

News Clips Report

Date	HeadLine	Outlet
12/05/2008	Cardin: Federal spending needed for economy	The Gazette
12/04/2008	Grant to Assist Veterans At Montgomery College	Washington Post
12/04/2008	GOING ON TODAY AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE IN ROCKVILLE.	ABC 2 Good Morning MD - WMAR
12/04/2008	IT'S AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S ROCKVILLE CAMPUS, 51 MANNAKEE STREET.	Morning Report - NewsChannel 8
12/04/2008	IT'S AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S ROCKVILLE CAMPUS, 51 MANNAKEE STREET.	Morning Report - NewsChannel 8
12/04/2008	DISCUSS THE ECONOMY AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE IN ROCKVILLE AND	ABC 2 Good Morning MD - WMAR
12/04/2008	Agency Establishes In-Home Care Fund Needy Seniors, Health Workers Targeted	Washington Post - Online
12/04/2008	Daybook Thu Metro	AP Alert - DC Daybook
12/04/2008	Forum Equips Teenage Girls To Handle Real-Life Situations	Washingtonpost - Online
12/04/2008	King for a day Singer celebrates 42 years in operatic holiday role	Gazette, The
12/04/2008	King for a day with nonprofit The Frederick Camerata	Gazette, The
12/04/2008	MARYLAND MOMENTS Dance Studio Offers a Holiday Lift	Washington Post - Online
12/04/2008	Montgomery College Forum Equips Teenage Girls To Handle Real-Life Situations	Washington Post - Online
12/04/2008	Patricia Sullivan Lighting up the holidays	San Gabriel Valley Tribune
12/04/2008	School Notes	Washingpost - Online
12/04/2008	Teen gets community service for role in death	Gazette, The
12/04/2008	The Associated Press	AP Alert - DC Daybook
12/04/2008	What's Happening	Washington Post - Online
12/03/2008	Teen gets community service for role in death	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	Shock, mourning over Mumbai siege	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	School Notes A place for students to run at school without getting detention	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	A place for students to run at school without getting detention	Gazette, The
12/03/2008	Adventist to file for state approval for proposed hospital	Gazette, The
12/03/2008	Adventist to file for state approval for proposed hospital	The Gazette
12/03/2008	Adventist Undeterred by Holy Cross Plan	Washingtonpost - Online
12/03/2008	AIDS forum targets minorities for prevention message	The Gazette
12/03/2008	AIDS forum targets minorities for prevention message	Gazette, The
12/03/2008	Business calendar	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	Business calendar	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	Daybook Thu Metro	AP Alert - DC Daybook
12/03/2008	Holy Child students learn about hunger through eating	Gazette, The
12/03/2008	Lord of the Flies	On Tap
12/03/2008	MONTGOMERY HEALTH CARE Adventist Undeterred by Holy Cross Plan	Washington Post - Online

12/03/2008	Montgomery Hot Tickets	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	People and Places	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	School Notes Holy Child students learn about hunger through eating	The Gazette
12/03/2008	Shock, mourning over Mumbai siege	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	Shock, mourning over Mumbai siege	Gazette, The
12/03/2008	Teen gets community service for role in death of Gaithersburg man	Gazette, The
12/03/2008	Teen gets community service for role in death of Gaithersburg man	The Gazette of Politics and Business
12/03/2008	Teen sentenced to community service for role in death of man	Gazette, The
12/03/2008	Teenagers' views of the world	The Gazette
12/03/2008	The Office of Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md. - Meeting	FIND Washington Daybook
12/02/2008	Building Plan Stirs Up Hospital Rivalry in Montgomery County	Washington Post - Online
12/02/2008	December 4 Montgomery College To Host Town Hall Meeting With U.S. Senator Benjamin Card	PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest
12/02/2008	Health commissioner visits Marion County facility	Chattanooga Times Free Press
12/02/2008	Shock and mourning expressed in Maryland over Mumbai attacks	Gazette, The
12/01/2008	AND PLANNING OFFICIALS, AND MONTGOMERY COLLEGE EMPLOYEES CANNOT TAKE	WASHINGTON REPORT - NC8
12/01/2008	Montgomery Co. Helping Employees Buy First Home	NewsChannel 8
12/01/2008	Shock and mourning over Mumbai attacks	The Gazette
12/01/2008	Shock and mourning over Mumbai attacks	Gazette, The
11/30/2008	All Is Bright for Jupiter, Venus	Washingtonpost - Online
11/30/2008	Obituaries	Washington Post - Online
11/29/2008	Yesterday's Charm, Today's Convenience	Washingtonpost - Online
11/28/2008	Montgomery Hot Tickets	The Gazette
11/28/2008	Teens hope to 'Kick Ash' with program for high schools	Gazette, The
11/28/2008	The Nutcracker'	Washingtonpost - Online
11/27/2008	Dance: Getting 'cracking At 'Nutcracker' season	Howard County Times
11/26/2008	Huruicanes and the Middle Atlantic States	The Gazette
11/26/2008	Alternative gift fair in Takoma Park	The Gazette
11/26/2008	Business Notes	The Gazette
11/26/2008	Regional center receives EPA Smart Growth award	Gazette, The
11/26/2008	School News	The Gazette
11/26/2008	Schools likely to be closed on Inauguration Day	Gazette, The
11/26/2008	Teen's hope to 'Kick Ash' with program for high schools	The Gazette
11/23/2008	'Amtrak Joe' No More	The New York Times

News Clips Report

Cardin: Federal spending needed for economy The Gazette

12/05/2008

Friday, Dec. 5, 2008

Cardin: Federal spending needed for economy
Senator says U.S. can manage price tag after recession
by Douglas Tallman | Staff Writer
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Charles E. Shoemaker/The Gazette

U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin explains that spending money may lead the economy to recovery at a town hall meeting Thursday at Montgomery College's Rockville campus. Featured Jobs
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Now is not the time to be worried about the final price tag of the federal government's spending spree to get the American economy out of the recession, U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin said Thursday.

"The number one priority is to get our economy back on track," Cardin said. "And unfortunately, you've got to get yourself out of the problem by almost doing what got you into the problem. You've got to spend money. The government has got to spend money. We can't raise taxes now."

The first-term senator was at Montgomery College speaking before more than 100 students and staff about the economy and the incoming Obama administration.

President-elect Barack Obama plans to sign an economic stimulus package just after he takes office Jan. 20. The package could cost \$500 billion to \$1 trillion.

"That package needs to be focused on our communities, on students and their need for affordable loans for colleges, on small businesses and getting the loans they need in order to stay in business and community banks so they don't have to worry about Wall Street in order to survive," Cardin said after his talk.

Paying for it won't take magic, he said.

"You've got to cut spending, and you have to enhance revenues. That's how you balance the budget, but you don't do that in a recession. In a recession, you need to stimulate the economy and create jobs," Cardin said.

The U.S. debt is about \$10 trillion now and sure to grow.

"We can manage that debt," he said. What we can't manage is the continuing growth of that debt. And that's what we have to stop, and clearly that's when our economy is back on track."

Questions ranged from Iran's nuclear plan to small business.

On Iran, Cardin said he doesn't favor the U.S. instigating a regime change, but he would support the kind of economic isolation that forced South Africa to abandon apartheid.

On small business, Cardin said the government needed to create programs separate from the Small Business Administration, as it did in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

He also favors breaking federal contracts into smaller chunks so small businesses could afford to bid. He also called on the U.S. government to waive surety bonds that small businesses must get to perform government work. The leading issuer of the bonds is American International Group, the insurance giant that nearly went under in September.

"Try to get a surety bond if you're a small business from AIG today," Cardin said.

News Clips Report

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News Clips Report

Grant to Assist Veterans At Montgomery College Washington Post

12/04/2008

Montgomery College has received a \$100,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation to support veterans and veteran programs, college officials announced last week.

The foundation awarded grants to 10 colleges and universities nationwide that offer veteran educational assistance programs.

The community college started the Combat2College program this fall to provide services to its nearly 300 identified student veterans who are enrolled in credit classes. The services include disability support, academic counseling, a seminar course, open gym hours, and assistance in creating veterans clubs and mentor programs.

Program partners include the National Rehabilitation Hospital, the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The college also has collaborated with Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the American Council for Education to provide classes for wounded veterans on the medical center's campus.

News Clips Report

GOING ON TODAY AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE IN ROCKVILLE. ABC 2 Good Morning MD - WMAR

12/04/2008

THEY ARE GOING TO REPRESENT ABOUT 8% OF THE WORK FORCE TOTAL. AND RIGHT NOW WE'RE WAITING TO SEE WHAT TYPE OF JOBS ARE CUT. WHO IS GOING TO LOSE THEM? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT BEING TOLD SOME WE'RE BEING TOLD SOME WILL BE ELIMINATED QUICKLY, OTHERS WILL CUT IN 2009. THE FATE OF CONSTELLATION ENERGY'S PROPOSED \$4.7 BILLION TAKEOVER BY MID-AMERICAN HAS BEEN CAST INTO QUESTION BY THE COMPANY'S LARGEST SHAREHOLDER. WE'RE TOLD THESE LAYOFFS ARE UNRELATED TO THE TAKEOVER AND WE'RE ALSO TOLD OTHER COST-CUTTING MEASURES WERE PUT INTO PLACE BEFORE THESE JOB REDUCTIONS WERE ANNOUNCED. WE'RE TRYING TO GET BGE SPOKESMAN ROB GOULD ON IN ABOUT AN HOUR TO TALK MORE ABOUT THE LAYOFFS. WE'RE TRYING TO HELP YOU KEEP YOUR WALLET FULL. YOU SHOULD GO TO THE FINANCIAL SURVIVAL GUIDE AT ABC2NEWS.COM. ON THERE TODAY, WE'RE IN A RECESSION BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? IT MAY BE A GREAT TIME TO CONSIDER REAL ESTATE. WE HAVE QUICK TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN INVEST WISELY, PLUS, HOW ABOUT THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE ON THAT JOB INTERVIEW? WAITING FOR YOU NOW AT ABC2NEWS.COM. HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY ON THIS DECEMBER DAY. A BALTIMORE CENTER FOR SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN WILL BE DEDICATED TODAY. ALSO, HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES WILL LAUNCH A STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN TO CREATE THE MARYLAND CANCER TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR UNINSURED PATIENTS. AND SENATOR BEN CARDIN WILL DISCUSS THE ECONOMY GOING ON TODAY AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE IN ROCKVILLE. 6:20 THIS MORNING. LOOKS LIKE BALLY'S TOTAL HEALTH AND FITNESS ISN'T TOUGH ENOUGH TO BEAT OUT THE ECONOMY. THE FITNESS CENTER WHICH OPERATES 347 HEALTH CLUBS NATIONWIDE INCLUDING THIS ONE IN TOWSON FILED FOR CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN 17 MONTHS THAT BALLY'S FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION. THE COMPANY IS NOW UP FOR SALE. HERE'S WHAT THE GOVERNOR HAS PLANNED FOR YOU WHO WORKED FOR THE STATE FURLOUGH DAYS THAT ARE COMING. HE EXPECTS IT WILL SAVE MARYLAND AT LEAST \$34 MILLION. ALLSTATE EMPLOYEES EXCEPT EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES WILL TAKE AT LEAST TWO FURLOUGH DAYS. ONE THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, THE OTHER DAY AFTER NEW YEAR'S DAY. MORE FURLOUGH DAYS ARE EXPECTED TO HELP MAKE UP FOR A \$200 MILLION DROP IN STATE REVENUE. PROVIDENT BANK SIGNED ON TO A HOWARD COUNTY LOAN PROGRAM AIMED AT REVITALIZING ROUTE ONE. THE LARGEST HOME GROWN BANK IN THE GREATER BALTIMORE AREA, IT WILL OFFER FINANCING TO BUSINESSES TO IMPROVE BUILDING AND SITE CONDITIONS ALONG ROUTE 1 STRETCHING FROM LAUREL NORTH ALL THE WAY TO ELKRIDGE. BACK IN 2007 THEY BECAME THE 10th LARGEST COMMERCIAL HELPER LENDER WITH MORE THAN \$400,000 DOLLARS IN COMMERCIAL LOANS. YOU MAY NOT WANT TO RAISE YOUR GLASS TO THIS. IF SOME STATE HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE THEIR WAY YOU COULD SOON BE PAYING MORE HIGHER TAXES ON BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR. MARYLAND HAS NOT RAISED TAXES ON BEER OR WINE SINCE 1972 AND THEY'VE BEEN THE SAME FOR DISTILLED SPIRITS SINCE 1955. BUT THE MARYLAND CITIZENS HEALTH INITIATIVE WILL INTRODUCE A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THAT IN AN EFFORTS TO FUND HEALTH CARE IN OUR STATE. FREDRICK COUNTY NOW DROPPING ITS BAN ON ALCOHOL IN PARKS. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTED TO GET RID OF THE TWO-YEAR BAN SO PEOPLE CAN HAVE A FEW DRINKS AT OUTDOOR EVENTS. IT WILL STAY IN EFFECT UNTIL NEW REGULATIONS CAN BE ADOPTED IN THE COMING WEEKS. LOCAL UTILITIES SAID NO TO A PROPOSAL THAT WOULD HAVE HELPED MINORITIES AND WOMEN DO BUSINESS WITH THEM. AN AGREEMENT BROUGHT BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE SET A GOAL OF SPENDING 25% OF CONTRACT FUNDS WITH BUSINESSES OWNED BY MINORITIES, WOMEN AND SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS. BUT UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES TOLD THE PSC SUCH A GOAL MIGHT NOT BE ATTAINABLE. THEY HOPE TO REVISE THE AGREEMENT AND BRING IT BACK TO THE UTILITIES BY JANUARY 16th. BEFORE YOU GRAB THAT ACTION FIGURE NOR YOUR KIDS' WISH LIST, WE HAVE A RECALL TO TELL YOU ABOUT. THE OK TRADING COMPANY ALONG WITH THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ANNOUNCED A VOLUNTARY RECALL OF THESE GUYS, 7-INCH ARMY FIGURES. THEY FEAR THEY COULD EXCEED LEAD LEVELS. MANUFACTURED IN CHINA, COST ABOUT A BUCK. IF YOU HAVE THEM, YOU'RE URGED TO CALL 1-877-655-8697, FOR A FULL REFUND. THESE GROOVY CLOTHES NOT JAMMING ANYMORE. NOW THAT THEY'VE BEEN RECALLED, THE SASSY JAMMIES DOLL COLLECTION ALSO COULD HAVE, EXCESSIVE LEVELS OF LEAD IN IT. THEY WERE SOLD ON LINE. FOR A FULL REFUND OR STORE CREDIT CALL 1-800-541-1345. SASSY JAMMIES. I'M STILL TRYING TO GET OVER THE FACT YOU SAID GROOVY. NEW THIS MORNING THE NUMBERS ARE IN. LOOKS LIKE A GREEN LIGHT COULD BE GIVEN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND STUDENTS AFTER THE SUCCESS THE BWI SHUTTLE PROGRAM OVER THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. MORE THAN 300 STUDENTS RODE THE BUSES ON TUESDAY

News Clips Report

AND WEDNESDAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING AND THAT WAS EXCEEDING THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR WHO SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED 100 RIDERS A SUCCESS.

News Clips Report

**IT'S AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S ROCKVILLE CAMPUS, 51 MANNAKEE STREET.
Morning Report - NewsChannel 8**

12/04/2008

REPORT, MARYLAND SENATOR BEN CARDIN IS TALKING MONEY TODAY. HE'LL HOST A TOWN HALL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ECONOMY AND PROSPECTIVE JOBS. STUDENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ASK CARDIN QUESTIONS ON THE ECONOMY OR ANYTHING ELSE. THE MEETING IS TODAY AT NOON. IT'S AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S ROCKVILLE CAMPUS, 51 MANNAKEE STREET. IT MAY BE A LITTLE NOISY IN THE SKIES TONIGHT. NORAD IS CONDUCTING A ONE-DAY TRAINING EXERCISE HERE IN THE DC AREA, BUT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. THE AGENCY SAYS IT'S TESTING ITS INTERCEPT AND IDENTIFICATION OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS A VISUAL WARNING SYSTEM. THE FLIGHTS WILL OCCUR DURING THE LATE NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING HOURS. FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE ARE MAKING THE HOLIDAY SEASON A LITTLE BRIGHTER FOR AREA KIDS TODAY. THEY'LL PARTNER WITH "BIKES FOR TYKES AND TEENS" TO GIVE AWAY UNCLAIMED BICYCLES. THE "BIKE LOAD-UP" IS AT 10 THIS MORNING, AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNEX BUILDING ON PAGE AVENUE IN FAIRFAX. TOSS TO WEATHERBIG LOCAL BUSINESS NEWS THIS MORNING, ONE OF THE BIGGEST BANKS IN THE WASHINGTON REGION WILL SOON BE UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP. MC-LEAN BASED CAPITOL ONE HAS REPORTEDLY BOUGHT CHEVY CHASE BANK FOR 520-MILLION DOLLARS IN CASH AND STOCK. THE DEAL IS EXPECTED TO CLOSE IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF NEXT YEAR. UNNAMED SOURCES SAY THE BUYOUT WILL NOT IMPACT CUSTOMERS AT THE LANDMARK LOCAL BANK. IT WAS NO DOUBT A TOUGH DECISION, BUT THEY SAY IT'S FOR THE GREATER GOOD. TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL WORKERS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARE GIVING UP RAISES FOR NEXT YEAR. THEY AGREED TO GIVE UP A FIVE-PERCENT SALARY BOOST, IN ORDER TO HELP BALANCE THE BUDGET. SUPERINTENDENT JERRY WEAST SAYS HE AND OTHER TOP ADMINISTRATORS ARE ALSO GIVING UP "THEIR" RAISES. THE MOVE WILL SAVE THE SCHOOL SYSTEM 89- MILLION DOLLARS. AND BEFORE WE HEAD OVER TO JOE, WE WANT TO CONGRATULATE OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS AT WT OP RADIO. ACCORDING TO BRAND NEW FIGURES, WTOP IS WASHINGTON'S NUMBER ONE RADIO STATION ALL DAY LONG. THEY PROVIDE A GREAT SERVICE TO THEIR LISTENERS AND WE'RE PROUD OF THEM. TOSS TO WEATHERTHE WIZARDS.

News Clips Report

**IT'S AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S ROCKVILLE CAMPUS, 51 MANNAKEE STREET.
Morning Report - NewsChannel 8**

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News Clips Report

DISCUSS THE ECONOMY AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE IN ROCKVILLE AND ABC 2 Good Morning MD - WMAR

12/04/2008

TOMORROW, THE SUPREME COURT IS GOING TO CONSIDER A LAWSUIT CHALLENGING THE LEGAL STATUS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA ON WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS BORN IN HAWAII. THIS HAS BEEN MAKING THE ROUNDS ON THE INTERNET. THE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS FIRST REPORTED THE STORY ON ITS WEB SITE, CALLING CLARENCE THOM'S ACTION HIGHLY UNUSUAL. WHEN THOMAS AGREED TO HEAR THE APPEAL HE APPARENTLY BROKE WITH THE COURT TRADITION OF JUSTICES NOT ENTERING IN CASES INTERCEDING IN CASES WHERE THE COURT HAS RULED. PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA MAINTAINS HE WAS BORN IN THE UNITED STATES. A DEMOCRAT SAYS PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA PICK FOR HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY WAS A A GOOD ONE BECAUSE SHE HAS NO FAMILY AND COULD DEVOTE MORE TIME TO HER JOB. A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE GOVERNOR JANET NAPOLITANO, NEVER MARRIED, NEVER HAD CHILDREN, SAID SHE CONSIDERED RENDELL A GOOD FRIEND. IF YOU WANT TO SEE HOW THE ECONOMY IS AFFECTING US, GET IN LINE. ONE BUSINESS IS EXPANDING, WITH ALL OF US PINCHING PENNIES, YOU HAVE TO LOVE FREE FOOD. HERE'S CHERYL CONNOR, LIVE WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE. WHAT IS GOING ON THERE? Reporter: GOOD MORNING. THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE LIVE IN LANSDOWNE WHERE CHICK-FIL-A IS GOING TO OPEN A NEW LOCATION HERE IN ABOUT AN HOUR. LET ME SHOW YOU THE PARKING LOT. THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE DO WHEN YOU SAY "FREE FOOD FOR A YEAR. " THE PARKING LOT HAS TURNED INTO A CAMPGROUND, GET THIS, MORE THAN BLACK FRIDAY LIKE WE SHOWED YOU A WEEK AGO WHERE THOSE PEOPLE WAITED 12 HOURS. THESE PEOPLE HAVE WAITED SINCE 6:00 YESTERDAY MORNING. SO WE'RE TALKING ALMOST 24 HOURS. SOME PEOPLE ARE UP EARLY, READY TO GET THAT FREE FOOD. ONE OF THEM IS TIFFANY McEL-ROADWAY McYOU'VE WAITED WAIT 6 HOURS. IT'S \$416 WORTH OF FOOD. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT THAT IS 52 MEALS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PAYING FOR. IT REALLY TAKES, YOU KNOW, A CRUNCH OUT OF THE POCKET. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT. I HAVE TWO SMALL CHILDREN. THAT LOVE CHICK-FIL-A. THEY ARE OBSESSED WITH THEIR NUGGETS. TO BE HONEST THE FOOD TASTES WONDERFUL. IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. ALL THESE PEOPLE, THINK ABOUT IT, 100 PEOPLE, 52 FREE MEALS AT \$416. THAT'S LIKE \$416,000. WHAT A SAVINGS ESPECIALLY IN THIS ECONOMY. YOU CAN'T GET A BETTER DEAL ANYWHERE ELSE. NOBODY ELSE GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE OUTSIDE, AND IT'S NOT JUST MARYLAND, THEY DO THIS EVERYWHERE, ALL THEIR OPENINGS. TIFFANY McELROY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR JOINING US. TWO LOCATIONS, ONE IN LANSDOWNE, THE OTHER IN LAUREL. CHICK-FIL-A SAYS THEY WILL BE BRINGING IN 120 NEW JOBS WITH THE MARYLAND WITH THE TWO NEW LOCATIONS. THE PEOPLE ARE OUT HERE WITH WRIST BANDS. AT 6:00 THIS MORNING THEY WILL BE ABLE TO GO INSIDE, GET THE COUPONS THAT WILL GIVE THEM 52 MEALS. SO THAT'S ONE MEAL FOR THE NEXT YEAR. AS TIFFANY SAYS, IT'S MEANS A LOT IN THESE TOUGH TIMES. WE'LL BE OUT HERE ALL MORNING LONG AND SHOW YOU THE LIVE PICTURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008 THE ORIOLES WILL HOST A CHRISTMAS PARTY TODAY FOR THE KIDS AT THE ESPN ZONE. SENATOR CARDIN WILL DISCUSS THE ECONOMY AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE IN ROCKVILLE AND CELEBRATION AT THE PORT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR A MAJOR LONGTERM CONTRACT. WE'LL HAVE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS THERE. LOVE THOSE CHICK-FIL-A OPENINGS. THAT SHOWS WHERE WE ARE TODAY. THE PRESSURE IS ON TO MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS RIGHT. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF AND GIVE YOU SOME IDEAS THAT WON'T COST A LOT. AND ALL BUNDLED UP AT 47th AND 5th AVENUE FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE ROCKEFELLER CHRISTMAS TREE. CHILL OUT THERE. 37 DEGREES. JUSTIN BERK WILL LET US KNOW IF THERE WILL BE A WARM-UP OR NOT. AND HERE'S MARK JONES WITH A LOOK AT THE MTA REPORT. Reporter: ON THE MARC TRAIN, PENN 503 IS 10 MINUTES LATE. THE OTHER MARC TRAINS ARE ON TIME. METRO LOOKING GOOD, ON THE BUSES, 77 DIVERTED AT WASHINGTON BOULEVARD AND LANSDOWNE, CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES THERE. A HEAVY VOLUME OF PASSENGERS ON THE 7, 23, 15 AND 5 BUS LINES. WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK. WE'LL BE BACK.

News Clips Report

Agency Establishes In-Home Care Fund Needy Seniors, Health Workers Targeted Washington Post - Online

12/04/2008

Growing up next door to her grandparents, Sandy Kursban learned to respect her elders at an early age. It's a lesson that has guided her life's work -- a 40-year family business and, now, a vital community service.

Kursban is the founder and chairman of Silver Spring's Family & Nursing Care, an agency that matches caregivers with Maryland and Washington area seniors who want to remain in their homes as they age.

She celebrated the firm's 40th anniversary this fall by establishing the Family & Nursing Care Foundation, a fund overseen by the Montgomery County Community Foundation that is aimed at making home care an affordable option for more Montgomery County seniors. 'The foundation comes from 40 years of wanting to give back,' said Kursban, who launched the fund with a personal donation. Over the years, she has donated to nonprofit organizations, hosted senior events and served on committees on aging.

The desire to establish a fund for the elderly 'is something that's always been there for me,' she said. Kursban said she hopes the fund will help meet the increasing demand for care as baby boomers start to retire. 'I got very concerned about the shortage of caregivers,' she said. 'What's going to happen to our seniors down the road?' The Family & Nursing Care Foundation aims to address the caregiver shortage on two levels: by providing grants to nonprofit organizations that can help low-income seniors afford home care, and by providing scholarships to people who want to become certified nursing assistants.

The grants will be awarded through the Montgomery County Community Foundation, which helps corporations set up charitable funds within its parent organization. Kursban and her colleagues will make recommendations for grants, which Community Foundation staff will help turn into a reality. 'It's great that this company can celebrate a special moment in its history -- its 40th anniversary -- by giving back to the community,' said Sally Rudney, executive director of the Community Foundation.

Kursban's history of senior care began when she moved to the Washington area from her native Ohio in the mid-1960s. Married and the mother of a 5-month-old, she wanted to start a business. 'In the '60s, you go to college, you graduate, you get married and that's it,' Kursban said. 'I just wanted to have something of my own.' Seeing her grandfather unhappy in a nursing home, Kursban wanted to find a way to help seniors maintain their independence. 'There's another way for older people to live,' she said. She founded Family & Nursing Care in 1968. For the first 12 years, the company was a one-room office with two employees. Today, it has 40 employees and about 1,000 caregivers.

Kursban's son, Neal, succeeded her as the agency's president in 1995. Her daughters are also in the family business -- Mindy Kursban works as the company's attorney, and Julie Black runs its Virginia affiliate, NurtureCare.

The agency's nurses and nursing assistants undergo a background check of their certification, previous employment, credit and criminal histories, immigration status and other criteria. The caregivers provide seniors with companionship and help them with chores and details of daily life, including medications, meals, housekeeping, errands and doctor appointments.

As owner and operator of the business over the years, and now with the new fund, three grown children and 12 grandchildren, Kursban said one of her biggest challenges has been finding a balance between work and the rest of her life. 'It's not a formula,' she said. 'It's a daily event.' Much like Kursban's business, the need for home caregivers has grown. 'In the past, people stayed in hospitals until they got well,' she said, noting that it meant less of a need for home nursing care. 'Now, they're told when they get there how soon they'll be leaving.' Caregiver needs are expected to reach crisis levels in coming decades, according to the International Longevity Center-USA and the Schmieding Center for Senior Health & Education's Caregiving Project for Older Americans. More than 15 million Americans employed caregiver services in 2006. By 2050, that figure is expected to nearly double. The federal government's interagency forum on aging statistics -- <http://Agingstats.gov> -- estimates that the number of Americans 65 and older will grow from 35 million in 2000 to 71.5 million by 2030.

Although Kursban has not established the guidelines for scholarship eligibility, she knows what she wants in a financial aid recipient. 'I want someone who's going to commit to working with the elderly for at least a year,' she said. She expects

News Clips Report

that once caregivers start working with seniors, they will be reluctant to stop. 'It's so rewarding . . . helping those who can't help themselves,' she said. Kursban hopes to collaborate with Montgomery College's Certified Nursing Assistant program to give scholarships to deserving students. It's a plan that program director Judy Carver said would be more than welcome. 'We don't have any scholarships specifically designated to nursing assistants,' Carver said. 'How wonderful that someone in the community is interested in [contributing] their resources to grow future health-care workers and help address the shortage.' The fund is in its early stages and will require a lot of planning, but Kursban can't imagine spending her time any other way. 'This is who I am,' she said. 'I feel very blessed to be doing what I'm doing.'

News Clips Report

Daybook Thu Metro AP Alert - DC Daybook

12/04/2008

AP WASHINGTON DAYBOOK, Thursday, Dec. 4

METRO

MAYOR ADRIAN FENTY

Contact: 202-727-5011

THE MAYOR'S SCHEDULE

Highlights:

10:30 a.m. Remarks at Neighborhood Retail Tax Increment Financing Program Announcement. 4035 South Capitol St. SW.

ALL DAY

8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. TRANSPORTATION-DULLES CORRIDOR _ The American Dream Coalition's conference on "Transportation Solutions in a Recessionary Era" Focus is on cost-effective strategies to boost economic development and transforming the Dulles Corridor into an international business destination.

Highlights:

8:30 a.m. Welcome - Ed Braddy, ADC Executive Director.

8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Session 1. The Dulles Region - Where Its Been & Where Its Going!, with John McClain (George Mason University) Northern Virginias Economy & Trends; Alan Pisarski (Commuting in America) The Commuting Patterns of Today & Tomorrow; and Sam Staley (Reason Foundation) The Mobility First Paradigm.

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Session 2. Transportation Mega-projects & the Dulles Rail Extension , with Tom Rubin (American Dream Coalition) Rail Performance in the U.S.; Ron Utt (Heritage Foundation) The Dulles Rail Project; and Gabriel Roth (Independent Institute) Faster By Bus.

12 p.m. Luncheon session.

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Session 3. All Options on the Table - Better Transportation Investments, with Bob Chase (Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance) Results Oriented Alternatives; Peter Samuel (Toll Road News) The Economics of Toll Roads; Kristie Helmick (Transurban) The Efficiency of HOT Lanes Alasdair Cain (National Bus Rapid Transit Institute) More Mobility with BRT.

3 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Session 4. Transforming Virginia & the Dulles Region into a 21st Century Destination, with Ben Marchi (Americans for Prosperity-Virginia) Whats Needed for People & Businesses; Randal OToole (Cato Institute), Transportation, Energy & the Environment; Wendell Cox (Demographia) The Economic & Social Consequences of Smart Growth: International & Northern Virginia; and closing remarks by Chris Walker .

Location: Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston, Va.

News Clips Report

Contacts: Ed Braddy, 353-281-5817

MORNING

10 a.m. POLICE CHIEF LANIER _ DC Police Chief Cathy Lanier will be interviewed on WTOP's "Ask the Chief."

Contacts: Mitchell Miller, 202-438-1159

10:30 a.m. THRU LANES _ There will be a media briefing to preview the four new THRU lanes that will be opening on the 7.5 mile Woodrow Wilson Bridge corridor (east of Telegraph Road to east of MD 210). Media coverage opportunities/locations on Dec. 5-6 and 12-13 will be highlighted.

Location: Woodrow Wilson Bridge Center, 2901 Eisenhower Avenue, Unit C, Alexandria, Va.

Contacts: Johanna Jones, 703-329-0300

Notes: Media MUST RSVP. in advance to Johanna Jones at 703-329-0300 or 703-/930-7286.

AFTERNOON

12 p.m. CARDIN _ Sen. Ben Cardin holds a town hall meeting to discuss the economy and jobs.

Location: Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville.

Contacts: Sue Walitsky, 202-224-4524

12:30 p.m. PLANNING COMMISSION _ The National Capital Planning Commission holds a meeting. Agenda includes the Potomac Park levee, and the National African American Museum of History and Culture.

Location: 401 9th St. NW.

Contacts: ., 202-482-7200

4:45 p.m. MUMBAI MEMORIAL _ The Indian and Jewish communities of greater Washington come together for a public memorial to honor the victims of terror in Mumbai and to stand in solidarity with the people of India.

Location: Mary Graydon Center, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

Contacts: Melanie Maron, 202-785-5475

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News Clips Report

Forum Equips Teenage Girls To Handle Real-Life Situations Washingtonpost - Online

12/04/2008

Montgomery College
Forum Equips Teenage Girls To Handle Real-Life Situations
Tips Include Staying Safe and Avoiding Credit Card Debt

Workshop participants were given advice on choosing and getting into college and paying for it, writing a résumé and interviewing for a job. (Courtesy Of Montgomery County Women's Bar Foundation)

Who's Blogging» Links to this article
By Julie Rasicot
Special to The Washington Post
Thursday, December 4, 2008; Page GZ05

The classroom at Montgomery College's Germantown campus went silent as county police Officer Dana Matthis spoke about a young woman who was beaten and gang-raped after leaving a Wheaton shopping mall with a man she didn't know.

"She will never have kids, and she will always think about that day," Matthis told the group of high school girls seated in front of her on a recent Saturday afternoon. "We have to make choices, put safeguards in place to minimize the chances of this happening."

Matthis related the woman's story during a workshop on personal safety offered at Preparing for Success, a Nov. 22 forum for teenage girls sponsored by the Montgomery County Women's Bar Foundation and other groups.

The day-long event provided practical information on such topics as being safe, balancing a checkbook, avoiding credit card debt, getting into college and paying for it, writing a résumé and interviewing for a job.

About 200 girls attended the eighth annual program, receiving free breakfast, lunch and transportation from several county high schools. The program is the brainchild of county Circuit Judge Katherine D. Savage, who devised the concept with the help of the bar foundation as an offshoot of the Take Our Daughters to Work educational program started by the Ms. Foundation for Women.

"A number of us thought it would be great to do more for girls, give them some practical tips," Savage said. "The purpose of the whole program is to give them something practical. We shy away from makeup, clothes."

The bar foundation relies on donations to pay for the program and uses volunteers from sponsors including Montgomery College, which provides the facilities at no cost; county high schools; the county State's Attorney's Office and private businesses. The program draws a diverse group of teenagers, and attendance has been about 200 to 250 over the years, Savage said.

In the personal safety workshop, Street Law and How to Stay Safe, county police officers teamed with prosecutors from the State's Attorney's Office to teach the teens how to protect themselves while at parties or out with friends and when using the Internet.

During one session, Matthis and prosecutor Maura Lynch emphasized that girls need to take control of their safety by considering the consequences of actions such as drinking at parties or posting personal information on Facebook. An underage drinking citation might bar admission to certain colleges, Lynch said.

"Who would think that night that you made that decision to drink and do this, and it's going to cost you the rest of your life?" Matthis said. "But it can."

The personal safety lessons were not lost on Maeva Komenan, a junior at Watkins Mill High School. "It was really real," she said after the workshops ended. "That is stuff that happens, and we try to ignore it."

News Clips Report

Judith Aguiler, a sophomore at Magruder High School, agreed. "You never know what's going to happen," she said about the warning against drinking at parties. "If you feel that's a danger to yourself, you have to get out."

Page 2 of 2 < Back

Forum Equips Teenage Girls To Handle Real-Life Situations

Workshop participants were given advice on choosing and getting into college and paying for it, writing a résumé and interviewing for a job. (Courtesy Of Montgomery County Women's Bar Foundation)

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Giggles were heard frequently in the workshop on résumé writing and interview techniques as the teenagers participated in mock job interviews led by Besa Pinchotti, director of marketing and public relations for Capterra, a computer software consulting firm.

"Don't feel embarrassed about practicing. The more interviews you do, the better you'll get," Pinchotti told the teens during one session. Down the hall, more than a dozen girls listened as Gaithersburg High School guidance counselor Marlis Carter and retired counselor Sondra Mandell explained that students should look for a college that suits their goals and their personalities.

"You'll get to a school, and you'll look around, and you'll go, 'This is not for me,' " Carter said. "At Howard [University], they really, really dress. Yet, at the University of Maryland, they go to school in pajamas. Think of what will be right for you."

The forum concluded with a fashion show consisting of students chosen because their outfits were considered appropriate for a job interview. As the girls paraded across the stage of a campus auditorium, they modeled new purses, which were raffled off.

Savage said her goal each year is to increase attendance to 300, even though the stress of organizing the event always makes her wonder the night before why she is still doing it.

Those doubts always disappear, she said, with the culmination of another successful program, marked by dozens of girls squealing with excitement as they applauded the raffle winners heading to the stage to receive their new purses.

News Clips Report

"Every year at this time, I say, 'this is wonderful,' " Savage said, on the evening of the workshop as the last of the students left the auditorium. "I'll never stop doing this."

News Clips Report

King for a day Singer celebrates 42 years in operatic holiday role Gazette, The

12/04/2008

When local singer Bobby Kimball first donned King Kaspar's ornate robe 42 years ago, little did he know it would become part of his wardrobe year after year.

'I've really liked it and I love how the children react to my role,' Kimball said of his long-running involvement in the one-act opera 'Amahl and the Night Visitor.'

Almost half of those years performing as Kaspar have been with nonprofit The Frederick Camerata, a troupe of nearly 20 voices who perform operas and other events through the year under the direction of musician Philip Day.

'Bobby is the best King Kaspar I have ever seen,' Day said.

The opera, which the Camerata stages almost every year, will return to usher in the holiday season on Friday and Saturday at Frederick's Cultural Arts Center.

Enjoyed by young and old alike, the production is a humorous, yet introspective tale highlighting the miracle of the holiday season.

'We always look forward to this story,' Day said of 'Amahl,' which centers on a young crippled boy and his mother who receive an unexpected visit by three kings.

This year, Amahl is played by 11-year old Ryan Slattery, with Kimball returning as Kaspar, the most comedic of the kings.

'There's a little bit of everything in this show singing, dancing and it's very colorful. I think people look at this as the beginning of the holiday season,' Kimball said.

Kimball, also a professional voice teacher in Frederick, first assumed the role while attending Montgomery Community College. He fell in love with the part, specifically a solo surrounding the box of beads and licorice carried by his character, and the miraculous and beautiful message of the piece, he said.

Kimball would spend the next 20 years performing at the college, as well as at churches and with other groups until he moved to Frederick. There, he joined The Frederick Chorale, which also presented the opera for several years, until becoming involved with the Camerata.

The Camerata was formed in 1993 by musician and singer Day. The group performs three shows per season including fall, spring, and holiday offerings, said Day.

The opera, just under an hour long, features a full stage and costumes with Day accompanying on the piano.

'This show is our first of the season for us,' Day said, noting that he invites other area performers to partake in the show, including the singers who make up the Shepherd's Chorus.

After a busy rehearsal schedule, the group is ready for their holiday performance.

'I look forward to this every year,' Kimball said.

Amahl and the Night Visitors'

-When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday

-Where: Cultural Arts Center, 15 W. Patrick St., Frederick

-Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and seniors

News Clips Report

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News Clips Report

MARYLAND MOMENTS Dance Studio Offers a Holiday Lift Washington Post - Online

12/04/2008

Since early October, 120 students ages 11 to 18 have been rehearsing for 10 hours every weekend at Maryland Youth Ballet for the annual production of 'The Nutcracker.' This is the 19th year that students have presented what is the world's most widely performed and popular ballet during the holiday season. Maryland Youth Ballet has prepared young dancers for careers in the performing arts since it formed in 1971. The dance school, which moved its studios to downtown Silver Spring last year, offers classes designed for people of all ages and skill levels. In recent years, its productions have included 'Swan Lake,' 'Sleeping Beauty,' 'Paquita' and various contemporary works. Maryland Youth Ballet's 'Nutcracker' will be onstage Dec. 19 through 28 at Montgomery College's Parilla Performing Arts Center in Rockville.

Additional information, including a link for tickets, is available at <http://www.marylandyouthballet.org>.

E-mail suggestions for Maryland Moments topics to gailm@washpost.com.

News Clips Report

Montgomery College Forum Equips Teenage Girls To Handle Real-Life Situations Washington Post - Online

12/04/2008

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News Clips Report

Patricia Sullivan Lighting up the holidays San Gabriel Valley Tribune

12/04/2008

Citrus Valley Hospice is holding a special 'Light Up a Life' tree-lighting ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:30 p.m. on the lawn of the Hospice at 820 N. Phillips Ave., West Covina. The ceremony is being held in memory of longtime Hospice volunteer, Alberta 'Bertie' Bryant.

Alberta volunteered at Hospice for more than 25 years. She was there in the early years when volunteers met at the Covina United Methodist Church, during the fundraising efforts to help build Hospice and volunteering in the chaplaincy program. She passed away on July 25 in the building where she had spent so much time helping others.

Donations can be made at the tree-lighting ceremony if you like. The donations are tax-deductible and can range from \$25 to \$2,500. Ornaments can be purchased for \$100, \$500 or \$1,000 and the tree top star for \$2,500.

Proceeds from 'Light Up a Life' will help support the programs and services at Citrus Valley Hospice, an extensive home care program and 10- bed inpatient facility in West Covina.

For more information or to reserve a spot at the ceremony call the foundation at (626) 814-2421.

CERAMICS SALE

You can find unique, handmade gifts at the Citrus College Art Department's annual Holiday Ceramics sale on Wednesday, Dec. 10, and Thursday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the Citrus College campus in Art Department room AC117.

Handmade and wheel-thrown pottery and sculpture, both functional and decorative, will

be available. The items are crafted by Citrus College faculty and students and the proceeds from the sale benefit the Citrus College Ceramics Program.

For more information contact ceramics instructor Mike Hillman at (626) 914-8661.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The Annual Holiday Shop will be open at the Bargain Box, 619 N. Citrus Ave., Covina, beginning on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 9 a.m.

The shop has beautiful brand new ceramic pieces still in their original boxes, glassware for your table, Christmas lights (outdoor and indoor), paper, ribbons, stuffed animals, holiday clothing, and all are reasonably priced.

Decorations for your home, office, and yard and reasonably priced jewelry can be found there as well.

Pat Green, who is in charge of the store, and her hard-working crew do an outstanding job. Word is out that the Bargain Box has changed. Members say: 'It looks like the Nordstrom of Covina.'

For more information (626) 332-4325

GRANT AWARD

Citrus College was one of 10 higher education institutions that currently have successful veteran educational assistance programs chosen to receive a \$100,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation as Wal-Mart's way of celebrating Veterans Day.

The purpose of the Wal-Mart grant is to support the development of new and existing programs and to provide resources to assist veterans with access to education, adjustment to civilian life and success in completing their degrees.

News Clips Report

Dr. Bruce Solheim, Citrus College history instructor and volunteer veterans coordinator, says that the funds will be instrumental in ensuring the continued success of the campus' veterans programs.

'Our 'Boots to Books' course is being used as a model for other schools, so we need to make sure it is the best it can be,' Solheim said. 'We also need to ensure that our veterans are being served by The Veteran's Book Fund, a program we established to provide financial assistance to students who have served in the armed forces.'

In addition to awarding a grant to Citrus College, the Wal-Mart Foundation also presented nine other higher education institutions with \$100,000. These schools included Cleveland State University, Arkansas State University, Mississippi State, Montgomery College, Florida Community College, San Diego State University, University of Minnesota, University of Incarnate Word, and San Diego Community College.

'We are indeed honored by this very generous gift from Wal-Mart,' said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, Citrus College superintendent/president. 'To be one of only 10 colleges in the nation to receive this honor speaks volumes about the quality of our veterans' program at Citrus College.'

'Citrus College has developed an excellent and ground-breaking veterans program that recognizes the varied needs of veterans and their families as they make the transition to civilian life,' said Dr. Edward C. Ortell, president of the Citrus College Board of Trustees. 'We are very honored by this generous gift from the Wal-Mart Foundation. In making this donation, they have chosen to invest in the future of thousands of veterans in the San Gabriel and Inland Valleys and help them achieve success through educational opportunity.'

MILESTONES

Happy birthday to Jean Adair, Jan Gratton, Eleanor Norse, Carlene Saria, Charlene Wathey and Pat Uribe Smith.

Belated happy birthdays to Jonathan & Jessica Gustafson (twins), who just turned 4 years old.

Send your comments, questions, milestone anniversaries and birthdays, or any suggestions to Talk About Town, The Highlander, 1210 N. Azusa Canyon Road, West Covina, CA 91790, or you may contact Patricia via e-mail at covinahighlander@iinet.com

News Clips Report

School Notes

Washingpost - Online

12/04/2008

School Notes

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Thursday, December 4, 2008; Page GZ05

Grant to Assist Veterans At Montgomery College

Montgomery College has received a \$100,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation to support veterans and veteran programs, college officials announced last week.

The foundation awarded grants to 10 colleges and universities nationwide that offer veteran educational assistance programs.

The community college started the Combat2College program this fall to provide services to its nearly 300 identified student veterans who are enrolled in credit classes. The services include disability support, academic counseling, a seminar course, open gym hours, and assistance in creating veterans clubs and mentor programs.

Program partners include the National Rehabilitation Hospital, the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The college also has collaborated with Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the American Council for Education to provide classes for wounded veterans on the medical center's campus.

[Online Survey Assesses Parents' Views on Schools](#)

News Clips Report

The county public school system's Office of Shared Accountability is conducting an online survey to assess parents' satisfaction with the school system.

The survey is available at <http://sharedaccountability.mcpsprimetime.org/ParentSurvey>.

For information on the accountability office, call 301-279-3925 or visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/sharedaccountability>.

Workshops Scheduled On College Financial Aid

The county public school system is offering college financial aid workshops this month, primarily for graduating seniors and their parents.

The workshops will provide information on grants, loans, scholarships and work-study programs that can help pay for college. The sessions are scheduled at:

- 7 p.m. today -- Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike in Burtonsville, and Northwood High School, 919 W. University Blvd. in Silver Spring.

News Clips Report

Teen gets community service for role in death Gazette, The

12/04/2008

Father of two from Gaithersburg was beaten while walking home and left on Muncaster Mill Road

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A Gaithersburg teen pleaded guilty to reckless endangerment for his role in the death of a man who was beaten, left lying in the road and then fatally struck by a car in January.

The teen was charged as a juvenile and sentenced to community service in connection with the death of Manuel Antonio Ramirez-Gavarete, 38, of Gaithersburg. The teen, now 18, was 17 at the time, according to Assistant State's Attorney George Simms.

'I pray every night for the whole family,' the teen said at the Nov. 25 sentencing in Montgomery County District Court. 'I'm just sorry.'

Prosecutors have said that a group of teens was driving around 1 a.m. on Jan. 6 when they saw Ramirez-Gavarete walking alone on Muncaster Mill Road in Gaithersburg. The driver, Anthony Alexander Dzikowski of Rockville, turned around, and Dzikowski and the teen confronted Ramirez-Gavarete, who had been at a bar and was two blocks from home, prosecutors have said.

'At the point the vehicle made a U-turn, nothing good was going to come out of that interaction,' Simms said at the sentencing.

Dzikowski pushed Ramirez-Gavarete and the teen hit him, knocking him to the ground, prosecutors have said. The teen characterized the contact as a 'smush,' while another occupant of the car described it as a 'punch,' Simms said.

Within minutes, Ramirez-Gavarete was run over by another car, prosecutors have said.

'It was really bad judgment,' the teen's Greenbelt-based attorney Richard Finci said in an interview. 'There was never any intention for anyone to get hurt or killed. It was just stupid.'

Dzikowski, 19, was indicted on charges of manslaughter, reckless endangerment and conspiracy to commit second-degree assault in May, according to an online state court records database. A jury trial is scheduled for March 30 in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

It is unclear whether Ramirez-Gavarete was conscious when the teens left, prosecutors have said.

The teen, who Simms said is unemployed and was expelled from Montgomery College's Gateway to College program, was sentenced to 150 hours of community service and up to three years of probation by Judge Andrew L. Sonner. He was ordered to complete substance abuse and mental health treatment; participate in the African-American Male Empowerment Network support group and a victim awareness program; abide by a 10 p.m. curfew; seek employment or enroll in school; and write an essay on leadership and a letter of apology to the Ramirez family.

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News Clips Report

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News Clips Report

The Associated Press AP Alert - DC Daybook

12/04/2008

AP WASHINGTON DAYBOOK, Thursday, Dec. 4

METRO

MAYOR ADRIAN FENTY

Contact: 202-727-5011

UPDATED

THE MAYOR'S SCHEDULE

Highlights:

10:30 a.m. Remarks at Neighborhood Retail Tax Increment Financing Program Announcement. 4035 South Capitol St. SW.

ALL DAY

8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. TRANSPORTATION-DULLES CORRIDOR _ The American Dream Coalition's conference on "Transportation Solutions in a Recessionary Era" Focus is on cost-effective strategies to boost economic development and transforming the Dulles Corridor into an international business destination.

Highlights:

8:30 a.m. Welcome - Ed Braddy, ADC Executive Director.

8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Session 1. The Dulles Region - Where Its Been & Where Its Going!, with John McClain (George Mason University) Northern Virginias Economy & Trends; Alan Pisarski (Commuting in America) The Commuting Patterns of Today & Tomorrow; and Sam Staley (Reason Foundation) The Mobility First Paradigm.

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Session 2. Transportation Mega-projects & the Dulles Rail Extension , with Tom Rubin (American Dream Coalition) Rail Performance in the U.S.; Ron Utt (Heritage Foundation) The Dulles Rail Project; and Gabriel Roth (Independent Institute) Faster By Bus.

12 p.m. Luncheon session.

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Session 3. All Options on the Table - Better Transportation Investments, with Bob Chase (Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance) Results Oriented Alternatives; Peter Samuel (Toll Road News) The Economics of Toll Roads; Kristie Helmick (Transurban) The Efficiency of HOT Lanes Alasdair Cain (National Bus Rapid Transit Institute) More Mobility with BRT.

3 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Session 4. Transforming Virginia & the Dulles Region into a 21st Century Destination, with Ben Marchi (Americans for Prosperity-Virginia) Whats Needed for People & Businesses; Randal OToole (Cato Institute), Transportation, Energy & the Environment; Wendell Cox (Demographia) The Economic & Social Consequences of Smart Growth: International & Northern Virginia; and closing remarks by Chris Walker .

News Clips Report

Location: Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston, Va.

Contacts: Ed Braddy, 353-281-5817

MORNING

10 a.m. POLICE CHIEF LANIER _ DC Police Chief Cathy Lanier will be interviewed on WTOP's "Ask the Chief."

Contacts: Mitchell Miller, 202-438-1159

10:30 a.m. THRU LANES _ There will be a media briefing to preview the four new THRU lanes that will be opening on the 7.5 mile Woodrow Wilson Bridge corridor (east of Telegraph Road to east of MD 210). Media coverage opportunities/locations on Dec. 5-6 and 12-13 will be highlighted.

Location: Woodrow Wilson Bridge Center, 2901 Eisenhower Avenue, Unit C, Alexandria, Va.

Contacts: Johanna Jones, 703-329-0300

Notes: Media MUST RSVP. in advance to Johanna Jones at 703-329-0300 or 703-/930-7286.

AFTERNOON

12 p.m. CARDIN _ Sen. Ben Cardin holds a town hall meeting to discuss the economy and jobs.

Location: Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville.

Contacts: Sue Walitsky, 202-224-4524

12:30 p.m. PLANNING COMMISSION _ The National Capital Planning Commission holds a meeting. Agenda includes the Potomac Park levee, and the National African American Museum of History and Culture.

Location: 401 9th St. NW.

Contacts: ., 202-482-7200

NEW

4:45 p.m. MUMBAI MEMORIAL _ The Indian and Jewish communities of greater Washington come together for a public memorial to honor the victims of terror in Mumbai and to stand in solidarity with the people of India.

Location: Mary Graydon Center, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

Contacts: Melanie Maron, 202-785-5475

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News Clips Report

What's Happening Washington Post - Online

12/04/2008

Children and Teens 'ALICE' -- 7 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays, through Dec. 21; 1 and 6 p.m. Dec. 26 and 27; and 3 p.m. Dec. 28. World-premiere adaptation of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.' Round House Theatre, 4545 East West Hwy., Bethesda. \$25-\$60; children, \$20. 240-644-1100 or <http://www.roundhousetheatre.org>. 'MISS NELSON IS MISSING!' -- 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Jan. 4; additional performances around Christmas Day. A musical production of the children's book by Harry Allard and James Marshall. Recommended for age 4 and older. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. \$10-\$21; group rates available. 301-280-1660 or <http://www.imaginationstage.org>.

Exhibitions 'ANOTHER LEVEL' -- By appointment, Tuesdays-Saturdays through Dec. 20; open during Bethesda Art Walk, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 12. John Aquilino exhibits his urban landscape paintings. Gallery Neptune, 5001 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Free. 301-718-0809 or <http://www.galleryneptune.com>. 'WATERCOLOR JOURNEYS' -- By appointment, through Jan. 25; reception, 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Debra Halprin, Julie Smith, Carol Bouville, Lieta Gerson and Kay Sandler exhibit their watercolor, gouache, acrylic, pastel, watercolor crayon and pencil, tinted paper and fabric paintings. Kentlands Mansion, 320 Kent Square Rd., Gaithersburg. Free. 301-258-6394 or <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov>.

INTERNATIONAL MULTIMEDIA EXHIBIT -- 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays, through Jan. 4. Egyptian artist Munir Eltobgi, Brazilian painter Miriam Rylands and Russian artist Gala Spivak exhibit their works. Bohrer Park Activity Center, 506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg. Free. 301-258-6394 or <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov>. 'FOOD AS A FORM OF ART' -- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, through Jan. 11. Joanne Gigliotti and Yoen Joo Kim exhibit their batik and acrylic paintings of food. Gaithersburg City Hall, gallery, second floor, 31 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg. Free. 301-258-6394 or <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov>. 'CRANIAL VAULT: ARTIFACTS AND IMPRESSIONS' -- 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, through Dec. 31. Art, memoirs, medical images and collectibles tell the story of brain-cancer survivor Tom Roberts. Takoma Park Municipal Building, third-floor gallery, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. Free. 301-891-7100 or <http://www.cranialvault.org>.

WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT -- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today-Saturday. Paintings by Baltimore Watercolor Society members. Brookside Gardens, Visitors Center, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. 301-962-1400 or <http://www.brooksidegardens.org>. 'PERCEPTIVE IMAGERY' -- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, through Jan. 24. Audrey Salkind exhibits her recent abstract works. Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Visions Exhibition Space, 5701 Marinelli Rd., North Bethesda. Free. 301-565-3805 or <http://www.audreysabstractart.com>. 'BIG BLUE MARBLE' -- 10 a.m.-5 p.m. today and Tuesday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. tomorrow; 1-5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; by appointment, Saturday and Sunday. Chief NASA photographer Bill Ingalls's exhibition includes landscapes and macro images of Earth, and photographs from his travels to Russia and Kazakhstan. A juried show of works by local camera club members will also be on display. Call before visiting to ensure staff will be available. Washington School of Photography, 4850 Rugby Ave., Bethesda. Free. 301-654-1998 or <http://www.wsp-photo.com>. 'INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROJECT' -- 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays, through Dec. 21. A multimedia exhibit, featuring portraits and life stories of Montgomery College's international students. Photographs are available online at www.internationalstudentproject.org. Montgomery College, Communication Arts Technologies Gallery, Room 106, Technical Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Free. 240-567-7521. 'AT HOME AND ABROAD' -- 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, through Dec. 26; reception, 1-3 p.m. Sunday. Members of the North Bethesda Camera Club exhibit their scenic photographs. BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Dr., Germantown. Free. 301-528-2260 or <http://www.blackrockcenter.org>.

News Clips Report

Teen gets community service for role in death The Gazette of Politics and Business

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

Teen gets community service for role in death

Father of two from Gaithersburg was beaten while walking home and left on Muncaster Mill Road

by Meghan Tierney | Staff Writer

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A Gaithersburg teen pleaded guilty to reckless endangerment for his role in the death of a man who was beaten, left lying in the road and then fatally struck by a car in January.

The teen was charged as a juvenile and sentenced to community service in connection with the death of Manuel Antonio Ramirez-Gavarete, 38, of Gaithersburg. The teen, now 18, was 17 at the time, according to Assistant State's Attorney George Simms.

"I pray every night for the whole family," the teen said at the Nov. 25 sentencing in Montgomery County District Court. "I'm just sorry."

Prosecutors have said that a group of teens was driving around 1 a.m. on Jan. 6 when they saw Ramirez-Gavarete walking alone on Muncaster Mill Road in Gaithersburg. The driver, Anthony Alexander Dzikowski of Rockville, turned around, and Dzikowski and the teen confronted Ramirez-Gavarete, who had been at a bar and was two blocks from home, prosecutors have said.

"At the point the vehicle made a U-turn, nothing good was going to come out of that interaction," Simms said at the sentencing.

Dzikowski pushed Ramirez-Gavarete and the teen hit him, knocking him to the ground, prosecutors have said. The teen characterized the contact as a "smush," while another occupant of the car described it as a "punch," Simms said.

Within minutes, Ramirez-Gavarete was run over by another car, prosecutors have said.

"It was really bad judgment," the teen's Greenbelt-based attorney Richard Finci said in an interview. "There was never any intention for anyone to get hurt or killed. It was just stupid."

Dzikowski, 19, was indicted on charges of manslaughter, reckless endangerment and conspiracy to commit second-degree assault in May, according to an online state court records database. A jury trial is scheduled for March 30 in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

It is unclear whether Ramirez-Gavarete was conscious when the teens left, prosecutors have said.

The teen, who Simms said is unemployed and was expelled from Montgomery College's Gateway to College program, was sentenced to 150 hours of community service and up to three years of probation by Judge Andrew L. Sonner. He was ordered to complete substance abuse and mental health treatment; participate in the African-American Male Empowerment Network support group and a victim awareness program; abide by a 10 p.m. curfew; seek employment or enroll in school; and write an essay on leadership and a letter of apology to the Ramirez family.

"You wiped out a life," Sonner said, describing the teen's actions as "fooling around" and "bullying." "If this had happened when you were 18, 19, you'd be facing some hard time."

The teen had been stabbed several weeks before by a man who had pulled a knife from his pocket, Finci said. He was suffering from a kind of post-traumatic stress disorder and hit Ramirez-Gavarete because his hands were in his pockets, Finci said.

Ramirez-Gavarete, an immigrant with two children in Honduras, was within a week of his 39th birthday. His younger brother, Jose Ramirez of Gaithersburg, was disappointed with the judge's characterization of the teen's actions.

News Clips Report

"The way the judge was talking, I thought he was going to be more aggressive," Ramirez said after the sentencing.

News Clips Report

Shock, mourning over Mumbai siege The Gazette of Politics and Business

12/03/2008

Shock, mourning over Mumbai siege
County Indian and Jewish communities devastated by attacks killing nearly 200
by Sean R. Sedam and Melissa J. Brachfeld | Staff Writers
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Charges dropped against suspected Bowie burglar

GPS plan for buses shot down

Santa helps ring in holiday pedestrian safety season

Food available for modest donation of money, time

Class gives cooks new twists on traditional meal

Kamala Edwards and her family spent what she called a "dramatic" Thanksgiving weekend watching reports of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai and wondering about the well-being of loved ones.

"It is shocking and sad," the president of the nonprofit Indian American Leadership Council said on Monday.

For Edwards and other Indian Americans and Jews living in Montgomery County the attacks hit close to home.

Muslim extremists — possibly from Pakistan — killed nearly 200 people over three days of attacks at hotels, a Jewish center and landmarks across the Indian financial capital.

"Our immediate response, of course, is to maintain the peaceful relations [between India and Pakistan] and not to go into any blame-game finger-pointing," said Edwards, who has first cousins in Mumbai that she has not been able to reach.

Mumbai is a well-known destination for visitors. Many Americans traveling on business, including Edwards' husband, have stayed at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel that was the site of firefights between Indian commandos and the terrorists.

Pooja Bharadwaja, a management and budget specialist with Montgomery County, planned to fly to New Delhi on Tuesday night to attend her brother's wedding. She is anxious and will be "on guard" for this trip, she said.

In India, where Bharadwaja, 32, lived as a child, "life stopped" following the assassinations of prime ministers Indira Gandhi in 1984 and Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The Mumbai attacks, the latest in a year marked by terrorist violence across India, are different.

"It's more now," she said. "It's just becoming part of life. People are becoming so numb now."

Indian and Jewish faith communities and government officials will hold a memorial service from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Thursday at the Kay Spiritual Life Center at American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW, in Washington, D.C.

The Indian and Israeli ambassadors to the United States and Rabbi Levi Shemtov, director of American Friends of Lubavitch, will speak.

County Chabad centers are mourning the loss of Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg and his wife, Rivkah, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Holtzbergs, who were both under age 30, ran the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish center, which served Mumbai's Jewish community and was a home away from home for traveling Jews.

According to published reports, six Jews, mostly Israelis, were killed in the terrorist attack on the Chabad house.

A tribute to victims of the attacks will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy in Aspen Hill.

News Clips Report

Rabbi Berel Wolvovsky, co-director of Chabad of Silver Spring and a classmate of Gavriel Holtz-berg's at the Oholei Torah yeshiva school in Brooklyn, said he was "completely shocked and devastated" by news of his friend's death.

Wolvovsky said Holtzberg came to the school in third grade from Israel and both attended the school's college program.

"In the class we called him a solid guy," he said. "He was extremely knowledgeable in the teachings of the Torah and very personable."

Holtzberg visited Wolvovsky twice in Silver Spring, most recently about a year ago.

Wolvovsky called the Holtzbergs "two powerhouses who were doing so much good for so many people."

Muslims around the world have condemned the attacks, but "religious feelings in India are very, very tender right now," said Edwards, a professor of English composition and literature at Montgomery College.

That can translate to mistrust in dealings among Indian Americans here, she said.

"You won't talk, you won't ask, but then you wonder who's sitting next to me and what their connections are," she said.

There are nearly 18,600 Indians living in Montgomery County, according to the county's Office of Community Partnerships.

Indian Americans are not a homogenous group.

India's diversity of religions, ethnicities and languages make choosing how to react to the attacks a complex and personal decision for Indian Americans, Edwards said.

"It's sort of a wound that has been reopened," she said. "Nobody will say very much. They are absorbing all they see and hear and individually deciding how to conduct themselves."

Safety concerns in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when Indian Americans feared that wearing turbans or traditional garb could lead to possibly violent reactions, have "sort of been resurrected" by the attacks and by reports that the terrorists targeted Americans, Edwards said.

"For me, this is like 9/11 all over again," said Pradeep Ganguly, who as the county's economic development director has taken Maryland delegations to his native India.

On Thursday, Ganguly's niece decided not to go in to her office, which is just two blocks from a site of the attacks.

Ganguly said his office had drafted a letter for County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) to send to the Indian prime minister and other officials, expressing solidarity with the Indian people and government.

On Friday, Wolvovsky bought a cake for the Holtzbergs's orphaned son, Moshe, whose second birthday was Saturday. The Chabad of Silver Spring congregation "cut the cake and wished him that he should know no more suffering and no more pain."

The congregation plans to send the boy a birthday present and to celebrate future "milestones in his life," Wolvovsky said.

News Clips Report

School Notes A place for students to run at school without getting detention **The Gazette of Politics and Business**

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

A place for students to run at school without getting detention

School Notes | Bradford Pearson

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Naomi Brookner/The Gazette

(From left) Isabelle Homan, Annabelle O'Reilly and Sunny Scorsat, all students at the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, walk the perimeter of the school's field during recess Nov. 19. The school is running a program to encourage students to walk or run during recess, promoting physical fitness. Featured Jobs

Staring at the playground at Kensington's Academy of the Holy Cross during the past few years, gym teacher Stephanie Kolevar noticed that some students didn't take to the organized sports others were playing. In an effort to help those students still get some exercise, Kolevar launched a new program this September: the Mileage Club.

Students can spend their recess walking or running the perimeter of the Holy Cross recess field—about one-fifth of a mile—instead of just sitting on the sidelines of a game they might not want to play.

"Not everybody likes team things, so this is a way for an individual to still have a fun time during recess, and get some exercise," Kolevar said.

The teacher on duty during recess keeps track of the number of laps each student does, and for every 20 laps students complete, they receive a "toe token." The plastic trinkets can be attached to the students' shoes, as a way to show pride in their achievement, Kolevar said. In addition to the tokens the students also get their name on the bulletin board at school, with yellow paper feet indicating how far each student has walked or ran.

The number of students participating per day varies, Kolevar said, but so far they have totaled more than 550 miles.

Leadership fellows program applications available

Applications for the 2009 Lazarus Leadership Fellows Program are now being accepted. The program provides leadership training for 15 high school students in the area. Students will participate in nine leadership training sessions throughout February, March, April, and May. Over the summer, each student will design and implement a 200-hour community service project.

The Lazarus Leadership Fellows Program is open to all 10th and 11th grade students living in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase community. Each year, at least 12 of the 15 students are from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School.

Applications will be available at the B-CC High School College and Career Center, or by writing to program founder Bruce Adams, at 7211 Exeter Road, Bethesda, MD 20814 or bruce@greaterwash.org. There will be an orientation session in the Choral Room at B-CC High School from 11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m., Friday. The application deadline is Jan. 5, 2009.

Free financial aid seminar offered at WJ

Have questions about financial aid for your college-bound son or daughter? Join other parents and Melissa Gregory, director of financial aid at Montgomery College, at 7 p.m., Monday, at Walter Johnson High School for a discussion about what you can do to help your child secure more money for college.

Information will be available about grants, loans, scholarships and work-study programs, and Gregory will be on hand to answer any questions. Parents and students are invited to attend this free workshop. Walter Johnson is located at 6430 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda.

Teen library advocates

News Clips Report

The Montgomery County Public Libraries' Teen Advisory Group has announced its membership roster and goals for the coming year.

The group consists of county teens between the ages of 14 and 18 who share a love of reading and writing. The members share their thoughts, surf the Web with a critical eye, produce podcasts or videos, promote the library among their peers and develop library programs, according to a statement from the county.

This year, the group will focus its goals on programming for teens in the library and marketing the library to teens, in addition to continuing to add to the online Teensite.

The following new and returning members will serve through May: Amrita Anand, Paint Branch High; Kate Campbell, Washington International School; Sanjay Chainani, Poolesville High; Deepa Chellappa, Blair High; Sarah Craig, Walt Whitman High; Rebecca Ehrenkranz, Jewish Day School; Emma Grossman, Col. Zadok Magruder High; Meg Kelly, Richard Montgomery High; Jonae Lloyd, Winston Churchill High; Kiah Mahy and Leon Mait, Blair High; Regina Morriss, John F. Kennedy High; Ben Patton, Poolesville High; Andrew Price, Col. Zadok Magruder High; Ilana Price, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High; Sneha Rao, Paint Branch High; Vanessa Sauter, Holton Arms; Will Shepherdson and Tasmin Swanson, Blair High; and Amanda Vane, Walter Johnson High.

For more information e-mail Kathie Weinberg at

Kathie.weinberg@

montgomerycountymd.gov.

News Clips Report

A place for students to run at school without getting detention Gazette, The

12/03/2008

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Naomi Brookner/The Gazette

(From left) Isabelle Homan, Annabelle O'Reilly and Sunny Scorsat, all students at the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, walk the perimeter of the school's field during recess Nov. 19. The school is running a program to encourage students to walk or run during recess, promoting physical fitness.

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For more information e-mail Kathie Weinberg at

Kathie.weinberg@

montgomerycountymd.gov.

School Notes is a weekly column during the school year. Send story ideas by 10 a.m. Thursdays to Bradford Pearson via e-mail at bpearson@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

Adventist to file for state approval for proposed hospital Gazette, The

12/03/2008

Officials are pursuing partnerships for 60-acre Clarksburg medical campus

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This story was corrected on Dec. 3, 2008, from its print version.

Adventist HealthCare is moving forward with its plans for a 100-bed hospital and medical campus in Clarksburg and expects to file for state regulatory approval next year.

Officials are looking to form partnerships with health care providers as Adventist develops the 60-acre campus, according to William G. Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare.

The medical campus, located in the Cabin Branch development, would also include a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, medical office buildings, a daycare and room for expansion, Robertson said. Adventist officials have been planning the project for six years, and it predates Holy Cross' proposal for a hospital on Montgomery College's Germantown campus, which was announced in August.

The hospital would serve the growing Clarksburg and Urbana communities and upper Montgomery County.

'It's important to Clarksburg,' said Kathie Hulley, president of the Clarksburg Civic Association. 'I don't know what would happen to Clarksburg without something being an anchor like that.'

Adventist has received preliminary plan approval from the Planning Board and is developing a site plan, Robertson said. Adventist will apply for a Certificate of Need for the hospital from the Maryland Health Care Commission, the body that determines if new medical facilities are needed, sometime in 2009, he said. Holy Cross filed for a Certificate of Need in October.

Infrastructure work, such as water and sewer, has already started, Robertson said. A hospital would be unlikely to affect Adventist's Shady Grove Emergency Center, which opened in Germantown in 2006, he said.

'We think that between Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, the emergency center and the future Clarksburg hospital with an ER, the community will be very well served,' he said. If approved, the hospital would likely open in four to five years, according to Thomas Grant, associate vice president of communications for Adventist. The Certificate of Need process can take anywhere from six months to several years, Robertson said.

News Clips Report

Adventist to file for state approval for proposed hospital The Gazette

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

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by Meghan Tierney | Staff Writer

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Adventist has received preliminary plan approval from the Planning Board and is developing a site plan, Robertson said. Adventist will apply for a Certificate of Need for the hospital from the Maryland Health Care Commission, the body that determines if new medical facilities are needed, sometime in 2009, he said. Holy Cross filed for a Certificate of Need in October.

Infrastructure work, such as water and sewer, has already started, Robertson said. A hospital would be unlikely to affect Adventist's Shady Grove Emergency Center, which opened in Germantown in 2006, he said.

"We think that between Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, the emergency center and the future Clarksburg hospital with an ER, the community will be very well served," he said. If approved, the hospital would likely open in four to five years, according to Thomas Grant, associate vice president of communications for Adventist. The Certificate of Need process can take anywhere from six months to several years, Robertson said.

News Clips Report

Adventist Undeterred by Holy Cross Plan Washingtonpost - Online

12/03/2008

MONTGOMERY HEALTH CARE
Adventist Undeterred by Holy Cross Plan

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By Lori Aratani

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, December 3, 2008; Page B05

Officials at Adventist HealthCare announced yesterday that they will continue with plans to build a hospital in Clarksburg, despite a rival's proposal to build a hospital a few miles away from their site.

The decision sets up a battle between two nonprofit health-care giants in Montgomery County. It is unlikely that two hospitals would be built so close together, and the winner will be decided by state officials.

Adventist HealthCare has long planned to build a 100-bed hospital in Clarksburg to complement two facilities it operates in the area, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville and Shady Grove Adventist Emergency Center in Germantown. But in August, Silver Spring-based Holy Cross Hospital surprised many in the community when it announced an agreement with Montgomery College to build a 93-bed hospital that would open in 2012 on the college's Germantown campus.

In October, Holy Cross officials filed building plans with the Maryland Health Care Commission, the agency that approves hospital construction in the state. A hearing on Holy Cross's plan has not been scheduled.

Adventist officials said they anticipate filing a formal application with the state for a certificate of need in 2009.

News Clips Report

"There was never any question whether we were going to go forward with Clarksburg," said William G. Robertson, president and chief executive of Adventist HealthCare, which also runs Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park. "We've been working on this for six years, and we thought it was time to give people a little more in-depth glimpse of the comprehensive medical campus."

Robertson said Adventist's plan is better than the one offered by Holy Cross, the county's largest hospital. The Clarksburg hospital would be part of a medical complex that would include a medical office building and a 150-bed skilled-nursing facility. The 142-acre site would provide ample space for expansion, he added. Adventist HealthCare bought the property in 2001 but has taken several years to move through the planning process.

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"The partnership with Montgomery College presents extraordinary opportunities to help educate and develop the health-care workforce of current and future generations," said Kevin J. Sexton, president and chief executive of Holy Cross.

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Approval of one project does not necessarily mean that the other will be turned down. But local officials say that because the hospitals would be so close to each other, it is unlikely both will be approved.

News Clips Report

AIDS forum targets minorities for prevention message

The Gazette

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

AIDS forum targets minorities for prevention message

Health officials discuss ways to reach ethnic, immigrant and youth groups at Montgomery College event

by Jason Tomassini | Staff Writer

E-mail this article \ Print this article

Brian Lewis/The Gazette

Silver Spring resident Idalia Aerias works on a panel for the World AIDS Quilt Project during Monday's daylong World AIDS Day forum on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus of Montgomery College. County, state and national health officials in a forum Monday discussed methods to increase AIDS and HIV prevention and education among minority and ethnic groups who may be misinformed about the virus.

"A big problem in minority communities is the issue of shame, being excluded, denial," said the Rev. Ken Jackson, president of the Black Minister's Conference of Montgomery County at the forum held on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus of Montgomery College in observance of World AIDS Day.

Discussions focused primarily on how to get the word out to minorities, immigrants and youth groups, demographics prevalent in Montgomery County.

There were 227 new HIV infections reported in Montgomery County in 2006, according to the most recent data from the Maryland AIDS Administration, placing the county third in Maryland behind Baltimore City and Prince George's County.

AIDS is a set of symptoms and infections resulting from the damage to the human immune system caused by the human immunodeficiency virus or HIV. HIV is transmitted through direct contact of a mucous membrane or the bloodstream with a bodily fluid containing HIV.

Among the county's immigrant population, AIDS awareness is stifled by a fear that being tested or treated for HIV through government agencies could lead to deportation, said Barbara Golding of the Dennis Avenue Health Center in Silver Spring.

The center, run by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, provides testing and treatment for those already infected with HIV or AIDS and offers help in finding health care and financial support for those infected. But Golding said many people don't seek out the center's services until it's too late.

"People are coming to us later in the infection and ... they are already dying," she said.

As of 2006, Latinos accounted for 18 percent of new HIV cases worldwide and 10 percent in the county, said Eyal Bergman, HIV program manager with Identity, a Gaithersburg-based nonprofit that serves Latinos in the county.

In addition to fears of deportation, Bergman said there is a strong stigma among the Latino community of those with AIDS, with HIV-infected women being deemed promiscuous and men seen as homosexual.

"The prevention message does not get across to the entire Latino population," Bergman said.

To raise HIV and AIDS awareness, Identity conducts testing at sites in Gaithersburg, Takoma Park and Wheaton, as well as the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. Identity also trains "youth educators" to carry around backpacks and hand out condoms and AIDS prevention pamphlets to teens.

Similar problems face Asian Americans, a group often overlooked when it comes to HIV and AIDS, said Nouf Bazaz, a program coordinator with the county's Asian American Health Initiative based in Rockville. She said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not keep extensive data among Asian Americans regarding the virus.

News Clips Report

"There is no evidence indicating a lower risk among Asian Americans," Bazaz said, later adding that Asian Americans are "less aware of HIV than most other ethnic groups."

Overall, the lack of awareness is generational, with today's youth thinking the disease is not as serious or prevalent as it was for past generations, said Abimbola Idowu of the African American Health Program based in Silver Spring.

"Awareness has died off because people think there is great care," said Idowu, whose organization sponsored the forum. "They think it is something they can deal with."

Golding said she has seen a disturbing trend recently of youth attending parties to deliberately infect themselves with the disease with no clear motive.

To gain a better presence among teens, the African American Health Program worked with a group of students at John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring to develop an AIDS prevention brochure to be distributed to their peers in school.

A potential preventative measure for AIDS and HIV most officials did not mention was ongoing research on an HIV vaccine. While an HIV vaccine is "at least a decade away," Diane Johnson of the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda said thousands of clinical trials are being done to develop the vaccine.

Johnson was adamant that the volunteers participating in the clinical trials have no risk of being infected with HIV. NIH has only conducted the first of three planned phases for the vaccine trials, where 50 to 60 healthy volunteers engage in a one- to two-year process.

"We believe the development of a vaccine will be the best bet to eradicate the disease," Johnson said.

To volunteer for the National Institute of Health's HIV vaccine trials, call 866-833-LIFE or send an e-mail to vrc@NIH.gov.

For the Montgomery County-run Dennis Avenue Health Center's sexually-transmitted disease clinic, call 240-777-1760. If you have already tested positive for HIV, call the center's client services office at 240-777-1869 for a case worker.

To reach the Montgomery County Branch of the Coalition of People with AIDS, call 240-247-1015 or for the national organization, call 1-866-846-9366.

For information on Identity's HIV counseling and testing program, call Eyal Bergman at 301-422-1272. Identity has offices at 414 East Diamond Ave. in Gaithersburg, 11141 Georgia Ave. in Wheaton and 7676 New Hampshire Ave. in Takoma Park.

News Clips Report

AIDS forum targets minorities for prevention message Gazette, The

12/03/2008

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Brian Lewis/The Gazette

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News Clips Report

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Business calendar

The Gazette of Politics and Business

12/03/2008

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Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

Business calendar

Thursday, Dec. 4

Global Alliance of Indian Biomedical Professionals lunch symposium, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Montgomery College, Goldenrod Building, 20271 Goldenrod Lane, Germantown. Free. Registration: kumarm10@gmail.com or vipin.adhlakha@gmail.com.

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce GovConNet breakfast, "Food and Drug Administration Small Business Contracting Forum: Learn What's New With FDA Procurement," 7:30-10 a.m., FDA White Oak campus, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring. \$40. Information: www.

montgomerycountychamber.com.

Friday, Dec. 5

Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce annual dinner, 6-9 p.m., Wyndham Garden Hotel, 805 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg. \$75; members \$55. Registration: www.ggchamber.org or 301-840-1400.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce mixer, 4-7 p.m., Carolina Kitchen, 6501 American Blvd., Hyattsville. Free. Registration: www.

mahcc.org.

Send photos from past events or news of upcoming events to The Business Gazette, 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. By e-mail: rrand@gazette.net. Please include a contact's name and daytime telephone number

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Business calendar The Gazette of Politics and Business

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

Business calendar

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Thursday, Dec. 4

Leads Club of Bethesda will meet from 8-9 a.m. at the Original Pancake House, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Business sales professionals and owners meet to network. Call 301-469-0607 or visit www.leadsclub.com.

Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman CPAs seminar on new requirements of Federal Form 990, 8-11:30 a.m., 4550 Montgomery Ave., Suite 650 North, Bethesda. Free. Registration: www.grfcpa.com/events or Elizabeth Paris, 301-664-8578.

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Tech Council of Maryland breakfast seminar on Maryland Drug Discovery and Development Network at University of Maryland, 7:30-9:30 a.m., 9800 Medical Center Drive, Rockville. \$60; members \$30. Registration: 240-243-4051 or techcouncilmd.com/events.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Cebiche Restaurant, 921-J Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring. \$25; members \$20. Registration: 240-686-0055 or www.mahcc.org.

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News Clips Report

Daybook Thu Metro AP Alert - DC Daybook

12/03/2008

AP WASHINGTON DAYBOOK, Thursday, Dec. 4

METRO

ALL DAY

8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. TRANSPORTATION-DULLES CORRIDOR _ The American Dream Coalition's conference on "Transportation Solutions in a Recessionary Era" Focus is on cost-effective strategies to boost economic development and transforming the Dulles Corridor into an international business destination.

Highlights:

8:30 a.m. Welcome - Ed Braddy, ADC Executive Director.

8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Session 1. The Dulles Region - Where Its Been & Where Its Going!, with John McClain (George Mason University) Northern Virginia's Economy & Trends; Alan Pisarski (Commuting in America) The Commuting Patterns of Today & Tomorrow; and Sam Staley (Reason Foundation) The Mobility First Paradigm.

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Session 2. Transportation Mega-projects & the Dulles Rail Extension , with Tom Rubin (American Dream Coalition) Rail Performance in the U.S.; Ron Utt (Heritage Foundation) The Dulles Rail Project; and Gabriel Roth (Independent Institute) Faster By Bus.

12 p.m. Luncheon session.

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Session 3. All Options on the Table - Better Transportation Investments, with Bob Chase (Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance) Results Oriented Alternatives; Peter Samuel (Toll Road News) The Economics of Toll Roads; Kristie Helmick (Transurban) The Efficiency of HOT Lanes Alasdair Cain (National Bus Rapid Transit Institute) More Mobility with BRT.

3 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Session 4. Transforming Virginia & the Dulles Region into a 21st Century Destination, with Ben Marchi (Americans for Prosperity-Virginia) Whats Needed for People & Businesses; Randal OToole (Cato Institute), Transportation, Energy & the Environment; Wendell Cox (Demographia) The Economic & Social Consequences of Smart Growth: International & Northern Virginia; and closing remarks by Chris Walker .

Location: Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston, Va.

Contacts: Ed Braddy, 353-281-5817

MORNING

10 a.m. POLICE CHIEF LANIER _ DC Police Chief Cathy Lanier will be interviewed on WTOG's "Ask the Chief."

Contacts: Mitchell Miller, 202-438-1159

10:30 a.m. THRU LANES _ There will be a media briefing to preview the four new THRU lanes that will be opening on the 7.5 mile Woodrow Wilson Bridge corridor (east of Telegraph Road to east of MD 210). Media coverage opportunities/locations on Dec. 5-6 and 12-13 will be highlighted.

News Clips Report

Location: Woodrow Wilson Bridge Center, 2901 Eisenhower Avenue, Unit C, Alexandria, Va.

Contacts: Johanna Jones, 703-329-0300

Notes: Media MUST RSVP. in advance to Johanna Jones at 703-329-0300 or 703-/930-7286.

AFTERNOON

12 p.m. CARDIN _ Sen. Ben Cardin holds a town hall meeting to discuss the economy and jobs.

Location: Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville.

Contacts: Sue Walitsky, 202-224-4524

12:30 p.m. PLANNING COMMISSION _ The National Capital Planning Commission holds a meeting. Agenda includes the Potomac Park levee, and the National African American Museum of History and Culture.

Location: 401 9th St. NW.

Contacts: ., 202-482-7200

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News Clips Report

Holy Child students learn about hunger through eating Gazette, The

12/03/2008

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Brian Lewis/The Gazette

(From left)Elizabeth Lyons, Meredith Tracy and Amy Watkins eat a bowl of rice and beans during the Connelly School of the Holy Child's Oxfam America Hunger Banquet Nov. 18. During the event, some students ate regular lunches, others ate rice and beans, and most ate just rice, to replicate what most people eat each day worldwide.

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Most days, middle school students at Potomac's Connelly School of the Holy Child open up their lunch boxes to find a sandwich, or maybe some leftovers from last night's dinner.

On Nov. 18, though, lunch was served a bit differently.

As part of the Oxfam America Hunger Banquet, the school fed 15 percent of their students a whole meal with macaroni and cheese and croissants, among other things while the remaining 85 percent ate either rice and beans or just rice.

The goal was to teach the students how fortunate they are by showing them how much of the world 85 percent eats either rice and beans or just rice for meals every day.

'They'll never forget this,' said Sarah Willging, a teacher who helped coordinate the event. 'They'll go home and make a sandwich, but now they realize that half the world goes to bed hungry.'

The students make sandwiches for a shelter each week, Willging said, but eating a meal that a hungry person in Africa or Asia might eat hit home. Prior to the banquet, the students made posters and watched videos about world hunger, she said.

During the banquet, the 15 percent eating a decent meal sat at tables, with linen and china. The 35 percent who ate the rice and beans were able to sit in chairs, while the other 50 percent ate their rice on the floor.

'I think this was very eye-opening for the students,' Willging said. 'Before we started learning about this, the students didn't know that some people have to walk five or 10 miles, just for clean water.'

Churchill hosts tea party, performs Beauty'

In an effort to raise money for a trip to Scotland this summer, the Winston Churchill High School drama department will host two tea parties in conjunction with the school's production of 'Beauty and the Beast.'

The tea party costs \$35 per child in advance, \$40 at the door, and includes photo opportunities with the characters, a sing-along, and a ticket to the show.

The tea parties will take place at noon on Saturday, and 5 p.m. on Dec. 13, immediately preceding the day's performance.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.wchs драма.org or call 301-469-1246.

News Clips Report

The actual production of 'Beauty and the Beast' will take place at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Saturday, Dec. 12 and 13, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets for the show are \$10 and \$12, and can be purchased online at www.seatyourself.biz/

churchill.

Churchill High School is located at 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac.

Free financial aid seminar given at WJ

Have questions about financial aid for your college bound son or daughter? Join other parents and Melissa Gregory, director of financial aid at Montgomery College, at 7 p.m., Monday, at Walter Johnson High School for a discussion about what you can do to help your child secure more money for college.

Information will be available about grants, loans, scholarships and work-study programs, and Gregory will be on hand to answer any questions. Parents and students are invited to attend this free workshop. Walter Johnson is located at 6430 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda.

Pucks to Bucks supports WJ hockey

The Washington Capitals' Pucks to Buck program, which helps raise money for area youth hockey teams, is now selling tickets to help the squad at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda.

All games for the 2008-2009 Capitals schedule are available, and a percentage of the profits goes to support WJ Hockey. Tickets range in cost from \$25 to \$65, with an additional \$5 added to weekend game tickets. To order tickets, visit www.capstickets.com/puckstobucks.html. For more information, call Tim Bronaugh at 202-266-2341.

Send school notes by 10 a.m. Thursdays to Bradford Pearson via e-mail at bpearson@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

Lord of the Flies On Tap

12/03/2008

Be a student again and learn a bit about film from a film professor from Montgomery College. AFI and Montgomery College Screenings present 'Lord of the Flies,' William Golding's story about what happens when a group of well-behaved boys devolve into chaos after a crash-landing on an island. Students with valid ID get in for \$6.

News Clips Report

MONTGOMERY HEALTH CARE Adventist Undeterred by Holy Cross Plan

Washington Post - Online

Rockville, MD

Lori Aratani

12/03/2008

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News Clips Report

Montgomery Hot Tickets The Gazette of Politics and Business

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

Montgomery Hot Tickets

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Kristen Loken

The Bobs, (from left) Matthew Bob Stull, Dan Bob Schumacher, Amy Bob Engelhardt and Richard Bob Greene, will perform an a cappella holiday show Sunday evening at BlackRock Center for the Arts.

A cappella kooky

And now for something completely different in seasonal entertainment: The Bobs Holiday Show is set for 7 p.m. Sunday as part of the Popular Series at BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown. The a cappella quartet performs original songs like "Kill Your Television" and "There's a Nose Ring in My Soup" to a cappella covers of Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" and Cream's "White Room." Tickets range from \$29 to \$34, \$24 to \$29 in advance. Call 301-528-2260 or visit www.blackrockcenter.org.

Fool rushes in

"Dramatic Foolishness," Drew Richardson's one-man variety show of brilliant bumbling with juggling, balancing, magic and comic creativity, is Saturday's Arts Alive Series presentation in the Montgomery College Black Box Theater, Philadelphia and Chicago avenues, Takoma Park. Shows begin at 6 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for seniors and children, \$5 for Montgomery College students and faculty. Call 301-588-4475 or visit www.classactsarts.org.

Love story

Bel Cantanti Opera Company will present a concert performance of G. Verdi's "La Traviata" at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 13, in the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. The story of a Parisian courtesan with a sordid past and no future will be performed in Italian with English supertitles, and accompanied by strings and piano. Tickets are \$35, \$25 for students, \$30 groups of 10 or more. Call 301-266-7546 or 301-438-8682, or log on to www.belantanti.com.

Good vibrations

The Beach Boys, featuring founding member Mike Love and Grammy Award-winning songwriter Bruce Johnston, will take the stage of the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, at 7:30 p.m. Monday. The California quintet's classic hits include "I Get Around," "Kokomo," "Surfin' USA," "California Girls," "Wouldn't It Be Nice" and "Help Me Rhonda." Tickets range from \$35 to \$102. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Myriad movies

The Washington Jewish Film Festival, consisting of 62 features, documentaries and shorts representing 10 countries, opens Thursday and runs through Sunday, Dec. 14. Montgomery County viewing locations are AFI Silver Theatre, 8644 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, and Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema, 7235 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda. Tickets are \$10 for evening and weekend screenings, \$6 for matinees on weekdays before 6 p.m. Senior citizens and students receive a \$1 discount. Call 202-777-3231 or visit www.wjff.org.

News Clips Report

People and Places The Gazette of Politics and Business

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

Alternative gift fair in Takoma Park

People and Places | Jeremy Arias and Jason TOMASSINI

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Having trouble finding the perfect gift for that charitable, community-minded friend or family member this holiday season? Come to the Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Ave.

Participants can donate money in the name of loved ones to interesting and service-oriented local, national and international charities including the Friends of Sligo Creek, the Afghan Relief Fund for orphans and widows in Afghanistan and the Freeminds Book Club supporting juveniles in Washington, D.C., jails.

There also will be a bake sale and live music throughout the event and a Kids Hour program noon to 1 p.m.

For more information or to register to volunteer at the event, e-mail fair director Gina Duffin at aggw_inc@yahoo.com.

Performer wins Web-based music awards

Silver Spring resident Diane Ligon was voted one of the "Best New Artists For Preschoolers" and "Best New Artists For Young Children" by the Children's Music Web Awards of 2008." Ligon won the awards by submitting songs from her show "Mother Goose and her Fabulous Puppet Friends." Ligon is the only artist who won awards in both categories for the same CD. The show tours locally through the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore area. The songs are set to a variety of musical styles including classical, opera, country, rock 'n' roll, jazz, salsa, disco, and hip-hop.

Ligon has performed at public and private schools, libraries, festivals and theaters. She also has performed "Mother Goose and Her Fabulous Puppet Friends" at the "Saturday Morning at the National" program at the National Theatre in Washington, D.C., and will be returning in March.

Takoma Park

to celebrate 25 years

as a nuclear-free city

A celebration 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 10 will mark the 25th anniversary of Takoma Park as a nuclear-free city. The event, which will include a short film, speeches and presentations, will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave.

Sponsored by the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee, the celebration seeks to call attention back to the importance of the city's 1983 ordinance prohibiting work on nuclear weapons within city limits. In addition, the city cannot lease nor purchase products from a nuclear weapons manufacturer without a special waiver from the committee.

Make early New Year's resolution with Interages

Adults age 50 and older are invited to visit the Interages open house 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 12 at on the second floor of the Holiday Park Senior Center at 3950 Ferrara Drive in Wheaton.

Learn how you can join others who spend between one and two hours per week with children in one of Interages intergenerational, school-based programs. Interages is a county-funded program that has been placing students with reading and writing tutors for 20 years.

School partners include Argyle and Eastern middle schools and Sligo Creek and Rolling Terrace elementary schools. Training, materials, and on-site staff support provided.

News Clips Report

For more information contact Sara Cartmill at 301-949-3551, ext. 19 or at Cartmill@interagesmd.org.

Documentary to be aired at B&O railroad station

Award-winning area filmmaker Walter Gottlieb's new documentary, "Next Stop: Silver Spring," about the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad station in Silver Spring, will be screened at a holiday open house 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the station, 8100 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring.

The film, which ran in March on PBS, covers the history and restoration of the station. Gottlieb won a Peer Gold award for scriptwriting from the Television, Internet and Video Association of Washington, D.C., for his latest work.

"It's a great feeling to have won this award," Gottlieb said. "It's an even greater feeling to continue to have Silver Spring validated as a subject that people in the Greater D.C. area care about and want to watch on television."

Gottlieb spent more than six years filming "Next Stop," a sequel to his 2002 documentary "Silver Spring: Story of an American Suburb" which also aired on public television.

There will also be a book signing and sale of historian Jerry A. McCoy's book "Historical Silver Spring" at the open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. followed by a free performance of the musical quartet Seraphim at 2 p.m.

For more information, call the historical society at 301-537-1253.

Send Silver Spring news to Staff Writer Jason Tomassini and Takoma Park news to Staff Writer Jeremy Arias at The Gazette, 13501 Virginia Manor Road, Laurel, MD 20707. The fax line is 240-473-7501. Tomassini can be reached at 240-473-7559 or jtomassini@gazette.net; Arias can be reached at 240-473-7564 or jarias@gazette.net.

New one-man show comes to Montgomery College

The "Arts Alive Series" at Montgomery College Black Box Theatre in Takoma Park will present Drew Richardson's dramatic one-man show "Dramatic Foolishness" 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday. The 100-seat Black Box Theatre is located at the corner of Philadelphia and Chicago avenues on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus of Montgomery College.

Richardson plays a befuddled and crazed innocent who attempts to clumsily entertain young and old audiences, according to a press release. The performance includes attempts to juggle 36 balls, balance on a ball with a bucket stuck on his foot and even saw himself in half.

Richardson studied theatrical clowning at Ohio University and in Paris. Richardson has taught comic improvisation at colleges, starred in theater and tours several one-man variety and street shows.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for seniors and children and \$5 for Montgomery College students and faculty. Call 301-588-4475 for tickets, or purchase online at

www.classactsarts.org. Production support is provided by Class Acts Arts Inc.

Holiday Bazaar at Grace Episcopal

Grace Episcopal Church, 1607 Grace Church Road in Silver Spring, will hold its Holiday Bazaar 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Fair-trade handcrafts from around the world, gifts, jewelry and ornaments, baked goods, books, holiday outfits, seasonal white elephants, new sweatshirts and T-shirts and free-trade coffee will all be for sale. A silent auction, children's craft corner and raffle for a new Amish quilt will also be held. Lunch will be served. Proceeds support the church's ministries.

For more information call 301-585-3515.

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Planners seek public input on growth strategies

The Montgomery County Planning Department invites the public to the last of four growth policy community meetings, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission headquarters, 8787 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring.

As Montgomery County planners start to develop recommendations for a countywide growth strategy, they are seeking to learn what residents value most about their communities.

Planners will use the information to craft the 2009-2011 Growth Policy, which guides development for two years and will look to broaden the traditional scope beyond traffic relief and adequate school capacity to include other public values, such as air and water quality.

The biennial process is required by the Montgomery County Council to synchronize future development with essential public facilities.

A growth policy survey posted online at www.GrowingSmarterMontgomery.org provides another opportunity for residents to voice an opinion.

At the meetings, participants will rotate among stations to discuss what they would like to see within four topic areas: connections, environment, design and diversity.

Previous meetings have been held in Burtonsville, Gaithersburg and Germantown.

Exotic gardens

previewed at library

Join the Silver Spring Garden Club 7 to 9 p.m. Monday for a presentation of the Gardens of Portugal at the Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Road in Silver Spring. The club is planning a trip to visit the gardens in April. The preview and trip are open to the public.

For more information visit groups.yahoo.com/group/SilverSpringGardenClub or call 301-588-6894.

Grant holiday wishes this season

Make the holidays happier for children in need by taking part in the Hearts & Homes for Youth "Wish Makers Holiday Gift Drive."

Hearts & Homes for Youth counsels and shelters thousands of troubled, neglected, abused, and homeless children each year in the Washington/Baltimore corridor, and this holiday season the organization needs help filling the "Wish Lists" of 150 young people who will be without their families this holiday season.

Through Dec. 15, residents can donate new toys, clothing, gift certificates, a special outing or sponsor a gift drive with co-workers and friends. Companies, churches and synagogues and civic groups are encouraged to participate. Hearts & Homes for Youth is a nonprofit agency and all donations are tax-deductible.

To donate, call 301-589-8444, ext. 212, or visit www.heartsandhomes.org.

Community center hosting

new exhibits

The Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., opened the new "Cranial Vault" exhibit this month on its third-floor gallery; the exhibit will run through Dec. 31.

A showcase of brain cancer survivor Tom Roberts' journey from a late-night seizure through surgery and his current life as a survivor, the exhibit features a display of medical skull models remade by local artists, phrenology exhibits and altered looks at scans made of Roberts' brain.

News Clips Report

The center is also hosting a pottery gallery exhibiting the work of Jane Spalding. The exhibit began last week and will run through Dec. 31.

Spalding's work incorporates Asian and Japanese aesthetics and styles. The exhibit, "Functional Pottery," can be viewed in the Corridor Gallery of the community center.

News Clips Report

School Notes Holy Child students learn about hunger through eating The Gazette

12/03/2008

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Holy Child students learn about hunger through eating

School Notes | Bradford Pearson

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Brian Lewis/The Gazette

(From left) Elizabeth Lyons, Meredith Tracy and Amy Watkins eat a bowl of rice and beans during the Connelly School of the Holy Child's Oxfam America Hunger Banquet Nov. 18. During the event, some students ate regular lunches, others ate rice and beans, and most ate just rice, to replicate what most people eat each day worldwide. Featured Jobs

Food available for modest donation of money, time

Class gives cooks new twists on traditional meal

Most days, middle school students at Potomac's Connelly School of the Holy Child open up their lunch boxes to find a sandwich, or maybe some leftovers from last night's dinner.

On Nov. 18, though, lunch was served a bit differently.

As part of the Oxfam America Hunger Banquet, the school fed 15 percent of their students a whole meal—with macaroni and cheese and croissants, among other things—while the remaining 85 percent ate either rice and beans or just rice.

The goal was to teach the students how fortunate they are by showing them how much of the world—85 percent—eats either rice and beans or just rice for meals every day.

"They'll never forget this," said Sarah Willging, a teacher who helped coordinate the event. "They'll go home and make a sandwich, but now they realize that half the world goes to bed hungry."

The students make sandwiches for a shelter each week, Willging said, but eating a meal that a hungry person in Africa or Asia might eat hit home. Prior to the banquet, the students made posters and watched videos about world hunger, she said.

During the banquet, the 15 percent eating a decent meal sat at tables, with linen and china. The 35 percent who ate the rice and beans were able to sit in chairs, while the other 50 percent ate their rice on the floor.

"I think this was very eye-opening for the students," Willging said. "Before we started learning about this, the students didn't know that some people have to walk five or 10 miles, just for clean water."

Churchill hosts tea party, performs 'Beauty'

In an effort to raise money for a trip to Scotland this summer, the Winston Churchill High School drama department will host two tea parties in conjunction with the school's production of "Beauty and the Beast."

The tea party costs \$35 per child in advance, \$40 at the door, and includes photo opportunities with the characters, a sing-along, and a ticket to the show.

The tea parties will take place at noon on Saturday, and 5 p.m. on Dec. 13, immediately preceding the day's performance.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.wchs-drama.org or call 301-469-1246.

The actual production of "Beauty and the Beast" will take place at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Saturday, Dec. 12 and 13, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

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Tickets for the show are \$10 and \$12, and can be purchased online at www.seatyourself.biz/ churchill.

Churchill High School is located at 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac.

Free financial aid seminar given at WJ

Have questions about financial aid for your college bound son or daughter? Join other parents and Melissa Gregory, director of financial aid at Montgomery College, at 7 p.m., Monday, at Walter Johnson High School for a discussion about what you can do to help your child secure more money for college.

Information will be available about grants, loans, scholarships and work-study programs, and Gregory will be on hand to answer any questions. Parents and students are invited to attend this free workshop. Walter Johnson is located at 6430 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda.

News Clips Report

Shock, mourning over Mumbai siege The Gazette of Politics and Business

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

Shock, mourning over Mumbai siege

County Indian and Jewish communities devastated by attacks killing nearly 200

by Sean R. Sedam and Melissa J. Brachfeld | Staff Writers

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Kamala Edwards and her family spent what she called a "dramatic" Thanksgiving weekend watching reports of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai and wondering about the well-being of loved ones.

"It is shocking and sad," the president of the nonprofit Indian American Leadership Council said on Monday.

For Edwards and other Indian Americans and Jews living in Montgomery County the attacks hit close to home.

Muslim extremists — possibly from Pakistan — killed nearly 200 people over three days of attacks at hotels, a Jewish center and landmarks across the Indian financial capital.

"Our immediate response, of course, is to maintain the peaceful relations [between India and Pakistan] and not to go into any blame-game finger-pointing," said Edwards, who has first cousins in Mumbai that she has not been able to reach.

Mumbai is a well-known destination for visitors. Many Americans traveling on business, including Edwards' husband, have stayed at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel that was the site of firefights between Indian commandos and the terrorists.

Pooja Bharadwaja, a management and budget specialist with Montgomery County, planned to fly to New Delhi on Tuesday night to attend her brother's wedding. She is anxious and will be "on guard" for this trip, she said.

In India, where Bharadwaja, 32, lived as a child, "life stopped" following the assassinations of prime ministers Indira Gandhi in 1984 and Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The Mumbai attacks, the latest in a year marked by terrorist violence across India, are different.

"It's more now," she said. "It's just becoming part of life. People are becoming so numb now."

Indian and Jewish faith communities and government officials will hold a memorial service from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Thursday at the Kay Spiritual Life Center at American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW, in Washington, D.C.

The Indian and Israeli ambassadors to the United States and Rabbi Levi Shemtov, director of American Friends of Lubavitch, will speak.

County Chabad centers are mourning the loss of Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg and his wife, Rivkah, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Holtzbergs, who were both under age 30, ran the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish center, which served Mumbai's Jewish community and was a home away from home for traveling Jews.

According to published reports, six Jews, mostly Israelis, were killed in the terrorist attack on the Chabad house.

A tribute to victims of the attacks will be held at 7:30 p

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A tribute to victims of the attacks will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy in Aspen Hill.

Rabbi Berel Wolfovsky, co-director of Chabad of Silver Spring and a classmate of Gavriel Holtz-berg's at the Oholei

News Clips Report

Torah yeshiva school in Brooklyn, said he was 'completely shocked and devastated' by news of his friend's death.

Wolvovsky said Holtzberg came to the school in third grade from Israel and both attended the school's college program.

'In the class we called him a solid guy,' he said. 'He was extremely knowledgeable in the teachings of the Torah and very personable.'

Holtzberg visited Wolvovsky twice in Silver Spring, most recently about a year ago.

Wolvovsky called the Holtzbergs 'two powerhouses who were doing so much good for so many people.'

Muslims around the world have condemned the attacks, but 'religious feelings in India are very, very tender right now,' said Edwards, a professor of English composition and literature at Montgomery College.

That can translate to mistrust in dealings among Indian Americans here, she said.

'You won't talk, you won't ask, but then you wonder who's sitting next to me and what their connections are,' she said.

There are nearly 18,600 Indians living in Montgomery County, according to the county's Office of Community Partnerships.

Indian Americans are not a homogenous group.

India's diversity of religions, ethnicities and languages make choosing how to react to the attacks a complex and personal decision for Indian Americans, Edwards said.

'It's sort of a wound that has been reopened,' she said. 'Nobody will say very much. They are absorbing all they see and hear and individually deciding how to conduct themselves.'

Safety concerns in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when Indian Americans feared that wearing turbans or traditional garb could lead to possibly violent reactions, have 'sort of been resurrected' by the attacks and by reports that the terrorists targeted Americans, Edwards said.

'For me, this is like 9/11 all over again,' said Pradeep Ganguly, who as the county's economic development director has taken Maryland delegations to his native India.

On Thursday, Ganguly's niece decided not to go in to her office, which is just two blocks from a site of the attacks.

Ganguly said his office had drafted a letter for County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) to send to the Indian prime minister and other officials, expressing solidarity with the Indian people and government.

On Friday, Wolvovsky bought a cake for the Holtzbergs's orphaned son, Moshe, whose second birthday was Saturday. The Chabad of Silver Spring congregation 'cut the cake and wished him that he should know no more suffering and no more pain.'

The congregation plans to send the boy a birthday present and to celebrate future 'milestones in his life,' Wolvovsky said.

News Clips Report

Teen gets community service for role in death of Gaithersburg man Gazette, The

12/03/2008

Father of two from Gaithersburg was beaten while walking home and left on Muncaster Mill Road

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A Gaithersburg teen pleaded guilty to reckless endangerment for his role in the death of a man who was beaten, left lying in the road and then fatally struck by a car in January.

The teen was charged as a juvenile and sentenced to community service in connection with the death of Manuel Antonio Ramirez-Gavarete, 38, of Gaithersburg. The teen, now 18, was 17 at the time, according to Assistant State's Attorney George Simms.

'I pray every night for the whole family,' the teen said at the Nov. 25 sentencing in Montgomery County District Court. 'I'm just sorry.'

Prosecutors have said that a group of teens was driving around 1 a.m. on Jan. 6 when they saw Ramirez-Gavarete walking alone on Muncaster Mill Road in Gaithersburg. The driver, Anthony Alexander Dzikowski of Rockville, turned around, and Dzikowski and the teen confronted Ramirez-Gavarete, who had been at a bar and was two blocks from home, prosecutors have said.

'At the point the vehicle made a U-turn, nothing good was going to come out of that interaction,' Simms said at the sentencing.

Dzikowski pushed Ramirez-Gavarete and the teen hit him, knocking him to the ground, prosecutors have said. The teen characterized the contact as a 'smush,' while another occupant of the car described it as a 'punch,' Simms said.

Within minutes, Ramirez-Gavarete was run over by another car, prosecutors have said.

'It was really bad judgment,' the teen's Greenbelt-based attorney Richard Finci said in an interview. 'There was never any intention for anyone to get hurt or killed. It was just stupid.'

Dzikowski, 19, was indicted on charges of manslaughter, reckless endangerment and conspiracy to commit second-degree assault in May, according to an online state court records database. A jury trial is scheduled for March 30 in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

It is unclear whether Ramirez-Gavarete was conscious when the teens left, prosecutors have said.

The teen, who Simms said is unemployed and was expelled from Montgomery College's Gateway to College program, was sentenced to 150 hours of community service and up to three years of probation by Judge Andrew L. Sonner. He was ordered to complete substance abuse and mental health treatment; participate in the African-American Male Empowerment Network support group and a victim awareness program; abide by a 10 p.m. curfew; seek employment or enroll in school; and write an essay on leadership and a letter of apology to the Ramirez family.

'You wiped out a life,' Sonner said, describing the teen's actions as 'fooling around' and 'bullying.' 'If this had happened when you were 18, 19, you'd be facing some hard time.'

The teen had been stabbed several weeks before by a man who had pulled a knife from his pocket, Finci said. He was suffering from a kind of post-traumatic stress disorder and hit Ramirez-Gavarete because his hands were in his pockets,

News Clips Report

Finci said.

Ramirez-Gavarete, an immigrant with two children in Honduras, was within a week of his 39th birthday. His younger brother, Jose Ramirez of Gaithersburg, was disappointed with the judge's characterization of the teen's actions.

'The way the judge was talking, I thought he was going to be more aggressive,' Ramirez said after the sentencing.

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by Meghan Tierney | Staff Writer
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Teen sentenced to community service for role in death of man Gazette, The

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It is unclear whether Ramirez-Gavarete was conscious when the teens left, prosecutors have said.

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'You wiped out a life,' Sonner said, describing the teen's actions as 'fooling around' and 'bullying.' 'If this had happened when you were 18, 19, you'd be facing some hard time.'

The teen had been stabbed several weeks before by a man who had pulled a knife from his pocket, Finci said at the sentencing. He was suffering from a kind of post-traumatic stress disorder and hit Ramirez-Gavarete because his hands were in his pockets, Finci said.

Ramirez-Gavarete, an immigrant with two children in Honduras, was within a week of his 39th birthday. His younger brother, Jose Ramirez of Gaithersburg, said he was disappointed with the judge's characterization of the teen's actions.

'The way the judge was talking, I thought he was going to be more aggressive,' Ramirez said after the sentencing.

News Clips Report

Teenagers' views of the world The Gazette

12/03/2008

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

Teenagers' views of the world

Photographs by teens on display at City Hall

by Contessa Crisostomo | Staff Writer

[E-mail this article](#) \ [Print this article](#)

Photo courtesy of VisArts

Aliya Ahmad was one of six at-risk teens who channeled their creativity through photography during a six-month program at the Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts (VisArts). They learned how to use a camera and techniques in black-and-white and digital photography. A look at life through the lenses of teenagers is on display in Rockville City Hall, marking the culmination of a six-month program at the Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts (VisArts).

"The program was about using photography as a way to express yourself, instead of using your own words ... teaching at-risk teenagers that they can express themselves and show society what is important to them," said Rachel Loving, outreach director for VisArts, located in Town Square.

Aliya Ahmad, Marquette Bannerman, Matthew Foster, Sheldon Johnson, Mike Moore and Cari Serrano — ages 16 and 17 — were identified through a partnership with Journeys, a Rockville-based adolescent outpatient program for mental health and substance abuse.

The teenagers learned both how to shoot and print black-and-white photographs from film as well as digital with help from a professional photographer, VisArts staff and Montgomery College student mentors.

Ahmad, 17, of Montgomery Village hopes to pursue photography as a career.

"I learned that I can excel in anything I commit to," Ahmad said in a statement that is posted on the wall next to her photographs in City Hall.

The photographs on display on the second floor of City Hall portray the world from the students' point of view, from downtown Rockville to downtown Washington, D.C. The photos feature Rockville Town Square and the nation's capital in the spring when the cherry trees blossomed.

A series of photos from an excursion to Embassy Row in Washington, D.C., were featured in Washington Life magazine, Loving said.

The program was sponsored by a grant from Youth PoWR, a youth-led grant council of The Greater Washington Youth Philanthropy Initiative in which teenagers review grants for programs for youth and by youth.

Loving said that given the success of the program, VisArts hope to do it again next year.

"We really see the participants as youth with promise, and through photography they are able to have a voice in their community," Loving said. "Over the past six months, we were delighted to see their wonderful images develop along with their confidence and ability to communicate in a positive and creative manner."

The photographs are on display through December at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

News Clips Report

The Office of Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md. - Meeting FIND Washington Daybook

12/03/2008

The Office of Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md.

TIME: 12 noon

EVENT: The Office of Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md. holds a town hall meeting on "Dealing with our Economic Crisis."

DATE: December 4, 2008

LOCATION: Montgomery College, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, Md.

CONTACT: Sue Walitsky, 202-224-4524

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News Clips Report

Building Plan Stirs Up Hospital Rivalry in Montgomery County

Washington Post - Online

Rockville, MD

Lori Aratani

12/02/2008

Officials at Adventist HealthCare announced today that they will continue with plans to build a hospital in Clarksburg despite a rival's proposal to build another hospital only a few miles away from their site.

The decision sets up a battle between two health care giants in Montgomery County. It is unlikely that both hospitals would be built so close together and the winner will be decided by state officials.

Adventist HealthCare had long planned to build a 100-bed hospital in Clarksburg to complement two facilities it already operates in the area, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville and the Shady Grove Adventist Emergency Center in Germantown. But in August, officials at Silver Spring-based Holy Cross Hospital surprised many in the community when they announced an agreement with Montgomery College to build a 93-bed hospital that would open in 2012 on the college's Germantown campus.

In October, Holy Cross officials filed building plans with the Maryland Health Care Commission, the agency that approves hospital construction in the state. A hearing date on Holy Cross' plan has not yet been set. Adventist officials said they anticipate filing their formal application, called a Certificate of Need, with the state in 2009. 'There was never any question whether we were going to go forward with Clarksburg,' said William G. Robertson, president and chief executive of Adventist HealthCare. 'We've been working on this for six years and we thought it was time to give people a little more in-depth glimpse of the comprehensive medical campus.'

Robertson said Adventist officials have a better plan than the one offered by Holy Cross, the county's largest hospital. The Clarksburg hospital would be part of a larger medical complex that would include a medical office building and a 150-bed skilled nursing facility. The 142-acre site would provide ample space for future expansion, he added. Adventist HealthCare purchased the property in 2001, but it has taken several years for it to move through the planning process.

Holy Cross' plans call for a 93-bed, \$267 million hospital to be built on 23 acres. The proposed hospital will be the anchor of the college's north county campus. Holy Cross officials said the project's proximity to the community college offers the opportunity for on-the-job training opportunities for students. Officials also plan to open a clinic for obstetrics and gynecology in Germantown and expand their current campus in Silver Spring by building a \$209 million, seven-story tower for patients. 'The partnership with Montgomery College presents extraordinary opportunities to help educate and develop the healthcare workforce of current and future generations,' said Kevin J. Sexton, president and chief executive of Holy Cross.

It is unclear which plan might have more appeal to the state health care commission. By law, it must evaluate projects based on six criteria including cost-effectiveness, viability and impact on other health care facilities in the area. Paul Parker, who heads the review process for the commission said the projects will be evaluated on their individual merits. Approval of one project does not necessarily mean the other will be turned down.

However, local officials say it's unlikely both proposed projects would receive permission to build because they are so closely located to each other.

News Clips Report

December 4 Montgomery College To Host Town Hall Meeting With U.S. Senator Benjamin Card **PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest**

12/02/2008

ROCKVILLE, Md., Dec. 2 -- Montgomery College issued the following news release:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008, NOON - 1 P.M.

Montgomery College, Rockville Campus

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD

On Thursday, December 4 at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus, U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) will hold a town hall meeting with students, faculty, and staff from noon to 1 p.m. in the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, located at 51 Mannakee Street in Rockville.

Senator Cardin will talk about the current state of the economy and prospects for jobs. He'll also discuss initiatives being considered by the new Congress and President-elect Barack Obama to stabilize our financial system. In addition, Montgomery College students, faculty, staff and members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions of the Senator. This event is open to the media.

TNS MT93-JF78-081203-2071233 18MASHMaryJane

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News Clips Report

Health commissioner visits Marion County facility Chattanooga Times Free Press

12/02/2008

Dec. 2--JASPER, Tenn. -- Marion County's new health department comes at the right time to help people who are struggling with a tough economy, State Health Commission Susan R. Cooper said.

"We've already seen an increase in demand for services across the state for programs like our WIC (Women, Infants and Children nutrition) program for mothers and children," said Ms. Cooper, who spoke Monday at an open house at the new facility.

"If they are unfortunate enough to lose their jobs and lose their health insurance, they will have a place to go," she said.

Marion County's new department joins the region's other new facilities in Franklin, Meigs and Rhea counties and another in Sequatchie County that is nearing completion.

The projects were associated with Gov. Phil Bredesen's Safety Net Task Force, which aimed to help people kicked off the TennCare rolls and those who have no health insurance, officials said.

The "safety net" increased primary care services and drew more people to health departments that already were cramped.

Ms. Cooper said the new building in Jasper is an example of teamwork between local, state and federal government entities.

Howell Moss, Marion County's mayor, said it's been a long road to completion, but Jasper and county officials kept an eye on details to make sure the facility was built for a long life.

County Commission building committee members, county highway officials and Health Department Director Charlene Nunley "saw to it the taxpayers got their money's worth for this facility," Mr. Moss said.

State Rep. Bill Harmon, D-Dunlap, said his district -- Sequatchie, Van Buren, Grundy and Marion counties -- now has three modernized health departments and the one Dunlap, Tenn., that should be finished next month.

"Health departments are so important in rural areas. It's just an absolute necessity that we have these," he said.

It's the patients who benefit most, said Missy Halley, the nursing supervisor in Marion County. Patients already noticed the new building's design "helped our patient flow," she said.

Taking care of people "is easier to do when you have a better functioning work environment," she said.

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News Clips Report

Shock and mourning expressed in Maryland over Mumbai attacks Gazette, The

12/02/2008

County Indian and Jewish communities react to terrorist siege

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Thanksgiving weekend was 'dramatic' for Silver Spring resident Kamala Edwards, as she and her family watched reports of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai and wondered about the well-being of loved ones.

'It is shocking and sad,' she said Monday.

For Edwards, who is president of the nonprofit Indian American Leadership Council, the attacks, in which Muslim extremists possibly from Pakistan killed nearly 200 people over three days last week at hotels and landmarks across the Indian financial capital, have hit close to home.

She has first cousins in Mumbai that she has not been able to reach.

Her husband has stayed at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel when on business in Mumbai. The hotel was the site of firefights between Indian commandos and the terrorists.

His brothers and sisters said curfews had been put in place where they live in Dehli and Lucknow, in the northern part of the country, because of fears of rioting.

'Our immediate response, of course, is to maintain the peaceful relations [between India and Pakistan] and not to go into any blame-game finger-pointing,' Edwards said.

Other communities grieved in the wake of the attacks.

County Chabad centers are mourning the loss of Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg and his wife, Rivkah, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Holtzbergs, who were both under age 30, ran the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish center, which served Mumbai's Jewish community and was a home away from home for traveling Jews, said Rabbi Sender Geisinsky, associate director of the Chabad of Bethesda and Chevy Chase.

According to published reports, nine Jews, mostly Israelis, were killed in the terrorist attack on the Chabad house.

Rabbi Yitzchok Gurary, who leads the Chabad Torah Center of East Rockville along with his wife, Rivkah, said area Chabads are planning to pay tribute to the Holtzbergs and the other victims of the attacks on Dec. 10 at the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy in Aspen Hill.

His center also will remember the victims Saturday at a lunch it holds after morning services, he said.

'We're very hurt by what happened, but we have to move on and be stronger and keep doing what it is that we do,' Gurary said.

He added that he and Holtzberg grew up in the same area of Brooklyn. Although Holtzberg was older, Gurary said he was acquainted with him and attended the same synagogue. He said he had seen Holtzberg recently at a Chabad conference in Brooklyn.

News Clips Report

'Just to know that he was killed out there helping other people is terrible,' he said. 'Just for no reason he was killed. But we're going to stand strong and do our best to help his child and parents find comfort in this difficult time.'

The Chabad community is also keeping those were injured in the attacks in their thoughts, he said.

'We're also praying for all the people who were injured and are still living, thank God, to have a full recovery,' Gurary said.

Indian Americans here in Montgomery County have been dealing with their own fears, Edwards said.

Safety concerns in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when Indian Americans feared that wearing turbans or traditional garb could lead to possibly violent reactions, have resurfaced, she said.

'It's sort of been resurrected' by the attacks and by reports that the Muslim terrorists targeted Americans, she said.

'It's a double whammy' for natives of India who are now Americans, Edwards said.

The attacks have exacerbated tensions between religious groups. The terrorists were Muslims and thought to be from Pakistan.

Muslims around the world have condemned the attacks, but 'religious feelings in India are very, very tender right now,' said Edwards, a professor of English composition and literature at Montgomery College.

That can translate to mistrust in dealings among Indian Americans here in the county, she said.

'You won't talk, you won't ask, but then you wonder who's sitting next to me and what their connections are,' she said.

India's diversity of religions, ethnicities and languages make dealing with how to react to the attacks a complex and personal decision for Indian Americans, Edwards said.

'It's sort of a wound that has been reopened,' she said. 'Nobody will say very much. They are absorbing all they see and hear and individually deciding how to conduct themselves.'

News Clips Report

AND PLANNING OFFICIALS, AND MONTGOMERY COLLEGE EMPLOYEES CANNOT TAKE WASHINGTON REPORT - NC8

12/01/2008

METRO TRAFFIC. A HEADS UP AS YOU'RE DRIVING IN A HEADS UP AS YOU'RE DRIVING IN DC TONIGHT. THE CITY IS DEPLOYING MOBILE SPEED CAMERAS TO SEVERAL LOCATIONS, INCLUDING THE SOUTHEAST-SOUTHWEST FREEWAY AND THE SUITLAND PARKWAY. DRIVERS CAUGHT BY THE CAMERAS WILL RECEIVE WARNINGS. OFFICIALS SAY THE GOAL IS TO SLOW DRIVERS DOWN. BUT NOT EVERYONE IS CONVINCED. I think they're all out to make money, why don't they put police officers out to catch people and write tickets NO FEES WILL BE COLLECTED UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 25TH. THE DEBATE OVER A NEW METRO LINE IS BRINGING OUT TENSIONS BETWEEN SOCIAL CLASSES. SUPPORTERS OF THE SO-CALLED "PURPLE LINE" SAY THE 16-MILE LINK BETWEEN BETHESDA AND NEW CARROLLTON WOULD ALLOW LOWER-INCOME RESIDENTS MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES. THEY CLAIM THAT OPPOSITION TO THE PLAN IS ROOTED IN ELITISM, WITH THOSE IN WEALTHIER WESTERN SUBURBS NOT WANTING TO BE LINKED TO POORER AREAS. OPPONENTS SAY THEY ARE AGAINST IT BECAUSE THE PROJECT'S HIGH COST. CATCHING THE BUS COULD BECOME A LITTLE HARDER IN FAIRFAX COUNTY. THAT'S BECAUSE BUS SERVICE COULD BE REDUCED AS OFFICIALS CONSIDER WAYS TO CLOSE A PROJECTED 5-HUNDRED-MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET SHORTFALL. COUNTY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS HAVE PROPOSED SLASHING MORE THAN 86-THOUSAND HOURS OF FAIRFAX CONNECTOR SERVICE. THE CUT COULD SAVE 7-POINT -7 MILLION DOLLARS IN FISCAL 20-10. SOME METRO RIDERS ARE IN FOR SOME CHANGES TODAY. THE SMART VOUCHERS SYSTEM WILL GIVE RIDERS ONE, TEN AND 30 DOLLAR CARDS THAT CAN BE USED TO BUY FARES ON OTHER SYSTEMS THAT DON'T HAVE SMARTRIP CARDS. THE VOUCHERS REPLACE THE METROCHEK FARE CARDS, WHICH WERE SUBJECT TO INCREASING FRAUD AND MISUSE. BUYING A HOUSE MAY SEEM LIKE A FAR OFF DREAM IN TODAY'S FINANCIAL CLIMATE, BUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY IS TAKING STEPS TO MAKE HOMEOWNERSHIP AN AFFORDABLE REALITY FOR IT'S EMPLOYEES. OUR JACKIE CONGEDO JOINS US NOW LIVE IN THE STUDIO TO EXPLAIN. HI JACKIE. BEVERLY- ITS COMING UP WITH THAT CASH UP FRONT- FOR CLOSING COSTS AND DOWN PAYMENTS- THAT OFTEN SCARES FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS AWAY FROM TAKING THE PLUNGE. BUT TODAY COUNTY OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT TODAY'S HOUSING MARKET CAN OFFER SOME GREAT DEALS- AND THAT THEY CAN HELP WITH TAKING THOSE FIRST FINANCIAL STEPS. Locator: 00-09 Rockville Carmen Berrios- Legislative Aide : 09-: 17 Rick Nelson, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Michael Knapp- President, Montgomery County Council, : 56-1:01 Isiah Leggett- Montgomery County Executive 1:08-1:14 TRT: 1:20 OC: MONEY SITTING ON THE TABLE CARMEN BERRIOS WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES AT MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS- LAST YEAR SHE WANTED TO TAKE THE PLUNGE, AND BUY HER FIRST HOUSE. The problem was you know montgomery county is so much more expensive compared to the neighboring jurisdictions, So the question was how do we stay in montgomery county. THE ANSWER CAME IN A COUNTY LOAN OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS- WHICH COVERED ALL OF HER CLOSING COSTS ON THE PURCHASE OF A TOWNHOUSE HERE IN THIS GERMANTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD. Ten thousand dollars wasn't everything, But it was a great help and a nice boost. THE NEWS GETS BETTER FOR THOSE IN THE MARKET TO BUY NOW- TODAY THE COUNTY ANNOUNCED IT'S JOINED THE STATE'S HOME KEYS FOR EMPLOYEES PROGRAM. THAT MEANS- COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO APPLY FOR COUNTY LOAN ASSISTANCE WILL NOW BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO FIVE THOUSAND ADDITIONAL DOLLARS IN MATCHING STATE FUNDS. This gives them up to 15 thousand dollars which is a major part of the downpayments and closing costs. OFFICIALS HOPE THE EXTRA HOMEBUYING HELP WILL KEEP THE HOUSING MARKET MOVING, whatever we can do to get people into homes right now we know is one of the most significant things we can do to stimulate our economy. SO HOW CAN THE COUNTY AFFORD MORE HELP FOR IT'S EMPLOYEES WHEN MONTGOMERY IS FACING BUDGET SHORTFALLS OF IT'S OWN? When you look at the amount of money that we're talking about given the tax revenues that we ultimately receive I think this is a bargain for us. AND IF YOU ASK BERRIOS- IT'S A BARGAIN THAT GOES BOTH WAYS. There's no reason you should leave money sitting on the table. THERE ARE SOME LIMITATIONS, ONLY FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM. THERE'S ALSO A MAXIMUM INCOME REQUIREMENT- THAT'S ON AVERAGE ABOUT 107 THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR. AND THE HOUSE HAS TO SELL FOR LESS THAN 430 THOUSAND DOLLARS. ALSO, NOT ALL UNIONS HAVE SIGNED ONTO THE DEAL- SO RIGHT NOW FIREFIGHTERS, TEACHERS, POLICE OFFICERS, PARK AND PLANNING OFFICIALS, AND MONTGOMERY COLLEGE EMPLOYEES CANNOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE EXTRA STATE FUNDS. BEVERLY: SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S STILL A WAYS TO GO ON THIS, WHAT'S THE HOLD UP FOR THOSE COUNTY WORKERS YOU JUST LISTED?

News Clips Report

Montgomery Co. Helping Employees Buy First Home NewsChannel 8

12/01/2008

Montgomery Co. Helping Employees Buy First Home posted 5:45 pm Mon December 01, 2008 tags: home • buy • owner • county

Stay on top of breaking news! Sign up for NewsChannel 8 e-mail alerts.

Your Email: [Montgomery County \(web|news\), Md.](mailto:Montgomery County (web|news), Md.) - Buying a house may seem like a far off dream in the current financial climate, but Montgomery County is taking steps to make home ownership an affordable reality for its employees.

Normally, coming up with cash up front for closing costs and down payments is what scares first-time home buyers away. But now, county officials stressed that the current housing market can offer some great deals and they can help with taking those first financial steps.

Carmen Berrios works behind the scenes at Montgomery County council headquarters. Last year she wanted to buy her first house. "The problem was, you know, Montgomery County is so much more expensive compared to the neighboring jurisdictions. So the question was how do we stay in Montgomery County?"

Her answer came in a county loan of \$10,000, which covered all of her closing costs on the purchase of a townhouse in a Germantown neighborhood. "\$10,000 wasn't everything, but it was a great help and a nice boost," said Berrios.

Now, the county has joined the state's Home Keys for Employees program. It means county employees who apply for county loan assistance will now be eligible for up to \$5,000 additional in matching state funds. "This gives them up to \$15,000 which is a major part of the down payments and closing costs," said Rick Nelson, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Officials hope the extra home buying help will keep the housing market moving. "Whatever we can do to get people into homes right now we know is one of the most significant things we can do to stimulate our economy," said Michael Knapp, Montgomery County Council president.

So how can the county afford more help for its employees when Montgomery is facing budget shortfalls of it's own? "When you look at the amount of money that we're talking about given the tax revenues that we ultimately receive I think this is a bargain for us," said Ike Leggett, Montgomery County executive.

If you ask Berrios, it's a bargain that goes both ways. "There's no reason you should leave money sitting on the table," said Berrios.

There are some limitations to the plan. Only first time home buyers are eligible for the program. There's also a maximum income requirement, on average, about \$107,000 a year. Also, the house has to sell for less than \$430,000 and not all unions have signed onto the deal, so currently firefighters, teachers, police officers, park and planning officials, and Montgomery College employees cannot take advantage of the extra state funds.

Unions have to agree to allow their employees to take advantage of the program. The council president said it's just a matter of asking the unions and he sees no reason why they would say no.

Email To A Friend

News Clips Report

Shock and mourning over Mumbai attacks The Gazette

12/01/2008

Monday, Dec. 1, 2008

Shock and mourning over Mumbai attacks

County Indian and Jewish communities react to terrorist siege

by Sean R. Sedam and Melissa J. Brachfeld | Staff Writers

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"It is shocking and sad," she said Monday.

For Edwards, who is president of the nonprofit Indian American Leadership Council, the attacks, in which Muslim extremists—possibly from Pakistan—killed nearly 200 people over three days last week at hotels and landmarks across the Indian financial capital, have hit close to home.

She has first cousins in Mumbai that she has not been able to reach.

Her husband has stayed at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel when on business in Mumbai. The hotel was the site of firefights between Indian commandos and the terrorists.

His brothers and sisters said curfews had been put in place where they live in Dehli and Lucknow, in the northern part of the country, because of fears of rioting.

"Our immediate response, of course, is to maintain the peaceful relations [between India and Pakistan] and not to go into any blame-game finger-pointing," Edwards said.

Other communities grieved in the wake of the attacks.

County Chabad centers are mourning the loss of Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg and his wife, Rivkah, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Holtzbergs, who were both under age 30, ran the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish center, which served Mumbai's Jewish community and was a home away from home for traveling Jews, said Rabbi Sender Geisinsky, associate director of the Chabad of Bethesda and Chevy Chase.

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News Clips Report

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His center also will remember the victims Saturday at a lunch it holds after morning services, he said.

"We're very hurt by what happened, but we have to move on and be stronger and keep doing what it is that we do," Gurary said.

He added that he and Holtzberg grew up in the same area of Brooklyn. Although Holtzberg was older, Gurary said he was acquainted with him and attended the same synagogue. He said he had seen Holtzberg recently at a Chabad conference in Brooklyn.

"Just to know that he was killed out there helping other people is terrible," he said. "Just for no reason he was killed. But we're going to stand strong and do our best to help his child and parents find comfort in this difficult time."

The Chabad community is also keeping those were injured in the attacks in their thoughts, he said.

"We're also praying for all the people who were injured and are still living, thank God, to have a full recovery," Gurary said.

Indian Americans here in Montgomery County have been dealing with their own fears, Edwards said.

Safety concerns in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when Indian Americans feared that wearing turbans or traditional garb could lead to possibly violent reactions, have resurfaced, she said.

"It's sort of been resurrected" by the attacks and by reports that the Muslim terrorists targeted Americans, she said.

"It's a double whammy" for natives of India who are now Americans, Edwards said.

The attacks have exacerbated tensions between religious groups. The terrorists were Muslims and thought to be from Pakistan.

Muslims around the world have condemned the attacks, but "religious feelings in India are very, very tender right now," said Edwards, a professor of English composition and literature at Montgomery College.

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News Clips Report

Shock and mourning over Mumbai attacks Gazette, The

12/01/2008

County Indian and Jewish communities react to terrorist siege

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News Clips Report

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That can translate to mistrust in dealings among Indian Americans here in the county, she said.

'You won't talk, you won't ask, but then you wonder who's sitting next to me and what their connections are,' she said.

India's diversity of religions, ethnicities and languages make dealing with how to react to the attacks a complex and personal decision for Indian Americans, Edwards said.

'It's sort of a wound that has been reopened,' she said. 'Nobody will say very much. They are absorbing all they see and hear and individually deciding how to conduct themselves.'

News Clips Report

All Is Bright for Jupiter, Venus
Washingtonpost - Online

11/30/2008

- Dec. 20 -- With short days soon getting longer, understand the celestial mechanics behind "The Day of the Sun's Return: The Winter Solstice," Montgomery College planetarium, Takoma Park. 7 p.m.
<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/departments/planet>

Blaine Friedlander may be reached at PostSkyWatch@aol.com.

News Clips Report

Obituaries

Washington Post - Online

11/30/2008

Jason P. Roth Montgomery College Student

Jason Patrick Roth, 22, a varsity soccer standout and 2004 graduate of Magruder High School who was attending Montgomery College and working as a teacher's aide at Barnsley Elementary School, all in Rockville, died Nov. 22 from injuries in a single-car accident near Laytonsville.

Mr. Roth's car hit a tree and overturned off Route 108, north of Laytonsville, according to a Montgomery County police spokeswoman, who said the accident is under investigation.

Mr. Roth, a Gaithersburg resident, played forward on Magruder's varsity soccer team in 2002 and 2003 and was a Washington Post All-Met honorable mention both years. He also was a member of the Maryland All-State team.

Mr. Roth was born in Olney and raised in upper Montgomery. As an adult, he continued playing soccer as a member of the Potomac Cougars club team.

Survivors include his parents, Jeffrey and Patricia Roth of Gaithersburg; a sister, Kari Roth of Laytonsville; a brother, Jon Roth of Damascus; his maternal grandparents, Jack and Janet Quinnan of Vestal, N.Y., as well as Tom and Dena Holt of Orlando; and his paternal grandmother, Janet Roth of Silver Spring.

-- Adam Bernstein

Sidney V. Suhler State Department Employee

Sidney V. Suhler, 85, a retired State Department officer and former McLean resident, died Nov. 21 at his home in Keswick, Va., of kidney failure.

Mr. Suhler joined the Foreign Service in 1950 and became a consular officer working in Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Burma. After leaving the State Department, he worked from 1973 to 1977 for the Agency for International Development, compiling aid budgets for African countries.

Sidney Vernon Suhler was born in Dallas. He joined the Army Air Forces during World War II and flew combat missions over Germany.

He received a bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University in 1947 and a master's degree in international studies from Johns Hopkins University in 1949. He moved to Keswick in 1998.

News Clips Report

Yesterday's Charm, Today's Convenience Washingtonpost - Online

11/29/2008

Yesterday's Charm, Today's Convenience

Jason McCool walks his mixed-breed terrier, Fenway, through Falkland Chase in Silver Spring. (By Amy Reinink For The Washington Post)

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Who's Blogging» Links to this article

By Amy Reinink

Special to The Washington Post

Saturday, November 29, 2008; Page T05

Jason McCool ambled along a leaf-strewn path through Falkland Chase Apartments on a recent weekday, walking his mixed-breed terrier, Fenway, and taking in his favorite things about the place he lives.

He likes that Falkland Chase, which consists of 20 garden-apartment buildings on 22 acres at 16th Street and East West Highway, sits a few blocks from the Silver Spring Metro and downtown Silver Spring. He likes that the complex caters to pet owners not only by allowing cats and dogs, but also by offering fenced dog parks throughout the complex and by keeping dog treats in the main office.

And he likes that the complex is full of green space and a sense of history that can only come with age: It was built in the 1930s as one of the first apartment projects backed by the Federal Housing Administration.

One thing he doesn't like is the uncertainty that has surrounded the complex's future since New York-based Home Properties, which bought Falkland Chase in 2003, unveiled plans to demolish several of the complex's buildings to make way for new ones.

Current plans call for high- and mid-rise buildings with residential and retail space on the northern third of the complex.

News Clips Report

Michael Eastwood, vice president of development at Home Properties, said plans are still subject to change during the review process but that "the fundamentals of the project remain pretty constant."

"Two-thirds of the complex will remain completely intact," he said. "The piece we're proposing to redevelop is the one with the highest percentage of asphalt, the least amount of trees and has already been impacted by the widening of East West Highway. We think it makes a lot of sense to redevelop."

Eastwood also said Home Properties has taken care to plan for new construction that is in keeping with both the existing portions of Falkland Chase and the surrounding properties in Silver Spring.

The pending redevelopment has sparked debate in the greater community and within Falkland Chase. Some say the new construction would bring amenities such as a swimming pool, new fitness centers, additional parking and a possible grocery store, and would retain the most architecturally significant portions of Falkland Chase while adding high-density housing. The owners and other proponents of the plan also argue that the location, just blocks from Metro, makes it among the best spots in Silver Spring for new high-density housing.

But some residents, along with historic preservationists, say replacing garden-apartment buildings with high-rises would compromise the community's historic character, part of the reason they moved there.

"There's so much history in this town, and this place is a part of that," said McCool, 33, an actor and Montgomery College professor who shares a two-bedroom apartment with a roommate. "It just seems like a shame to bulldoze that."

The Montgomery County Planning Board voted on Sept. 4 to designate two-thirds of the complex as historic, and to recommend one-third of the complex be redeveloped, according to Planning Board spokeswoman Valerie Berton.

News Clips Report

Montgomery Hot Tickets The Gazette

11/28/2008

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008

Montgomery Hot Tickets

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Ladies first

Journalist Cokie Roberts will discuss her best-selling "Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, in Montgomery College's Theatre Arts Arena, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Among the accomplished women Roberts examines are Abigail Adams, Margaret Bayard Smith, Martha Jefferson, Eliza Hamilton, Sacajawea and Dolly Madison. Admission is free and open to the public; tickets are not required. Call Dr. Lee Annis, 240-567-5281, or e-mail lee.annis@montgomerycollege.edu.

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News Clips Report

Teens hope to 'Kick Ash' with program for high schools Gazette, The

11/28/2008

Forum focuses on curbing youth tobacco use

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Chris Rossi/The Gazette

Amir Mansour of Potomac talks about the dangers of smoking at the Kick Ash anti-tobacco forum for teens on Saturday at Dave & Buster's at White Flint Mall. Mansour, who is trying to quit smoking himself, is a member of the Quit While You're Ahead youth anti-tobacco group.

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When she started smoking at 14, Susan Manan of Rockville didn't even like it. She simply wanted to blend in with her older friends. But it got to the point where she would stick her head out her bedroom window just to smoke a cigarette, and she was too scared to tell her parents about her addiction.

'I think every single person at my school has tried smoking,' said Manan, a former student at Quince Orchard High School who now attends Montgomery College.

To help people her age drop their tobacco habits early in life, Manan and about 25 teens held a 'Kick Ash' forum and training session on Saturday at Dave & Buster's in White Flint Mall to brainstorm methods of getting effective anti-tobacco messages into Montgomery County high schools.

The teens, all of them current and former smokers, talked about how to combat the attractive image of alternative methods of tobacco use, such as hookahs. Youth-targeted products, such as dissolvable flavored tobacco or 'snus,' currently being test-marketed in the U.S., were also discussed.

Addressing the two youth groups at the meeting, Students Oppose Smoking (SOS) and Quit While You're Ahead (QWYA), County Council Vice President Philip M. Andrews (D-Dist. 3) of Gaithersburg remarked that students had to fight the tobacco industry's powerful advertising by making a positive impression on their peers.

Survey results from county high schools compiled by SOS showed that 67 percent of students who saw other students smoking on school grounds did not tell anyone about it, while 77 percent of students did not know their school's smoking policy. Tobacco use is prohibited in all county schools and on school grounds.

Cigarette use in Montgomery County schools dropped 3 percent from 2000 to 2006, according to the Maryland Department of Health, while overall tobacco use dropped 2.3 percent.

'What you can do is be a great advertisement yourself,' Andrews told the assembled teens.

In a small group session, Quit While You're Ahead members kicked around ideas about the best way to reach teenagers, such as forming Facebook groups and holding events at Montgomery mall. Manan said carbon monoxide tests conducted on students who stepped off the Quince Orchard campus to smoke were effective, as were visual representations of tobacco's physical effects over time.

'It kind of sticks in your head. It grosses you out,' said Manan, who is 18 and has stopped smoking after two years of trying.

News Clips Report

In addition to peer efforts, Manan said parents should make it clear to their children that bringing up their early tobacco use won't be a frightening experience.

'Parents should let their kids know that it's OK to talk about that kind of stuff,' she said.

News Clips Report

The Nutcraker' **Washingtonpost - Online**

11/28/2008

MARYLAND YOUTH BALLETT Dec. 19 and 23 at 7 and Dec. 20-21, 26-28 at 1 and 7. Staged and choreographed by Michelle Lees. Montgomery College, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. 301-608-2232 or <http://www.marylandyouthballet.org>. \$25, seniors \$19.

METROPOLITAN BALLETT THEATRE Dec. 5 and 12 at 7, Dec. 6-7 and 14 at 1 and 5, and Dec. 13 at 3 and 7. Montgomery College, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. 240-567-5301 or <http://www.mbt舞蹈.org>. \$20 advance, \$22 at door, seniors \$18.

News Clips Report

Dance: Getting 'cracking At 'Nutcracker' season Howard County Times

11/27/2008

newshome

Taking part in Columbia's unique "Nutcracker On Ice" are Greeshma Anand, Sarah Lanier and Mary Parks. Dance: Getting 'cracking

At 'Nutcracker' season, dancers everywhere renew their corps beliefs

By Carolyn Kelemen

Posted 11/27/08

Even in a shaky economy, American dance companies expect to earn at least a quarter of their annual revenue via "Nutcracker" productions. Local troupes also have a commitment to the stream of dance lovers both on and offstage who make these annual visits to the land of sugar plum fairies, twirling snowflakes and marching soldiers such a perennial family treat.

Here in Howard County, Donna Pidel, Ballet Royale's founding director, has an eye for talent and a big heart for welcoming back former protégés, many of whom have gone on to professional careers.

Look no farther than Katherine Williams, now a full-fledged dancer with American Ballet Theater. Williams came up through the Royale ranks, progressing from the adorable Clara to the coveted role of Sugar Plum Fairy in the Tchaikovsky chestnut.

The Howard County native brings her winning smile and high-flying leaps back to Ballet Royale's "The Nutcracker" at The Jim Rouse Theatre for the Performing Arts at Wilde Lake High School Saturday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. An earlier company performance of the classic that day at 1 p.m. will feature many of Pidel's new crop of rising stars in the lead roles. Tickets are \$20 general, with group and military discounts available.

When it comes to "The Nutcracker," the Howard County Ballet has one thing that's still pretty rare to find in a local production - live symphonic music. The Howard County Ballet Orchestra accompanies the on stage dancers -- plus director Kathi Ferguson's roster of chosen stars -- at Reservoir High School Dec. 19-21. Special rates begin at \$15 general and \$10 for senior citizens, students and children. The latter will especially get a kick out of the rowdy boy-soldiers and little girl-mice as that yearly indoor tree just grows and grows. For information, go to www.howardcountyballet.org, or call 410-465-9414.

Marcia Lachman started producing her annual staging of "The Nutcracker" nearly a quarter century ago. Columbia's first dance teacher emphasizes tradition in the unique Arabesque Dance Company adaptation. It will be performed in The Jim Rouse Theatre Dec. 20 at 1 and 3:15 p.m. and Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. This show is highly recommended for kindergarten age - a time when belief is overwhelmed by the on-stage magic of the music and costumes.

Alternatives abound

Howard County's Kinetics Dance Theater has its own take on "Nuts" when it performs a bit of ballet, modern, jazz and hip hop in "The Cracked Nut" at the Howard County Center for the Arts Dec. 6 at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Did we mention a sprinkling of swing dancing and synchronized swimming? Call 410-480-1686 or go to www.kineticsdance.org.

Misako Ballet, both company and student dancers from the Harper's Choice Village Center, are about to celebrate the season with a "Holiday Studio Concert" Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3. Here is a real treat for the little ones as they join the "real dancers" on stage. Her Misako Ballet Company will perform its annual winter program at the Howard County Center for the Arts Dec. 28. Master jazz specialist, Lester Holmes, has created a hot dance to take away the winter chill. Call 410-884-9640; the Web site is www.misakoballet.com.

For the serious balletomane who craves real Russian dancing - meaning those mind-boggling twists and turns in the air, endless pirouettes, and awesome poses - don't miss L'Etoile Ballet and its "Masquerade" debut at Slayton House in Wilde Lake Village Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. This original production by Svetlana Kravtsova and Vadim Pijicov features young, talented

News Clips Report

dancers from the studio and beyond. Tickets are \$15 general, with discounts for seniors, students and little ones. Call 443-393-1197 to reserve the very limited tickets.

The performing wing of Ballet With Cindee Velle in Long Reach is presenting a one-hour abridged version of "The Nutcracker Suite" deemed perfect for all ages. Dance selections include the children's march, the waltzing flowers and numerous solo variations. Of course, there is also the famed battle scene with mice and soldiers.

Dates and times of the performances are as varied as the locations, which are: Maryland State Fair Grounds (Sunday, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.); the Besaman Center at Fairhaven Retirement Community in Sykesville (Dec. 7 at 3 p.m.); Claret Hall in the River Hill Community Center (Dec. 6 at 2 and 4 p.m.; to reserve free seats in advance, call 410-531-1749); Stonehouse in the Long Reach Village (Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.; (advanced reservations required); Catonsville's Charlestown Retirement Community (Dec. 20, call for time; \$3 donation requested); and in the Great Room at Historic Savage Mill (Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m.; admission \$4). Call 410-465-7674 or go to www.cindeevelleballet.com for more information.

'Nuts' on ice and more

The Columbia Figure Skating Club's "Nutcracker on Ice" is the only ice skating show of its kind in this region. With more than 100 performers ranging in age from 4 through adults, the troupe features many are high-level skaters along with a litter-and-a-half of adorable newcomers. These shows rank high on dance critics' lists. They take place in the Columbia Ice Rink (410-730-0322) at the Oakland Mills Village Center, Dec. 20 and 21. Tickets are \$10 general and free for children younger than 3. Advance reservations are recommended, as shows sell out quickly. And don't forget a warm, snugly wrap for the little ones.

Kudos to Kimmary Williams and Jacob Rice for the newest "Nutcracker" in our area. The Central Maryland Youth Ballet is readying "A Petite Version" geared especially for kids at Slayton House in the Wilde Lake Village Center, Dec. 13 and 14 at 3 p.m. Directed by the Joffrey-trained husband-and-wife team, the show promises to be a winner. Tickets are \$10 general. Call 443-472-4772, and check out their winter schedule of dance classes, including one for ice skaters.

This year, I am taking my 3-year-old granddaughter to "The Nutcracker" presented by the talented students at the Phoenix Rising Dance Center. This holiday staging should be the ideal child's introduction to the world of fantasy ballet. See this full-length production at Slayton House Dec. 19 and 20. Go to www.phoenixrisingdance.com for more information.

A bit farther afield

"The Nutcracker" has been a tradition in our state's capital city as long as we've been previewing the holiday ballet. The Ballet Theatre of Maryland performs its particularly sweet rendition of "The Nutcracker" in the Maryland Hall for Creative Arts Dec. 13, 14 and 21. For a fun and different approach, check out "Case of the Missing Nutcracker," in which audiences are asked to collect all the clues and help Clara crack the case. To order tickets by phone, call 410-263-5544 or go to www.tickets.marylandhall.org.

After just three years in "The Nutcracker" market, the Olney Ballet Theater version is already a hit. Inspired by the late Mary Day, this classic telling unfolds amid wonderful sets and costumes on the historic stage at the Olney Theatre Center, Dec. 12-27. There's even a special Christmas Eve show planned. Tickets range from \$15 to \$35, depending on the date, with discounts for students. The Inn at Brookeville Farms will host a special "Nutcracker Tea" with Olney cast members on Sunday, Dec. 14 for \$45. Call 301-774-3032.

The Maryland Youth Ballet offers a seasoned "Nutcracker," thanks to the longtime director Tensia Fonseca and ballet master Michelle Lees. Take the kids to this "Nuts," with its brilliant dancing and child-friendly variations, in the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, Dec. 19-28. For details, call 301-608-2232 or go to www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC.

A Frederick holiday tradition in its 29th year, The Maryland Regional Ballet features guest artists from the New York City Ballet and Suzanne Farrell Ballet in "The Nutcracker" at Frederick's Weinberg Center for the Arts (301-228-2828) Dec. 12-14. Tickets range from \$10 to \$20. Check it out on www.weinbergcenter.org.

Baltimore unplugged

For sheer splendor and elegant dancing, nothing tops the Moscow Ballet's Great Russian "Nutcracker" at the Lyric Opera House (410-547-SEAT) Dec. 19-21. This touring company offers splendid ballet in every sense, from grand dancing to a

News Clips Report

live orchestra, a full corps de ballet, including area children, and some of the best dancers from all over the former Soviet Union. This is the one for balletomanes. Call 410-547-SEAT or go to www.nutcracker.com.

Baltimore's premiere modern dancer-choreographer, Stephanie Powell, gathers children from the inner-city along with professional friends and students for her inspired, black-themed "Nutcracker." Call 410-233-1101 for information on "The City Nutcracker 2008" at Coppin State University's James Weldon Johnson Theater, Dec. 20 and 21.

Produced and directed by the talented husband-and-wife team of Cem and Elisabeth Catbas, the Baltimore Ballet Company performs a superb version of "The Nutcracker," with professional dancers and local students, at Goucher College's Kraushaar Auditorium Dec. 13 and 14. Always a sell-out, call ahead to 410-337-6333 for up-to-date ticket information.

For 22 years, families throughout our region have celebrated the holidays with the Baltimore School for the Arts' delightful performances of "The Nutcracker." Here is a contemporary version of the classical ballet story. Eight performances will be danced in the school's Schaefer Ballroom Dec. 5-14. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. Call 410-624-2103 or go to www.bsfa.org.

The Carroll County Dance will present ""The Nutcracker" at the Gordon Center for Performing Arts in Owings Mills Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. The cast consists of dancers and actors from Carroll, Howard and Baltimore counties, as well as professional lighting, sound and dramatic sets. Adults and children can meet Clara and her friends at the "Nutcracker Tea" Sunday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. Call 410-795-3255 for details.

Down D.C. way

As Washington, D.C. gets ready for a new administration, it also has a number of seasonal "Nutcrackers" to consider. A few blocks down Pennsylvania Ave. from the White House, the Washington Ballet will perform its hot-ticket "Nutcracker" 25 times at the Warner Theater from Dec. 11-28. This was the production that once made space for the first daughter, Chelsea Clinton, who took part in the famous party scene.

Director Septime Webber pleases all viewers with a localized setting that features sets and costumes from a Georgetown perspective, circa the nation's founding. President Washington appears in heroic red, white and blue, while the dark, sinister Rat turns out to be none other than King George III!

It's a delightful rendition geared for adoring grandparents who bring the little ones to their first "Nutcracker." There's also a special "Tea With Clara" at the classy Willard Hotel. Call 202-889-8150 for tickets, starting at \$29.

Chicago's Joffrey Ballet brings back its charming Victorian rendition of "The Nutcracker" to the Kennedy Center Dec. 11-14. Robert Joffrey's staging beams brightly from start to finish, and Gerald Arpino's waltzes are perennial crowd-pleasers. Tickets range from \$47 to \$150.

Standing-room tickets become available one hour before the show. However, we don't recommend this for the little ones who need to be settled in their seats for the bravura dancing, especially by the guys. For information on all Kennedy Center holiday events, including New Year's Eve festivities, call 800-444-1324 or go to www.kennedy-center.org.

News Clips Report

Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States The Gazette

11/26/2008

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008

Hurricanes a growing threat to Mid-Atlantic region

by Brooke Kenny | Staff Writer

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Class gives cooks new twists on traditional meal

Hurricanes have fascinated Rick Schwartz for nearly four decades. Surprised and frustrated by a dearth of written material on the subject, the Rockville native decided to tackle the task himself. For six years, he pored over library microfilm and conducted some 100 interviews to produce "Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States: A Surprising History from Jamestown to the Present."

The book begins with an overview of hurricane basics like structure, frequency, duration, strength and historical forecasting. It goes on to give exhaustive explanations, complete with historical photos, maps and charts that outline Mid-Atlantic hurricane history by century, spanning from the 1600s to present day.

It is filled with startling photographs of Mother Nature's wrath — overturned houses and cars, collapsed bridges and entire communities submerged in water.

Schwartz says the most surprising thing he learned during his research is that there is enough Mid-Atlantic hurricane history to fill 400 pages.

"I didn't think we had much of a history at all," he says, noting that his book doesn't even address all the hurricanes that have hit the area.

Schwartz, who attended Richard Montgomery High School, says his interest in hurricanes began as a teenager living in New Jersey. A hurricane threatened to hit his town, but turned away at the last minute.

"I couldn't believe there could be a hurricane in New Jersey," he recalls.

While attending Montgomery College, he joined a meteorology club and spent hours with friends studying, debating and chasing storms.

To pay the bills, Schwartz, who now lives in Alexandria, works for a government contractor, but the study of weather and its history is his passion.

Schwartz warns that historical patterns indicate that the Mid-Atlantic region is likely to face more ravaging storms.

News Clips Report

"Public complacency is difficult to avoid after years of sparse hurricane activity," Schwartz says. "Right now, hurricanes seem to be someone else's problem. But, to be certain, Hurricane Alley changes. The Mid-Atlantic will likely be targeted soon. History suggests that the odds are greater than 50 percent that something significant will occur during the 2008 season."

Hurricane history is repetitive, going through active and inactive phases that last about 30 years, Schwartz says. People need to realize that the Mid-Atlantic is entering an active phase, and destructive hurricanes probably will occur during the next decade.

"My book lets people know what can happen, and in that way, they have motivation to prepare," Schwartz says, adding that people should take basic emergency preparedness precautions, like having canned food, bottled water and a crank radio available from August through October.

Recording hurricane history is important, Schwartz explains, so there is something with which to compare future weather patterns.

He self-published to retain control over the finished product.

"I waited 40 years for a book like this," he says.

After that wait plus the time spent on research, he didn't want a publishing company changing his vision.

Schwartz would like to write a historical book someday, but for now, he's still recovering from this project.

"I'm catching my breath," he says.

"Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States" can be purchased at major online booksellers or by visiting www.middleatlantic

hurricanes.com or by visiting www.bluediamondbooks.com.

News Clips Report

Alternative gift fair in Takoma Park The Gazette

11/26/2008

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008

Alternative gift fair in Takoma Park

People and Places | Jeremy Arias and Jason TOMASSINI

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New one-man show comes to Montgomery College

The "Arts Alive Series" at Montgomery College Black Box Theatre in Takoma Park will present Drew Richardson's dramatic one-man show "Dramatic Foolishness" 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 6. The 100-seat Black Box Theatre is located at the corner of Philadelphia and Chicago avenues on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus of Montgomery College.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for seniors and children and \$5 for Montgomery College students and faculty. Call 301-588-4475 for tickets, or purchase online at www.classactsarts.org. Production support is provided by Class Acts Arts Inc.

News Clips Report

Business Notes

The Gazette

11/26/2008

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008

Regional center receives EPA Smart Growth award

Business Notes |

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College receives grant

to assist veterans

The Wal-Mart Foundation has awarded Montgomery College a \$100,000 grant to support veterans and veteran programs at the community college. Montgomery College is one of 10 higher education institutions selected to receive a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation because of its successful veteran educational assistance programs. Montgomery College will receive \$100,000 from the foundation, according to a news release from the college.

The grant will support the development of new and existing programs and provide resources to assist veterans with access to education, adjustment to civilian life and success in completing their degrees. Currently, nearly 300 identified veterans are enrolled in credit classes at Montgomery College.

For more information about Montgomery College, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu. To learn more about the Wal-Mart Foundation, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

News Clips Report

Regional center receives EPA Smart Growth award Gazette, The

11/26/2008

The Silver Spring Regional Center is one of four groups recognized by the EPA for innovative approaches to development that expand economic opportunity and protect public health and the environment in its 2008 National Awards for Smart Growth Achievement.

The other areas are the Atlanta Regional Commission; the Urban Edge Housing Corporation in Roxbury, Mass.; and Mercy Housing California and the San Francisco Housing Authority.

The regional center received the Overall Excellence award for the Downtown Silver Spring Redevelopment Project that united public and private organizations in revitalizing the downtown area.

Winners were selected based on how effectively they used smart growth strategies to improve their communities and how well they engaged citizens and fostered partnerships.

EPA created the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement in 2002 to recognize outstanding approaches to development that benefit the economy, the community, public health, and the environment. Since 2002, EPA has recognized 32 smart growth leaders from among 523 applications representing 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

For more information on the winners and EPA's Smart Growth program, visit www.epa.gov/smartgrowth.

Discovery receives honors by women's group

Discovery Communications has been named the 2008 Best Programmer for Women in Cable by Women in Cable Telecommunications in collaboration with Working Mother Media, according to a news release from the Silver Spring-based company.

In its sixth year, the Women in Cable Telecommunications initiative examines and ranks companies in the cable telecommunications industry according to three criteria: Pay Equity, Advancement Opportunities and Resources for Work/Life Support. The honor was to be presented in a ceremony Thursday.

Discovery also extended the wellness center at its global headquarters to offer services to employee dependents over the age of fourteen. Discovery restructured its compensation program last year to better reflect employees' core skills and analyze pay equity.

College receives grant

to assist veterans

The Wal-Mart Foundation has awarded Montgomery College a \$100,000 grant to support veterans and veteran programs at the community college. Montgomery College is one of 10 higher education institutions selected to receive a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation because of its successful veteran educational assistance programs. Montgomery College will receive \$100,000 from the foundation, according to a news release from the college.

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For more information about Montgomery College, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu. To learn more about the Wal-Mart Foundation, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

Commission for Women hosts December seminars

The Montgomery County Commission for Women, Counseling and Career Center offers a variety of business-related

News Clips Report

events in December at its office, 401- N. Washington St., Suite 100, Rockville. Call 240-777-8300 for more information.

'Recession-proof Your Money' will be held 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 3.

'Building a Portfolio of Career Assets' will be held 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Innovation center hosts business plan seminar

A seminar titled 'Writing a Winning Business Plan' sponsored by the Wheaton Business Innovation Center will be held 5:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at the center, 11002 Veirs Mill Road, Suite 700, Wheaton. Call 301-403-0501, ext. 11.

County chamber hosts breakfast seminar

A breakfast seminar titled 'Do More with Less: Making-over Your IT Department' sponsored by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will be held 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tuesday at the chamber office, 51 Monroe St., Rockville. Call 240-425-4447.

Baltimore-Washington chamber hosts holiday mixer

The Baltimore-Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce Foundation will hold a holiday mixer 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 in the Great Room of Savage Mill, 8600 Foundry St., Savage. Call 301-725-4000.

Items appropriate for Business Notes may be mailed to The Gazette, 13501 Virginia Manor Road, Laurel, MD 20707. They may also be sent by fax to 240-473-7501 or by e-mail to flewis@gazette.net.

News Clips Report

School News The Gazette

11/26/2008

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008

Schools likely to be closed on Inauguration Day

Council's Education Committee OKs savings

School News | Marcus Moore

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\$3 million is OK ... for now

On Thursday, the County Council's Education Committee approved the school system's savings, under the assumption that it would strive toward Leggett's recommended savings.

Weast and chief operating officer Larry A. Bowers have said repeatedly that the system hopes to save at least \$10 million, but it would be tough to put away the amount Leggett is asking for.

Last year, Leggett asked the system to find \$37 million to cut in its fiscal 2008 budget to help plug a \$401 million budget shortfall.

County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) wants the school system to save \$19.4 million in its budget this fiscal year. But the system, which already has cut jobs and frozen hiring, can only afford to save \$3 million at this time, Weast and chief operating officer Larry A. Bowers have said.

The system saved \$17 million.

"That is not something we're going to be able to do year to year," Bowers told the council committee. "We're going to continue to look for ways to save."

The Education Committee also approved savings of \$2.1 million for Montgomery College, down roughly \$500,000 from Leggett's recommended savings of \$2.6 million from the college.

To save money, the college froze hiring, deferred major purchases and contracts and restricted long-distance travel, among other measures.

Construction

amendments approved

Also on Thursday, the school board unanimously approved tweaks to the school system's fiscal 2010 construction plan, which calls for an additional \$15.6 million over last year's adopted budget for classroom additions.

Due to the school system's enrollment surge, six elementary school addition projects would require more classrooms than previously planned.

Four of the projects — at Brookhaven, Fairland, Jackson Road, and Rock View elementary schools — will be delayed by one year to allow time for additional planning and design. Two other elementary school additions — Harmony Hills and Montgomery Knolls — will be delayed six months under the proposal.

The modified elementary school additions also include new portable classrooms and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system replacements.

"I think we have a real challenge this year" with the capital budget, Weast told board members. "I think this is the best we can do at this particular point in time. We have to be careful in these economic times."

Last year, the County Council adopted a \$1.29 billion spending plan for construction projects between 2009 and 2014.

News Clips Report

The construction plan now will go to Leggett and then the County Council, which has the final say.

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News Clips Report

Schools likely to be closed on Inauguration Day Gazette, The

11/26/2008

Council's Education Committee OKs savings

School News | Marcus Moore

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The school board is likely to approve a proposal to close schools for Inauguration Day, even though Superintendent Jerry D. Weast opposes the idea.

The proposal has generated mixed reaction from county residents since school board member Christopher S. Barclay pitched the idea more than a week ago.

In a Nov. 15 memo to the board, Weast said that schools should stay open Jan. 20, the day Sen. Barack Obama is officially sworn as the United States' 44th president.

The following Monday, Barclay offered a proposal to not only close schools for the upcoming inauguration, but for all future presidential inaugurations.

'I believe that regardless of the unique historical significance of January 20, 2009, the Montgomery County Public Schools calendar should honor the significance of each presidential inauguration by designating it a holiday,' Barclay (Dist. 4) of Takoma Park wrote.

Barclay said he would formally offer his proposal during the board's Dec. 9 meeting in Rockville.

There are several reasons for schools to stay open on Inauguration Day, Weast said. The school system only has four contingency days built into the calendar, and giving one up for inauguration could force the school year to be extended by a day.

Also, some parents might not have the day off from work and face problems in finding child care, he said. On top of that, the 36,000 students who receive free or reduced-priced meals could go without breakfast or lunch if schools are closed.

'I believe that the classroom provides an excellent venue from which to watch this historical event unfold,' Weast wrote.

There's also a hefty price tag with closing schools Jan. 20, Weast said.

If the system uses one of the four contingency days and ends up needing more than three days for weather-related closings this winter, the day would have to be made up, at a cost of \$600,000.

Canceling transportation for special education students would cost the school system an extra \$46,000.

While Barclay understands the costs associated with closing schools, 'this inauguration will be one of historic proportions, unlike any event that we are likely to witness again in our lifetimes,' he said.

Obama, 47, will be the first black man to serve in the White House.

\$3 million is OK for now

News Clips Report

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News Clips Report

Teen's hope to 'Kick Ash' with program for high schools The Gazette

11/26/2008

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008

Teens hope to 'Kick Ash' with program for high schools

Forum focuses on curbing youth tobacco use

by Andrew Ujifusa Staff Writer |

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Chris Rossi/The Gazette

Amir Mansour of Potomac talks about the dangers of smoking at the Kick Ash anti-tobacco forum for teens on Saturday at Dave & Buster's at White Flint Mall. Mansour, who is trying to quit smoking himself, is a member of the Quit While You're Ahead youth anti-tobacco group. Featured Jobs

When she started smoking at 14, Susan Manan of Rockville didn't even like it. She simply wanted to blend in with her older friends. But it got to the point where she would stick her head out her bedroom window just to smoke a cigarette, and she was too scared to tell her parents about her addiction.

"I think every single person at my school has tried smoking," said Manan, a former student at Quince Orchard High School who now attends Montgomery College.

To help people her age drop their tobacco habits early in life, Manan and about 25 teens held a "Kick Ash" forum and training session on Saturday at Dave & Buster's in White Flint Mall to brainstorm methods of getting effective anti-tobacco messages into Montgomery County high schools.

The teens, all of them current and former smokers, talked about how to combat the attractive image of alternative methods of tobacco use, such as hookahs. Youth-targeted products, such as dissolvable flavored tobacco or "snus," currently being test-marketed in the U.S., were also discussed.

Addressing the two youth groups at the meeting, Students Oppose Smoking (SOS) and Quit While You're Ahead (QWYA), County Council Vice President Philip M. Andrews (D-Dist. 3) of Gaithersburg remarked that students had to fight the tobacco industry's powerful advertising by making a positive impression on their peers.

Survey results from county high schools compiled by SOS showed that 67 percent of students who saw other students smoking on school grounds did not tell anyone about it, while 77 percent of students did not know their school's smoking policy. Tobacco use is prohibited in all county schools and on school grounds.

Cigarette use in Montgomery County schools dropped 3 percent from 2000 to 2006, according to the Maryland Department of Health, while overall tobacco use dropped 2.3 percent.

"What you can do is be a great advertisement yourself," Andrews told the assembled teens.

In a small group session, Quit While You're Ahead members kicked around ideas about the best way to reach teenagers, such as forming Facebook groups and holding events at Montgomery mall. Manan said carbon monoxide tests conducted on students who stepped off the Quince Orchard campus to smoke were effective, as were visual representations of tobacco's physical effects over time.

"It kind of sticks in your head. It grosses you out," said Manan, who is 18 and has stopped smoking after two years of trying.

In addition to peer efforts, Manan said parents should make it clear to their children that bringing up their early tobacco use won't be a frightening experience.

"Parents should let their kids know that it's OK to talk about that kind of stuff," she said.

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News Clips Report

'Amtrak Joe' No More The New York Times

11/23/2008

THE MAD DASH For years, Joseph R. Biden Jr. has commuted from Delaware to Washington.

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By JULIE BOSMAN

Published: November 21, 2008

NINE days after the election, in a motorcade zipping through the diagonal streets of downtown Washington, Jill Biden sat next to her husband, Vice President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr., peering out the window and scoping out her soon-to-be home city.

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Stephen Crowley/The New York Times

ROOM TO SPARE The official residence at the Naval Observatory.

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William Thomas Cain/Getty Images

HOME SWEET HOME A policeman standing guard outside Mr. Biden's home in Delaware in August.

"What building is that?" she asked, pointing out an unfamiliar structure in Judiciary Square, recalled Ted Kaufman, Mr. Biden's longtime adviser and close friend, who was in the car.

Her husband, the consummate Washington insider, was stumped. "Neither of us knew what it was," Mr. Kaufman said.

Perhaps that's because Mr. Biden, like his wife, has never lived in Washington, despite serving in the Senate for 36 years.

Not since Jacob K. Javits took near-daily flights back to New York City (mostly to please his wife, Marian, who refused to leave Manhattan) have a senator's commuting habits been so carefully documented. But Mr. Biden's nightly 90-minute Amtrak rides to Wilmington, Del., will grind to a halt in January, when he and Dr. Biden, an English professor, take up residence at No. 1 Observatory Circle, on the grounds of the United States Naval Observatory, the official home of vice presidents since 1974.

Mr. Biden will be the first vice president to move into the residence without previously living in Washington, said Donald Ritchie, a Senate historian.

For the Bidens, the move will bring a drastic change in habit. Mr. Biden, 66, will abandon his long-cherished routine that cemented his reputation as "Amtrak Joe," an average guy who rushes to make the train home to spend time with his kids. Dr. Biden, 57, will almost certainly surrender her job at Delaware Technical and Community College.

In Delaware, they live in a 10-year-old lakeside home in the aptly named suburb of Greenville, outside Wilmington, a house that Mr. Biden personally designed.

In Washington, they will inhabit a 115-year-old Victorian with 33 rooms on a heavily guarded circular lot, next to the British Embassy.

The Bidens and their aides declined to discuss their plans or the question of whether Dr. Biden would find a new job in Washington. But friends and colleagues said that in all the decades Mr. Biden worked in Washington, he never had much of a social life there. He rarely stuck around for an evening fund-raiser or a cocktail party. He was not a regular at typical

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lawmaker haunts like the Capital Grille or Charlie Palmer, instead inviting people to the Senate dining room if he happened to be in town for dinner.

"I think he was far more interested in his children than the social whirl," said Senator Patrick J. Leahy, a longtime Biden friend. "I have to kid him a little bit, because he's no longer going to be asking, 'Are we going to finish this vote by 7:45?' so he can make this mad dash to the train."

Not that Mr. Biden will suddenly become a fixture at Washington dinner parties, predicted Mr. Leahy, who in his 34 years in the Senate has seen a few new administrations come to town. "Everybody loves to have the vice president over for dinner, and he'll have 100 invitations piling up," Mr. Leahy said. "But I think he can be very valuable to President Obama up on the Hill. That will be the most important place to be."

Sally Quinn, the journalist and author, said that like the Obamas, who have spent little time in Washington, the Bidens will be social newcomers.

"I've never seen Joe Biden at a party in Washington," Ms. Quinn said. "Both of those couples are going to be fresh faces, even though they've both been in the Senate and Biden's been here for a hundred years. It'll be very interesting to have them around."

Mr. Kaufman, who has been a close Biden friend since the 1970s, said Mr. Biden was damaged politically by his absence on the social scene.

"He did not participate in it," Mr. Kaufman said. "To be honest, it was a real hindrance, because when he ran for president in '87, people didn't know him. You could probably count on two hands the number of embassy functions he went to."

That could change in January, if he and Dr. Biden make time to sample the city's Italian restaurants (their favorite cuisine) or visit the National Theater on Pennsylvania Avenue instead of traveling to New York to see a show (their regular practice until now).

Or they could take in performances at the Kennedy Center, a place Mr. Biden was rarely spotted at when he was a senator, said John Dow, a spokesman for the Kennedy Center.

If the Bidens stay closer to home, they will be surrounded by familiar faces in their new neighborhood on Massachusetts Avenue in northwest Washington. Hunter Biden, one of Mr. Biden's sons, lives a mile and a half from the Naval Observatory with his wife and their three daughters. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton lives around the corner in a five-bedroom brick Colonial on Whitehaven Street. They may also bring Mr. Biden's 91-year-old mother, Jean, to live with them, as she does in Delaware.

Dr. Biden, who runs five miles a day, five days a week, will enjoy close proximity to the trails winding through Rock Creek Park, close to the Naval Observatory. (She will be closely trailed by athletic Secret Service agents.)

And the Bidens are expected to keep their home in Greenville, which Dr. Biden has said they will never sell. "In D.C., we're so close that I would be lucky enough that we could take advantage of both places," she recently told *The News Journal*, a Wilmington paper.

If Dr. Biden decides to continue working, she would be one of the few vice-presidential spouses to do so. Lynne Cheney is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, and wrote several books during the Bush administration. Lady Bird Johnson supervised her Texas broadcasting company while her husband served as vice president. But most other second ladies have devoted themselves to volunteer work and ceremonial duties on behalf of their husbands.

If she chooses to work, Dr. Biden's chosen profession is unlikely to raise any red flags. "It's almost impossible for me to imagine what kind of conflict there could be with a teacher," said Melanie Sloan, the executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government watchdog group.

An official at one Washington college said she hoped that Dr. Biden would come looking for a job there. "We would love it," said Elizabeth Homan, a spokeswoman for Montgomery College, one of the largest community colleges in the Washington area. "I think it would be a really pleasant surprise."

Officials at Amtrak, however, were less enthusiastic about losing their high-profile customer.

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"We will miss having Senator Biden as a regular passenger," said Karina Romero, an Amtrak spokeswoman.