 'You are primed down there in Montgomery County for a science center,' Marcuccio said. The second Rockville Science Caf on Feb. 24, featuring a discussion on evolution by Robert 'Mac' West, the co-author of a feasibility study completed through his company, Informal Learning Experiences Inc., drew 60 to 75 people, including 'hard-core academics,' parents with children, teachers and retirees, organizers said. 'We definitely have an audience, there's no question about it,' Marcuccio said. Having a science center in Rockville would complement the abundance of highly educated and science-savvy residents, science-related organizations and 'excellent' school system in Montgomery County, West said. 'We intend to be not just Rockville's science center, but of course Montgomery County,' Ekman said.

# News Clips Report

## **MONTGOMERY COUNCILMEMBER BERLINER TO HOST FREE FORUM FOR SENIORS ON MARCH 6** **PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest**

**03/07/2009**

ROCHVILLE, Md., March 5 -- Montgomery County issued the following City Council news release:

Montgomery County District 1 Councilmember Roger Berliner is inviting area senior citizens and those interested in senior issues to join him from 2-4 p.m. on Friday, March 6, at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad for a free forum especially geared to senior residents of Montgomery County. The forum's theme is "Security for Seniors in an Uncertain Time."

Councilmember Berliner, whose district includes Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, Friendship Heights, North Bethesda, Potomac and Somerset, will be joined by U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, several guest speakers and representatives of many organizations that provide services to seniors. [ASSIGNMENT EDITOR'S NOTE: Senator Cardin will be present in the early part of the forum. He is expected to be available starting about 1:45 p.m.]

The forum will be held from 2-4 p.m. in the Anastasia Room of the Rescue Squad, which is located at 5020 Battery Lane (corner of Old Georgetown Road and Battery Lane) in Bethesda.

"More and more senior citizens are choosing to retire right here in Montgomery County where they have always enjoyed living," said Councilmember Berliner. "We are excited by this trend that allows seniors to remain close to their families and friends and age in place. My hope is that this forum helps by providing assistance in a number of ways, including with advice on finances, recommendations on improvements to homes that could be greatly beneficial to their changing lifestyles and with information on the many agencies and services that are readily available to our residents."

Also speaking at the forum will be Montgomery County Police District Commander Russ Hamill, who will offer "Safety Tips for Seniors" and Stan Hinden, a former financial reporter for the Washington Post who will address "Living on Less."

In addition, information will be available about property tax credits available to Montgomery County senior homeowners.

Organizations and government agencies providing information will include the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce; the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center; the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad; Community Partners; Family and Nursing Care Inc.; G.R.O.W.S; Interages; Jewish Council on Aging; Meals on Wheels; Montgomery College; the Montgomery County Department of Recreation; the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service; the Montgomery County Police Department; the Montgomery County Office of Aging and Disability Services; OASIS; Senior Checked; Senior Connection; the Senior Health Insurance Program; Strategies for Independent Living; Suburban Hospital; The Beacon; Top Banana Home-Delivered Groceries; and Vamoose Bus service.

More information about the forum is available by calling 240-777-7828. For more information about US Fed News contract awards please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, US Fed News, Email:- [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com).

Copyright © 2009 US Fed News (HT Syndication)