

Alexander Haig dies, praised by president

By ANNE GEARAN
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, a four-star general who served as a top adviser to three presidents and had presidential ambitions of his own, died Saturday of complications from an infection, his family said. He was 85.

Haig's long and decorated military career launched the Washington career for which he is better known, including top posts in the Nixon, Ford and Reagan administrations. He never lived down his televised response to the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan.

Hours after the shooting, then Secretary of State Haig went before the cameras intending, he said later, to reassure Americans that the White House was functioning.

"As of now, I am in control here in the White House, pending the return of the vice president," Haig said.

Some saw the comment as an inappropriate power grab in the absence of Vice President George H.W. Bush, who was flying back to Washington from Texas.

Haig died at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where he was surrounded by his family, according to two of his children, Alexander and Barbara. A hospital spokesman, Gary Stephenson, said Haig died at about 1:30 a.m.



AP PHOTO/JOE MARQUETTE

In this May 29, 2002, file photo, former U.S. secretaries of state, from left, Madeleine Albright, Warren Christopher, Alexander Haig and Henry Kissinger take part in the dedication and naming ceremony of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington, Va.

In his book, "Caveat," Haig later wrote that he had been "guilty of a poor choice of words and optimistic if I had imagined I would be forgiven the imprecision out of respect for the tragedy of the occasion."

Haig ran unsuccessfully for president in 1988.

President Barack Obama praised Haig as a public servant who "exemplified our finest warrior-diplomat tradition of those who dedicate their

lives to public service."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Haig "served his country in many capacities for many years, earning honor on the battlefield, the confidence of presidents and prime ministers, and the thanks of a grateful nation."

"I think of him as a patriot's patriot," said George P. Shultz, who succeeded Haig as the country's top diplomat in 1982.

"No matter how you sliced him it came out red, white and blue. He was always willing to serve."

Haig was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and numerous other honors during his three decades in the Army, and — as vice chief of staff — helped lead the transition to an all-volunteer military, recalled Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey.

Born Dec. 2, 1924, in the Philadelphia suburb of Bala Cynwyd, Alexander Meigs Haig spent his boyhood days dreaming about a career in the military. With the help of an uncle who had congressional contacts, he secured an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1943.

After seeing combat in Korea and Vietnam, Haig — an Army colonel at the time — was tapped by Henry Kissinger to be his military adviser on the National Security Council under Nixon. Haig "soon became indispensable," Kissinger later said of his protege.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



AP PHOTO/TONY GUTIERREZ

Robin De Haven, an employee of Binswanger Glass, holds a ladder Friday as he talks to a television crew in Austin, Texas.

Using ladder, vet rescued people from Texas office

AUSTIN, TEXAS (AP) — Robin De Haven was driving the company truck to a job when he saw something that didn't look right — a small plane, flying extremely low over a heavily congested area of Austin.

The 28-year-old Iraq war veteran recalled Friday how he then saw black smoke billowing from the glass building and rushed to the scene. There, where the

plane had exploded into flames in a suicide attack fueled by anti-government hatred, De Haven found five people trapped on the second floor of the burning office housing Internal Revenue Service employees.

"I wanted to go help," said De Haven, who works for a glass company. "I thought, 'I'm going to go ahead and do it.' I thought my boss would understand."

He quickly hurled his 17-foot ladder onto the building, climbed up and went inside to help the workers escape.

Authorities have credited stories of heroism like De Haven's for keeping the

death toll so low in Thursday's crash. The pilot, Andrew Joseph Stack III, and one other person were killed when the software engineer fueled with rage against the IRS slammed his plane Thursday morning into the hulking Echelon 1 building.

Beleaguered U.S. to blow up some chemical weapons

RICHMOND, KY. (AP) — Under the gun to destroy the U.S. chemical weapons stockpiles — and now all but certain to miss their deadline — Army officials have a plan to hasten the process: Blow some of them up.

The Army would use explosives to destroy some of the Cold War-era weapons, which contain some of the nastiest compounds ever made, in two communities in Kentucky and Colorado that fought down another combustion-based plan years ago.

Some who live near the two installations worry it's a face-saving measure, driven by pressure from U.S. adversaries, that puts the safety of citizens below the politics of diplomacy and won't help the U.S. meet an already-blown deadline.

The residents' sensitivity is understandable.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

FBI formally closes
protracted anthrax case

WASHINGTON (AP) — After seven frustrating years probing the deadly 2001 anthrax mailings, FBI officials formally closed the case Friday after concluding a government researcher acted alone in the attacks.

The anthrax letters were sent to lawmakers and news organizations as the nation reeled in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

The FBI and Justice Department announced the decision while disclosing reams of evidence collected in the case. Officials also released a nearly 100-page summary of their findings.

The anthrax case was one of the most vexing and costly investigations in U.S. history until officials announced in 2008 that the lone suspect was Dr. Bruce Ivins, who killed himself as authorities prepared to indict him. The move Friday seals that preliminary investigative conclusion.

Authorities had been on the verge of closing the case last year but government lawyers decided to conduct a further review of what evidence could be shared with the public, according to several people familiar with the case.

Officials were hesitant about releasing some information because of concerns about violating privacy rights and grand jury secrecy, said those familiar with the case, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal deliberations.

Obama challenges GOP on health care, boosts Reid

By BEN FELLER
Associated Press Writer

HENDERSON, NEV. (AP) — Days before hosting an intensive health care summit with both Republicans and Democrats, President Barack Obama made a fervent push for his overhaul, calling it critical not just for the millions without insurance but the entire country's economic well-being.

"It is vital for our economy to change how health care works in this country," Obama said Friday at a town hall meeting in a high-school gym here. "Don't let the American people go another year, another 10 years, another 20 years without health insurance reform in this country."

The president's plea for his top domestic priority, which faces an uncertain fate after nearly a year of work in Congress, earned him huge applause in the crowd. He said the drawn-out effort has cost him politically, and also has undercut the standing of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

Obama was in Nevada to help the Senate leader survive a tough re-election fight this year — a race that could have a big impact on the balance of power in Washington and the fate of Obama's own proposals on health care and beyond.

"Health care has been knocking me around pretty good," Obama said. "It's been knocking Harry around pretty good."

But the president suggested that was due more to misinformation about the



AP PHOTO/PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS

President Barack Obama takes part Friday in a town hall meeting at Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nev.

plans before Congress than to general unpopularity of reform, and he defended the Democratic bills that have passed in Congress — but which have not been reconciled into one piece of legislation.

The president's bipartisan summit is being held next Thursday in Washington. He dared Republicans to put a proposal on the table to address the increasing number of uninsured and rising medical costs, rather than merely saying no to Democratic approaches.

Obama argued that the nation's economic woes require immediate action on the topic.

The appearance was billed as focusing on the economy but turned into an extended campaign plug for Reid, who is seen as one of nation's most vulnerable incumbents in the midterm elections this November. Reid introduced Obama at the event and then sat behind

him, basking in each applause line.

Obama wrapped his arms around Reid at the start of the event and embraced his work throughout. The president rarely missed a chance — on the economic stimulus plan, on health care, on the effort to regulate big banks — to put himself and Reid in the same sentence.

The political goal was to shift the emphasis from the unpopularity of some of Reid's votes to, in Obama's view, the courage it took to take expensive steps to save the economy. Obama needs to protect every vote he can in the Senate if his own agenda is to succeed.

"I can personally attest that Harry Reid is one of the toughest people I know," Obama told the friendly crowd. "Sometimes he takes his licks. But he gets back up. Harry Reid has never stopped fighting."

Obama's appearance outside Las Vegas served many missions.

- He announced a \$1.5 billion boost in public money to help people stay in their homes, targeting the states, including Nevada, hit hardest by the foreclosure crisis. "Government alone can't solve this problem," Obama said. "But government can make a difference."
- He tried to soothe hard feelings among Las Vegas leaders, who say that Obama has singled out Sin City as a symbol of irresponsible spending at a time of tough choices. When one questioner said he had just spent money in Vegas, Obama said: "We like to see that."

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Key Sunni group boycott deals setback to Iraq vote

By **HAMZA HENDAWI**
Associated Press Writers

BAGHDAD (AP) — A top Sunni Arab lawmaker banned from running in Iraq's March 7 election withdrew his entire party from the campaign Saturday and called on other groups to join the boycott, a move that threatened to undermine the credibility of the vote and raise sectarian tensions.

In announcing his decision, Saleh al-Mutlaq seized on U.S. concerns about Iran's influence in the political process, an allegation likely to resonate with a Sunni community that is historically suspicious of the intentions in Iraq of Tehran's clerical rulers.

Al-Mutlaq's National Dialogue Front has 11 seats in the outgoing legislature, the second-largest Sunni bloc in parliament, and fared surprisingly well in provincial elections in January last year. The group is the main Sunni faction of the Iraqi National Movement, the nation's top secular alliance that has been expected to pose a tough challenge to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite-led coalition.

Sunni leaders have been threatening for weeks to boycott the vote after a Shiite-led panel vetting candidates for suspected ties to Saddam Hussein's regime blacklisted more than 400, mostly Sunni candidates, including al-Mutlaq, preventing them from running in the parliamentary election. Al-Mutlaq says he quit Saddam's ruling Baath Party in the 1970s.

The blacklist is seen as targeting Sunnis, though it includes some Shiites. It also has raised allegations of a conflict of interest since the panel vetting the candidates is led by Shiite politicians Ali al-Lami and Ahmed Chalabi, who are both running in the election.

That has unnerved U.S. and international diplomats who are banking on a fair and open election to smooth Iraq's



AP PHOTO/ NABIL AL-JURANI

Men wave the Iraqi flag Saturday at a campaign rally attended by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad.

path ahead as the Americans prepare to withdraw combat forces this summer and all troops by the end of 2011.

The Sunni leader's decision to withdraw all the candidates from his party from the vote could open the door to a new round of sectarian bloodshed at a time when the Americans may no longer be able to act as a buffer again between the majority Shiites and the once-dominant minority Sunnis.

"The United States has focused on maintaining adequate conditions for withdrawal, rather than paying due attention to what it leaves behind," said Peter Harling, an Iraq expert from the Brussels-based think tank International Crisis Group.

Mustafa al-Ani, a Dubai-based Iraq

expert, said al-Mutlaq's decision also will cause concern in the Arab world and the international community since al-Mutlaq represents a community rather than just himself or his party.

"It's an attempt to strip the election of its legitimacy, but it also will give some rationale to any subsequent violence," he said.

The National Dialogue Front openly charged the vetting committee of being influenced by Shiite Iran and its hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. It also linked its withdrawal to recent statements by U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill and Gen. Ray Odierno, the top American military commander in Iraq, that linked the vetting committee to Iran.



AP PHOTO/DAVID GUTTENFELDER

U.S. Marine Lt. Scott Holub of Pasadena, Md., and from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, runs carrying an Afghan National Army soldier Saturday who was shot in the lower leg during a battle with the Taliban in Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Karzai urges NATO to protect civilians

Civilian death toll
at least 16

By **ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU**
Associated Press Writer

MARJAH, AFGHANISTAN (AP) — U.S. Marines and Afghan soldiers advanced through poppy fields of Marjah on Saturday under withering gunfire from Taliban fighters shooting from mud-brick homes and compounds where families huddled in terror.

President Hamid Karzai urged NATO to do more to protect civilians during combat operations to secure Marjah, a southern Taliban stronghold and scene of the biggest allied ground assault of the eight-year war.

NATO forces have repeatedly said they want to prevent civilian casualties but acknowledged that it is not always possible. On Saturday, the alliance said its troops killed another civilian in the Marjah area, bringing the civilian death toll from the operation to at least 16.

Addressing the opening session of the Afghan parliament in Kabul, Karzai held up a picture of an 8-year-old girl who lost 12 relatives in a NATO rocket attack during the second day of the Marjah assault, which began Feb. 13.

Karzai said NATO had made progress in reducing civilian casualties and thanked the top commander, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, for "standing with us honestly in this effort." But Karzai said more needed to be done to protect civilians caught up in the fighting.

"We need to reach the point where there are no civilian casualties," Karzai said. "Our effort and our criticism will continue until we reach that goal."

The Marjah operation is a major test of a new NATO strat-

"We need to reach the point where there are no civilian casualties. Our effort and our criticism will continue until we reach that goal."

President Hamid Karzai

egy that stresses protecting civilians over routing insurgents as quickly as possible. It's also the first major ground operation since President Barack Obama ordered 30,000 reinforcements to Afghanistan to curb the rise of the Taliban.

Once the town is secure, NATO plans to rush in a civilian Afghan administration, restore public services and pour in aid to try to win the loyalty of the population and prevent the Taliban from returning.

As the assault entered its second week, Marines and Afghan soldiers faced hours of sporadic but intense gunfights from insurgent snipers — often firing from compounds where families could be seen taking shelter. Troops crouched for cover in muddy ditches, firing rifles, machine guns, and grenades as Taliban bullets whizzed by.

"We've been hurling lead all day," said Lt. Carl Quist, who commands a platoon in the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

U.S.-led troops have been pushing south from the town center against a pocket of Taliban fighters.

"They are running out of space now, that's why they gotta fight and stand their ground," Sgt. Melvin Adair, 28, of Clinton, Md., said of the Taliban.

WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO/EVERT-JAN DANIELS

Netherlands' Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende talks to the media Saturday to announce that the second largest party in his three-party alliance is quitting.

Fall of Dutch government bodes ill for Afghanistan

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A furious dispute over the war in Afghanistan brought down the Dutch government Saturday, bitterly divided on whether its forces should stay or go as NATO deepens its engagement against the Taliban.

After a contentious 16-hour cabinet meeting, a key partner walked out of Jan Peter

Balkenende's coalition, accusing the prime minister of reneging on a pledge to withdraw 1,600 troops this year from Uruzgan province, where 21 Dutchmen already have died.

The collapse of the center-right government was the result of discontent with policies that made the Netherlands a loyal ally of the United States in Afghanistan and previously in Iraq, and was a sign of the difficulty President Barack Obama faces in maintaining the international contingent in the Afghan battlefield at full strength.

Hamas: Assassinated operative put himself at risk

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP (AP) — A Hamas leader assassinated during a visit to Dubai last month exposed himself to attack when he breached security protocol by talking about his trip over the phone and making hotel reservations on the Internet, the militant Islamic group said

Saturday.

The methodical stalking and killing of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in a luxury hotel room — widely blamed on Israel's Mossad spy agency — has put Hamas on the defensive over purported security lapses.

The new details emerged as the case has spread across several continents with investigators probing possible credit card links to U.S.-based banks and European officials grilling Israeli envoys over fraudulent passports.

Hamas legislator Salah Bardawil said al-Mabhouh unwittingly led his attackers to him by openly planning his travels — a move that would make him easily traceable if he were already under surveillance.

Darfur rebels sign truce deal with Sudan

N'DJAMENA, CHAD (AP) — Darfur's most powerful rebel group has initiated a truce with the Sudanese government, officials said Saturday, marking the rebel group's

return to peace talks aimed at ending the Darfur conflict.

The truce between the rebel Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudanese government takes effect immediately, said Idriss Deby, Chad's president, in a statement.

Justice and Equality Movement spokesman Ahmed Hussein said the deal initiated Saturday was a framework agreement to guide future peace negotiations, including talks on a permanent cease-fire. He said it will be formally signed in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday in the presence of Deby and the leaders of Sudan and Qatar.

The rebel group has been the most significant holdout in efforts to end the seven-year conflict in Darfur, in which 300,000 people have lost their lives to violence, disease and displacement.

The Justice and Equality Movement will take part in talks in Qatar which aim to reach a final agreement by March 15, Deby's statement said.

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STATE BRIEFS

Magna sale of Md. tracks postponed again

WILMINGTON, DEL. (AP) — The bankruptcy sale of Magna Entertainment Corp.'s horse racing assets in Maryland has been postponed a fourth time. According to a filing Friday, a Feb. 23 auction of Laurel Park and Pimlico tracks and the Preakness race has been delayed to March 25. A new date for a hearing on the sale of Maryland Jockey Club assets was not set. Also postponed Friday was a hearing on Maryland's asserted right of first refusal in any sale. The state wants the Preakness race at Pimlico, part of horse racing's Triple Crown, to stay in Maryland.

Man reported missing found alive in Texas

PRINCE FREDERICK (AP) — Maryland State police say a fugitive reported missing after he fell from a boat in the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia has been arrested in Texas. Fifty-eight-year-old Larry Deffenbaugh of Dunkirk was arrested Tuesday in Baytown, Texas. He is being held in the Harris County jail awaiting extradition to Maryland. Troopers say Deffenbaugh fell overboard while on a boat with his brother on May 10 in the bay near Virginia Beach. He vanished two days before a hearing on a probation violation in Calvert County. Deffenbaugh has been convicted of theft for bilking more than 500 people out of cemetery services. He was the former owner of Southern Memorial Gardens.

Audit questions pay for UMd. administrator

BALTIMORE (AP) — A state audit has found that a high-ranking University of Maryland, Baltimore administrator received \$410,000 in "questionable compensation payments." The routine legislative audit released Thursday also found that the university, which is home to many prestigious graduate programs such as the state system's medical and law schools, did not disclose the payments in budget reports to the General Assembly. During fiscal 2007, the employee, whose identity was not revealed, received \$350,000 for unused sabbatical time in addition to a \$360,000 salary, but the audit says university policies do not mention payment for unused sabbaticals.

By DIANA NGUYEN
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE — Stacked pallets of food, drinks and condiments line the aisles of an 87,000-square-foot warehouse — bread loaves and dinner rolls, frozen goods, dented and disfigured cakes. It may look like a Costco Wholesale store, but there's a major difference — everything here at the Maryland Food Bank is free and available to needy and hungry Marylanders. And as enormous as its food holdings are, it is not enough to feed the growing numbers of the state's hungry. More Marylanders need emergency food assistance, according to recent study by the Maryland Food Bank and Feeding America, a national hunger-relief charity. The study indicated more than 261,000 people in the Maryland Food Bank's jurisdiction receive emergency food each year, an 11 percent increase since 2006. This finding does not include the Montgomery and Prince George's counties, which is serviced by the Capital Area Food Bank.

The food bank is purchasing more food, as well — about 60 percent of its products now, while the rest is usually donated, said Audra Harrison, Maryland Food Bank communications manager. In earlier years, more was donated than bought. "It's a travesty to discard any food," Harrison said. The food bank tries to salvage as much food as possible to feed the increasing number of hungry Marylanders. "We're seeing a lot of first-timers," said Paula Tolson, spokesman for the Maryland Department of Human Resources. "Because of the economy, because people have been out of a job for a long period of time, their normal safety nets are being strained, and we're seeing more people come to our doors."

The state of the economy has added to the growing numbers but it's more than that, said Maryland Food Bank CEO Deborah Flateman. More working people are going to food shelves, she said. "These people are not reflected in the unemployment numbers but the rising expenses in their day-to-day lives... have caused them to turn to food assistance," Flateman said. For example, 32 percent of those receiving food aid said they had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities, according to the study. A quarter of the respondents said they had to choose between going hungry and paying their rent or mortgage. In fiscal 2009, the Maryland Food Bank distributed 18.6 million pounds of food, a 27 percent increase over the previous year. "We need about 84 million pounds of food a year to end hunger in Maryland," Harrison said. "We're only a quarter of the way there."



Pat Zuknick, of Gambrills, left, Julie Humphrey and Lynn Alfano, both of Crofton, sort through food on a conveyor belt.



Maryland Food Bank CEO Deborah Flateman holds a can of bone-in chicken, previously donated in the form of a four-ton ice block of chicken parts.



Audra Harrison, Maryland Food Bank communications manager, attempts to grab a can of green beans, donated fresh but preserved to avoid waste.

To achieve that goal, Flateman said public, private and independent agencies need to work together and spread awareness. "We are encouraging people to apply ... to the food stamp program," Tolson said. "A lot of times people are resistant, but come into our doors and seek it. Come in and see." When Flateman first came to the Maryland Food Bank in 2007, distribution was at 10 million pounds of food a year. The bank is on target to distribute 20 million pounds this year. To end hunger in the state, Flateman said, they need more food, funds and volunteers. Three of those volunteers are nearby, cleaning a conveyor belt where cans of tomato sauce, juices, and other items are sorted, packaged and stored. All stay-at-home-moms, the volunteers said helping at the

Maryland Food Bank gives them a sense of personal satisfaction. "In this day and age and in this economy, if you can, it's important to give back," said Julie Humphrey, 45, of Crofton. The volunteers are friends and try to come to the food bank every Thursday. They started there after they saw their children volunteer at the bank, they said. "We're carrying on the tradition of our kids," Lynn Alfano, of Crofton said. Volunteers keep down staff costs. Last year, volunteers clocked in 19,000 hours of service. However, Harrison emphasizes the need for food and funds. It doesn't happen quite often ... but sometimes we have to send volunteers home because we have no food," Harrison said. More than 70,000 minors are

in need of food assistance, the study showed. There are 456,321 Marylanders living at or below the federal poverty level, according to the Census Bureau, with almost one-third being children. Somerset County ranks highest with 23 percent of its residents living under the poverty line. Baltimore City follows with 19.9 percent and Allegany County with 14.2 percent, according to 2007 Census data. Between 2007 and 2008, Anne Arundel County saw the largest percent change, 26.3 percent, in participation in the Maryland food stamp program, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Baltimore City had more than 133,000 residents enrolled in the food aid program in 2008, according Maryland Food Supplement county data.



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Shelter receives \$6K grant

By KELLEY L. ALLEN
Staff Writer

EASTON — The Talbot Interfaith Shelter will get a total of \$6,000 from the Speer Trust of New Castle Presbytery, which will cover about half of the shelter's biggest expense.

The shelter, in its second year, is a rotating, five-bed cold weather shelter that runs on volunteers and two paid overnight supervisors. Those supervisors, who work seven nights a week from 11 p.m. until 7:30 a.m., earn \$13 per hour and are the shelter's biggest expense.

Evelyn Sedlack, shelter president, said the two positions cost about \$12,000. The grant, which comes in two installments, will go toward

that cost. The rest of that expense will come from another grant, she said.

The first half of the Speer grant came about two weeks ago.

"It's hard to find volunteers who will stay overnight," Sedlack said. "We have one volunteer who stays with the paid person, which cuts down on the number of volunteers."

Last year, 417 volunteers helped man the shelter, which is hosted at six faith communities in Easton.

This year, three members of the administrative commission of the Speer Trust visited the shelter after it applied for the grant, and subsequently funded the organization. The pastor and a volunteer from Easton's Presbyterian Church told Sedlack about the funding

opportunity.

The trust is accepting proposals that address the root causes of poverty for its deadline on April 1, 2010. The maximum grant is \$20,000.

Since 1985, the trust has funded more than \$6.5 million for programs in Delaware and on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Its mission is to empower people who are marginalized and to address the root causes of poverty.

More information is available at www.speertrust.org.

Information on the shelter is available at www.talbotinterfaithshelter.org. The shelter is looking for a permanent location, and information on donating is available at the Web site.



PHOTO BY M.J. NEUBERGER

Co-workers of George Oldham, a veteran Price and Gannon employee who passed away recently, display a sign they made in honor of his memory. From the left are Bob Middleton, Mike Dawkins, Donald Smith and Karen Timms.

Fire claims two-story barn in Kennedyville

KENNEDYVILLE — A Monday afternoon fire that destroyed a barn on Turners Creek Road is under investigation by the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office.

The fire destroyed a 32-by-36-foot, two-story barn owned by Lewis H. McDonald II at 12872 Turners Creek Road.

At 4:07 p.m., 80 firefighters from Kennedyville, Chestertown, Galena Betterton, Rock Hall, Cecilton, Hacks Point, Chesapeake City, Sudlersville, Church Hill, Crumpton, Towns Inn and Odessa responded to the two alarms fire and had it under control in two hours.

According to scanner reports, fire-

fighters worked to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby fertilizer tanks and other structures.

The fire caused an estimated \$45,000 in structural damage as well as \$10,000 in damage to the contents, according to the fire marshal's office. The inside of the barn was being used as an area to dress deer, fire marshals said.

The fire was discovered by a passerby. The cause and area of origin remain under investigation. No one was injured in the blaze.

According to scanner reports, firefighters returned Tuesday when the fire rekindled.

Firefighters from many of the same volunteer companies respond-

ed to another working fire just a few days earlier.

On Friday, a fire originating from a wood-burning fireplace at James Gordman's home at 6309 Swan Haven Road in Rock Hall caused an estimated \$5,000 in structural damages and \$5,000 in damages to the contents. The fire started at 5:50 a.m. on the first floor after heat from the fireplace ignited the floor joist below, according to the fire marshal's office.

Forty-five firefighters from Rock Hall, Chestertown, Betterton, Galena, Millington, Kennedyville, Church Hill, Crumpton and Cecilton responded and had the fire under control in about 45 minutes.

Hardware store staff cherishes the memory of George Oldham

By M.J. NEUBERGER
Staff Writer

CENTREVILLE — A colleague who makes your job seem less like work is easy to miss.

That Price and Gannon workers have such sentiment about former longtime employee George Oldham is evident to all those entering the True Value hardware store.

When Oldham passed away just before New Year's Eve at age 86, his co-workers were moved to create a memorial to the colleague they referred to affectionately as "Mr. O."

On a small stand near at the front of the store, "In loving memory of George Oldham, July 16, 1923 to Dec. 28, 2009" has been written on the sign and pictures of Oldham at work posted along with a two-line poem: "Hubba Hubba Ding Ding, Mr. O, you were our everything."

A quarter-century ago, after completing a 38-year career at C&P Telephone Company, Oldham took a job at the hardware store. Since then, and up until he succumbed to several illnesses including emphysema, Oldham acted as a sort of unofficial dean of Centreville's hardware retailer.

"I think everyone here looked up to him," says shift manager Karen Timms.

"When I started (working), I was 15 years old," said Donald Smith, now 29. "He taught us a lot at work ... He knew a lot about everything — wiring, gardening, golf." Even more than his knowledge of just about the entire contents of the store, Smith says he appreciated "life lessons (Oldham) taught us about."

Along with a love of a good pun, Oldham also shared his passion for golf with his co-workers, says Mike Dawkins. From his Belvedere

"When I started (working), I was 15 years old. He taught us a lot at work ... He knew a lot about everything — wiring, gardening, golf."

Price and Gannon employee Donald Smith

Avenue backyard in Centreville, Dawkins says Oldham "would hit golf balls into the graveyard, and joke that none of them were ever hit back."

"We always had a golf theme" to celebrate his birthday, says Timms. Although he had to be on oxygen at work by the time they feted his 86th, a picture on the memorial shows Oldham with a broad smile, holding a birthday cake with a brightly colored frosted putting green on top.

Along with Dawkins, employee Bob Middleton went to the hospital to see Oldham during his last days as a way of supporting a colleague who had become a good friend.

"I know if I'd been in the hospital, he'd be calling to check that I'm doing all right," Middletown says.

During Oldham's funeral, employees from the company's sister store in Chestertown came to Centreville to work so that Oldham's colleagues could attend the service.

And Oldham was not just admired by employees, says Dawkins. While Oldham was still working, he says, "half the people would come in the door saying, 'where's George?'"

As for the memorial, "We're going to be leaving it up a little while longer," says Timms, to make sure Oldham's loyal customers can share in their grief.

REGIONAL BRIEFS

QUEEN ANNE'S

Centreville man arrested after allegedly choking wife

CENTREVILLE — A local man faces charges of second-degree assault after allegedly choking his wife on Feb. 13.

According to Queen Anne's County District Court documents, Thomas Gilbert Dove Jr., 43, of Centreville, and his wife, Cindy Dove, were arguing over money in her purse. The argument became physical, and during the struggle, Mr. Dove allegedly grabbed his wife by the throat and grabbed at the purse, breaking the straps, according to the documents.

According to a press release from the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office, Mrs. Dove refused treatment after the incident. Mr. Dove was arrested, held on \$3,500 bond at the Queen Anne's County Detention Center and posted bail on Feb. 14.

Following the incident, Mrs. Dove "filed for and received an

interim protective order" against her husband, the release said.

Stevensville man faces charge of assault

STEVENSVILLE — A Kent Island man was arrested in the early morning hours of Sunday, Feb. 14, on charges of assaulting his wife during an argument, police said.

According to charging documents from Queen Anne's County District Court, Stevensville resident Aaron Scott Miller, 31, and his wife, Lisa Miller, 30, were in a verbal argument in their residence on Chesapeake Drive. Reports state that the argument became physical, leaving Lisa Miller with a bloody nose and "visible swelling, bruising and cuts on her hands" and Aaron Miller with a cut on his hand. Both refused treatment.

According to a press release from the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office and court documents, Aaron Miller was arrested and charged with second degree assault and was later released.

Dfc. Stephen Fraser responded

to the call and was assisted by Sgt. Morris Jones and Dfc Michael Pinkosz. Miller's trial is set to begin April 14.

Thrown chair damages Wendy's cash register

CHESTER — Police are investigating how jealousy and chair throwing may have led to \$1,500 in damage to a Wendy's Restaurant cash register on Feb. 12.

According to a press release from the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office, a Wendy's employee is believed to have thrown a chair, which struck the computerized cash register. The incident took place at approximately 9:40 p.m. at the Wendy's on Chester Station Lane. The suspect fled before police could arrive.

"The employee was allegedly jealous over his girlfriend (also an employee) interacting with another male employee at the restaurant," the release said.

Dfc. Stephen Fraser responded to the incident. No charges have been filed.

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Open communication eases homeless situations, Caroline school officials say

By DANIEL DIVILIO
Staff Writer



Three homeless students are currently enrolled at Ridgely Elementary School in Caroline County. RES Principal Andrea Berry-Opher said the number of homeless students at the school often fluctuates throughout the year, especially leading into and coming out of the winter holidays.

defined differently than most people would think, she said, it can sometimes be difficult for school administrators to make such a determination.

“It’s not always very crystal clear who’s homeless and who’s not,” Berry-Opher said.

Adkins said most “homeless” CCPS students have a place to stay. The school system, she said, considers a student living in shared housing homeless.

“They’ve lost their housing, so they’ve had to move in with a family member or a friend,” Adkins said.

The schools learn about students’ housing situations in part by their enrollment forms, which includes a question asking if the enrolling child is homeless or living in temporary housing as a result of familial financial troubles.

“If that person answers yes, they’re referred to a homeless liaison in the school. Every school has a homeless liaison,” Adkins said.

Sometimes, she said, a parent will answer “no”, but information gleaned from the rest of the enrollment form will point to the housing situation falling within the school system’s homelessness definition.

“Some people may meet the definition of being homeless, but they don’t consider themselves homeless. I have someplace to stay,

they’ll say,” Adkins said.

Berry-Opher said sometimes the initial report comes from a teacher concerned about where a child is living and how early he or she is having to get up for school. Generally, she said, school administrators then will contact the parents to learn more about the student’s situation and to share information about available services.

Those services include free school meals and transportation from wherever the student may be staying to school, even if it means going outside the county.

She said students also may obtain health services through the schools’ wellness centers and are able to talk with a guidance counselor.

As for helping a homeless student’s family, Adkins said, CCPS relies on the Department of Social Services and other agencies to provide assistance.

“The thing to keep in mind is that any kind of misfortune like this doesn’t need to be held against the child or be anything that would be a barrier to keep them from succeeding,” said Bill Allen, who is the homeless coordinator for the Caroline County Public Schools.

Allen said the homeless liaisons, with whom he regularly meets, make sure schools have a staff

member sensitive to the needs of children whose families are struggling financially.

The homeless liaison consults with the student’s parents, or just the student if he or she lacks proper guardianship, to determine which school would best suit the child’s needs.

Factors include the child’s age, academic and emotional needs and the location of and length of stay in his or her current living situation.

“Everything revolves around the best interest of that individual child,” Allen said.

Keeping consistency in a student’s education, Adkins said, is vital. She said there are studies that show a student can lose three to four months of academic progress after switching schools.

“That’s why continuity of education is so important,” Allen said.

At Ridgely Elementary, Berry-Opher said, the attendance secretary is the homeless liaison because that staff member already is correlating student records. She said having a homeless liaison helps keep down the number of people aware of a student’s living situation and creates one go-to person for family members and administrators.

“The less hands in the pot, the better,” Berry-Opher said.

Allen said some students do

Caroline County Public Schools

- 51 of the county's 5,554 public school students are homeless, reflecting a 14 percent increase from last school year.

not realize they are effectively homeless.

Some, he said, are simply aware that they have moved somewhere else, such as their grandparents’ home.

“Life has changed in that way for them. But children are resilient,” he said.

Because of that, Adkins said, a student’s response in school, be it in regards to grades or behavior, may not change.

“Some kids, you’ll see a very obvious difference. And some kids, they remain the same. It’s very unpredictable,” Berry-Opher said.

Berry-Opher said she thinks CCPS does a very good job of keeping normal a homeless child’s educational environment, which has a strong impact on student achievement. The severity of a child’s case and the cooperation of his or her parents, she said, also play major parts in a student’s academic progress.

Most parents, Berry-Opher said, work with the schools and are grateful for the additional resources. She said some parents, though, are not so cooperative.

Caroline’s elementary schools, Berry-Opher said, communicate back and forth as needed about their homeless students and making sure the students’ needs are being met in the best possible way. She said a single case of a homeless student could involve more than just one elementary school district.

“We don’t have a problem communicating with one another about kids at all. In fact, that’s one of our strong suits here in the county,”

Homeless students in Kent ‘don’t stick out’

By TRISHA MCGEE
Staff Writer

Kent County Public Schools

- 45 “homeless” students in Kent represent 28 families — an increase of 12 students over last year and 19 students from the year before that.

the Kent Family Center, we try to rally around the families,” she said.

For example, if a child has been noticeably absent, maybe because he or she doesn’t have clean clothes to wear, then someone in the community will offer to take the mother to a laundromat.

Also, every student who attends the elementary schools in Rock Hall and Chestertown — which are the county’s Title I schools — eats breakfast free of charge, regardless of income, through the Universal

School Breakfast Program.

As of Jan. 29, there were 45 “homeless” students in Kent representing 28 families — an increase of 12 students over last year and 19 students from the year before that.

Homeless students are found throughout the county and in various age groups. Generally, there are one or two children per family, said Spurrier. She noted there was one family of three children and one family of four children.

Being homeless is a self-reported condition, and it is greatly underreported, Spurrier said.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986 defines homeless children as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

Children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation,

i.e. park benches, and children who live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations meet the criteria of the law. So do children who live in emergency or transitional shelters, children awaiting foster care placement, and children who are sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing.

An example of the latter is a mother who moved in with her parents, after being evicted, and brought her children with her.

This “double-up” situation is the rule for Kent County, not children living in shelters or a hotel for transients, according to Spurrier.

Children who meet the definition of “homeless” as spelled out in McKinney-Vento automatically qualify for free and reduced meals and other school activities (such as field trips) at no cost.

In Kent County, during winter and spring vacation, families are given a \$25 Dollar General store gift card so they can buy food and other necessities (even underwear) to tide them over until school re-opens.

McKinney-Vento also guarantees children transportation to their school of origin, if it is in the child’s best interest.

Currently, no student is being transported across state or county lines. Spurrier said a few are being transported “out of zone” — for example, from Chestertown to Galena.

Spurrier has tracked the number of homeless students in Kent over the last five years: 45 in 2009-2010; 33 in 2008-09; 26 in 2007-08; 36 in 2006-07; and three in 2005-2006.

See **KENT**
Page A10

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*This message provided by the Talbot County Health Department.*

EDITORIAL

# We should heed Evan Bayh’s warnings now

What exactly will it take for elected leaders to work for the common good for the people they represent and not their own self interests?

After 24 years in politics, including two Senate terms in Congress, U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., couldn’t find that answer and after working day-to-day in what many political observers call a “poisoned” political environment. Bayh announced last Monday that he will not seek a third Senate term and was critical of the constant bickering between Democrats and Republicans.

With the terrorist attacks of 9-11, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, tensions in Pakistan, nuclear threats from North Korea, natural disasters such as the tsunami in Taiwan and most recently the earthquake in Haiti, months of trying to fix a flawed health care system and enduring a global economic crisis, we can understand the pressure elected leaders must feel in trying to work through solutions to these tremendous problems. But these scenarios should inspire leaders to work together, not divide them on petty differences or the arrogance of egos or the power of party politics above all else.

As we have seen far too many times, good, decent people with a strong sense of service to their country and who chose to run for elected office, often end up on a heap of bitter disappointments after confronting a wall of partisan policies that seek to stifle the other camp’s point of view in a warped strategy to undermine the other camp 24-7.

Why does either party believe it has all the answers? What good is partisanship if nothing is accomplished for constituents, for their communities, for their states ... for our nation? Whatever happened to elected leaders being able to give ground on some points — no matter the issue — to achieve a greater, common good for all? This is what leadership used to mean — not keeping winning scores on every minor point.

What we are viewing so often now is mostly political theater — trashing the other side at every opportunity, near screaming matches on political talk shows with so many voices chiming in at once the issue gets lost in the fury, and even in disrespect shown to the president (whether you agree with him or not) when he spoke before both houses of Congress last year. Civility is absent, tearing down others is rampant. It’s ugly, it accomplishes nothing.

Indiana’s former U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, an Easton resident and father of Evan Bayh, said it made sense to have allies on the other side of the aisle when he served in Congress from 1963 to 1981. Former 1st District Congressman and history teacher Wayne T. Gilchrest, who served from 1991 to 2008, said the situation in Congress now is “clearly defined as two camps where a simple dialogue breaks down to partisan arguments. It’s partisanship to the theatre of the absurd.”

Both the elder Bayh and Gilchrest say the public and the media have a responsibility to fix the situation by learning about issues, “instead of being led around like a bunch of sheep.” Bayh also echoed the Constitutional guarantees that give citizens the right to free speech along with the responsibility that right includes. “We’ve got a lot of haters out there right now,” Bayh said.

As a public servant and the son of a former Senator, Evan Bayh had no illusions about what a life in public service would mean. Yet, he embraced it. He served as Indiana’s Secretary of State in 1986, then two terms as governor before being elected to the U.S. Senate. He also considered a bid for president in 2008 and was nearly selected as President Barack Obama’s running mate.

Some will simply chuck up his decision to not seek a third Senate term to his being a worn-out career politician who soured on politics. They will dismiss his criticism of Washington’s narrow ideologies as an easy excuse. Instead, all of us would do well to ponder the reasons for his discontent and ask our elected leaders to stop the pandering, to end the dramatics, to stop seeking the TV soundbites and to get down to work.

We need real problem solving, not childish playground finger-pointing and name-calling. We want to say grow up and do what leaders are expected to do.

**TODAY IN HISTORY**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Sunday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2010. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On Feb. 21, 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

On this date:

In 1846, Sarah G. Bagley became the first female telegrapher as she took charge at the newly opened telegraph office in Lowell, Mass.

In 1866, Lucy B. Hobbs became the first woman to graduate from a dental school, the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In 1925, *The New Yorker* magazine made its debut.

In 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside the Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam.

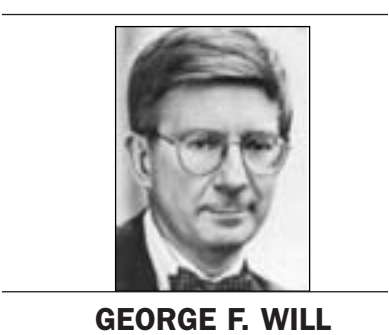
In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China.



# Blinded by science

**WASHINGTON** — Science, many scientists say, has been restored to her rightful throne because progressives have regained power. Progressives, say progressives, emulate the cool detachment of scientific discourse. So hear now the calm, collected voice of a scientist lavishly honored by progressives, Rajendra Pachauri.

He is chairman of the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which shared the 2007 version of the increasingly weird Nobel Peace Prize. Denouncing persons skeptical about the shrill certitudes of those who say global warming poses an imminent threat to the planet, he says:



GEORGE F. WILL

“They are the same people who deny the link between smoking and cancer. They are people who say that asbestos is as good as talcum powder — and I hope they put it on their faces every day.”

Do not judge him as harshly as he speaks of others. Nothing prepared him for the unnerving horror of encountering disagreement. Global warming alarmists, long cosseted by echoing media, manifest an interesting incongruity — hysteria and name calling accompanying serene assertions about the “settled science” of climate change. Were it settled, we would be spared the hyperbole that amounts to Ring Lardner’s “Shut up, he explained.”

The global warming industry, like Alexander in the famous children’s story, is having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Actually, a bad three months, which began Nov. 19 with the publication of e-mails indicating attempts by scientists to massage data and suppress dissent in order to strengthen “evidence” of global warming.

But there already supposedly was a broad, deep and unassailable consensus. Strange.

Next came the failure of The World’s Last — We Really, Really Mean It — Chance, aka the Copenhagen climate change sum-

mit. It was a nullity, and since then things have been getting worse for those trying to stampede the world into a spasm of prophylactic statism.

In 2007, before the economic downturn began enforcing seriousness and discouraging grandstanding, seven Western U.S. states (and four Canadian provinces) decided to fix the planet on their own. California’s Arnold Schwarzenegger intoned, “We cannot wait for the United States government to get its act together on the environment.” The 11 jurisdictions formed what is now called the Western Climate Initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, starting in 2012.

Or not. Arizona’s Gov. Jan Brewer recently suspended her state’s participation in what has not yet begun, and some Utah legislators are reportedly considering a similar action. She worries, sensibly, that it would impose costs on businesses and consumers. She also ordered reconsideration of Arizona’s strict vehicle emission rules, modeled on incorrigible California’s, lest they raise the cost of new cars.

Last week, BP America, ConocoPhillips and Caterpillar, three early members of the 31-member U.S. Climate Action Partnership, said: Oh, never mind. They withdrew from USCAP. It is a coalition of corporations and global warming alarm groups that was formed in 2007 when carbon rationing legislation seemed inevitable and collaboration with the

rationers seemed prudent. A spokesman for Conoco said: “We need to spend time addressing the issues that impact our shareholders and consumers.” What a concept.

Global warming skeptics, too, have erred. They have said there has been no statistically significant warming for 10 years. Phil Jones, former director of Britain’s Climatic Research Unit, source of the leaked documents, admits it has been 15 years. Small wonder that support for radical remedial action, sacrificing wealth and freedom to combat warming, is melting faster than the Himalayan glaciers that an IPCC report asserted, without serious scientific support, could disappear by 2035.

Jones also says that if during what is called the Medieval Warm Period (circa 800-1300) global temperatures may have been warmer than today’s, that would change the debate. Indeed it would. It would complicate the task of indicting contemporary civilization for today’s supposedly unprecedented temperatures.

Last week, Todd Stern, America’s Special Envoy for Climate Change — yes, there is one; and people wonder where to begin cutting government — warned that those interested in “undermining action on climate change” will seize on “whatever tidbit they can find.” Tidbits like specious science, and the absence of warming?

It is tempting to say, only half in jest, that Stern’s portfolio violates the First Amendment, which forbids government from undertaking the establishment of religion. A religion is what the faith in catastrophic man-made global warming has become. It is now a tissue of assertions impervious to evidence, assertions which everything, including a historic blizzard, supposedly confirms and nothing, not even the absence of warming, can falsify.

*George Will’s e-mail address is georgewill@washpost.com.*



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“In scandal, as in robbery, the receiver is always as bad as the thief.”

— Lord Chesterfield, English author and statesman (1694-1773) — AP

# Republican talk of ‘sensible middle’ makes no sense

We keep hearing that “Obama should move to the center.” A variation on this theme is that the president should find the “sensible middle” on policy.

But what the heck is the middle, given America’s screwball partisan rhetoric? Such appeals — mostly made by Republicans and “centrist” Democrats who need a compass — are meaningless, as the following example illustrates:

Kimball Rasmussen is an energy executive who travels the West with a slick presentation purporting to address concerns over climate change. CEO of Utah-based Deseret Power, Rasmussen downplays the threat of global warming with cute cartoons and a pickle barrel of plain talk. He ends by “debunking” the myths about global warming.

The myths happen to be of Rasmussen’s own creation, carefully worded to misrepresent the findings of mainstream climatologists. And his sources include some of the more tainted global-warming “skeptics.”

One of his scientific experts, Christopher Horner, is actually a lawyer at the right-wing Competitive Enterprise Institute. Another is Dr. Roy Spencer, whose calculations have been widely discredited by his peers and who, by the way, also questions evolution.

At the end of his folksy talk, Rasmussen implores the audience to find a “sensible middle” in thinking about climate change.

Well, if one side says that the moon is made of lunar rock and the other that it’s made of green cheese, is the sensible-middle position that the moon is half-green cheese?

Switch to health care. After Democrats stripped the public option out of the Senate’s bill and deleted a plan to let those over 55 join Medicare — two things so-called conservatives opposed — Republicans cynically implored Democrats to meet them halfway on health care. Halfway from where?

Other than their call to reform medical malpractice laws, Republicans have virtually no respectable ideas on fixing health care. Making up nonsense about gov-



FROMA HARROP

ernment-run “death panels” is the level they’ve been working on.

The argument that the public option was merely a sop for the Democrats’ liberal base was spread both by demagogues and people who should have known better. Framing the public option as such diverted attention from its purpose: to contain what private insurers could charge for subsidized coverage. Real conservatives would have liked the idea of protecting the taxpayer.

Most Republicans aren’t conservatives at all. They’re corporate socialists. The party’s idea of market solutions is to see how many taxpayer dollars they can shovel into private coffers. Recall the Medicare drug benefit, which was designed to enrich drug companies and insurers — while being entirely paid for with borrowed money.

Spiraling health care costs have put the American economy in peril, but the alleged party of prosperity doesn’t care. Confusing the public is easy, especially at a time of economic trauma, and the Republicans’ masters in the health care industry are delighted with the status quo. You see, it’s politics, not policy.

Now that they’ve come close to killing efforts to stem skyrocketing health care costs, Republicans are turning to budget deficits. In a show of crashing hypocrisy, they’re now pleading with Democrats to “work with us.”

Last month, as the world’s markets grew jittery over our rising debt, Republicans strangled Senate legislation that would have established a “Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action.” Seven Republicans who co-sponsored the bill voted against it.

(The Tea Party people should remember their names: Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, John McCain of Arizona, John Ensign of Nevada, Mike Crapo of Idaho, Robert Bennett of Utah, Sam Brownback of Kansas and James Inhofe of Oklahoma.)

So this call to work with Republicans and find a political center is flimflam in overdrive. Americans’ anger is understandable, but the public must be discerning about which bums to throw out.

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# FASTC fosters positive economic outlook for Mid-Shore

**By STEPHEN Z. MEEHAN**  
Guest Comment

The State Department's Foreign Affairs Security Training Center ("FASTC") information workshops held Feb. 16 at Queen Anne's County High School left attendees better informed and more comfortable with the process.

The State Department has incorporated public comment to make positive changes to the project design. This helps the community take ownership of the project, which represents the Mid-Shore's share of the Stimulus Package.

While the State Department continues to crunch numbers, construction analysts indicate that the \$500-million facility's five-year construction timeline will employ annually the equivalent of 500 full time jobs at Davis-Bacon "prevailing wage" rates under which general laborers start at \$15 and hour and carpenters are paid \$25 an hour plus benefits.

The State Department anticipates that a fully operational facility will



STEPHEN Z. MEEHAN

employ upwards of 1,000 permanent government and contract personnel. Even if only half the jobs materialize, a median annual salary of \$40,000 will result in a \$20 million operating payroll, one of the largest on the Eastern Shore. That will

stimulate the local economy and generate income and sales tax revenues.

The project cannot come soon enough for Mid-Shore governments struggling with lagging revenues. Caroline, Kent and Talbot have all engaged in top-to-bottom reviews as they reorganize and reinvent themselves before the fiscal crisis spirals out of control.

Up to this point, Queen Anne's has continued its "business as usual" approach, including nearly doubling the sheriff's annual salary next term to \$110,000 and spending millions on land acquisition for a future government office park and high-tech courthouse.

Listen for the brakes as the County Commissioners go public to balance Queen Anne's County's conservatively estimated \$11 million shortfall this fiscal year. Significant unemployment, shrinking property assessments, a declining commercial tax base, and nearly zero economic expansion will result in flat revenues next year that will require

more spending cuts or tax increases.

While Queen Anne's will benefit the most from FASTC, Commissioner Paul Gunther is the only county commissioner in favor of the project, which he deems essential for the county and region's long term financial health.

Putting tax revenue aside, new spending from payroll will set into motion additional spending and responding on food, clothing, housing, transportation, recreation and other activities. Employees moving to the area will help absorb our housing surplus, which has been driven by slow sales and foreclosures, and help reverse depressed property values.

The community benefits as well. Federal employees have a great track record of caring about their country and community. They participate in community activities and are generous contributors, including through the Combined Federal Campaign, a nearly 50-year-old conduit of voluntary federal employee

giving to local charitable causes.

The opposition continues to argue that Mid-Shore residents lack necessary skills and will not qualify for construction and permanent job opportunities. The opposition's position is the height of arrogance. State Department officials strongly disagree and have a positive view of Mid-Shore intelligence and ability. I share this positive view of our residents.

With more than 10,000 people unemployed and underemployed in the Mid-Shore region and dwindling homegrown opportunities for young adults entering the work force, we need to make the shift from thinking about "ME" to acting for "US," before we "no growth" ourselves out of heart and home.

*Stephen Meehan lives in Queen Anne's County and practices law in Chestertown. He is a board member and spokesman for the Eastern Shore Leadership Council Inc., a non-profit, non-partisan organization promoting sustainable economies and job growth for the Eastern Shore.*



## Save the yellow perch and the Chesapeake Bay

The Coastal Conservation Association claims to have thousands of members. They use their figures to scare politicians and state agencies. However, when it comes to depleting fish stocks they portray themselves as an innocent Opie with a bent nail and a bamboo pole.

The truth is they have the best equipment, catch tremendous amounts of fish and, worst of all, kill fish using their catch and release game that allows them to keep on catching. The CCA has gone to a new low by promoting catch of spawning yellow perch in their nurseries.

They stand shoulder to shoulder in shallow streams wiping out the mothers while they are spawning. It's the same as taking ducks off their nest while the eggs are hatching.

The CCA has stated many times that yellow perch is a vulnerable fish and should not be caught commercially. Yet, it is OK for sportsmen to catch these fish in their traditional spawning grounds. That has to be against all conservation ideals.

The Chesapeake Bay fishing industry has continued with good and fair years until now. Massive development is changing the environment. It is like an overflowing sewer system is destroying everything in its path. The polluted waterways are putting fish stocks in jeopardy.

Commercial watermen are the first group being blamed for this. We are not responsible for polluting the Bay.

For hundreds of years the Bay was used as a commercial fish-

ery. There was never a dime spent to clean up the Bay in all that time.

During the last 25 years the Bay has changed to a playground. The clean up is \$10 billion and counting.

The sport fishermen and so-called conservationists are blaming the commercial fishermen for depleting fishing stocks. It is their pollution that is doing so.

They can't blame themselves so they put the blame on the out-numbered and underrepresented. The latest proof of this pattern is the Choptank River. It was clean and productive until it became popular six years ago. Now it is ranked the second most polluted river in the Bay.

The farmers, geese and dogs are blamed, but it is people who are responsible. During a hot July weekend there is more pollution dumped in the Bay than there is all winter. Human waste and all the other pollution dumped overboard would probably fill a football stadium. Clean the Bay so the oysters can survive, don't use the excuse you need oysters to clean up your pollution.

WILLIAM EDWARDS, *Trappe*

"To go against the dominant thinking of your friends, of most of the people you see every day, is perhaps the most difficult act of heroism you can have."

— Theodore H. White, American political writer (1915-1986) — AP



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On February 16, 2010 the County Commissioners of Caroline County, Maryland, following advertised public hearing, adopted Ordinance #2010-001:

**ORDINANCE #2010-001, GUN, TRAP, SKEET, RIFLE, SHOOTING, AND TARGET RANGES AND CLUBS**

*FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 175 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County, Maryland to provide for the definition, qualification, zoning, and regulation of certain gun, trap, skeet, rifle, shooting, and target ranges, clubs, or activities; to provide for criteria, restrictions, and processes regarding such activities; to provide that such activities are prohibited in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Zoning Districts except under certain limited circumstances; providing that the title of this ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary of this ordinance for all purposes; and generally relating to gun, trap, skeet, rifle, shooting, and target ranges, clubs, and activities in Caroline County; and providing for an effective date.*

A copy of the Ordinance, which takes effect February 27, 2010, 10 days after adoption, may be obtained during regular business hours by contacting the Office of the County Commissioners, Courthouse, 109 Market St., Room 123, Denton, Maryland 21629 (Tel: 410-479-0660; or via the Maryland Relay Service for persons with hearing or speaking disability at 7-1-1.)

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# Dorchester schools try to adapt to students' changing living conditions

By **DUSTIN HOLT**  
Staff Writer

**CAMBRIDGE** — Dorchester County Public Schools go to great lengths to provide homeless students the same educational opportunities all children in the county receive as homeless students face many obstacles during the school year.

Over recent years, the number of homeless students enrolled in Dorchester schools has risen from the mid-20s to 37 as of January.

"It's a difficult situation for a child to be put through; not knowing where he or she will be living next week or the following week," said James Bell, Dorchester Schools supervisor of pupil services, who was principal of Mace's Lane Middle School prior to this school year. "I don't think it's a coincidence that we have more homeless students since the economy has been bad."

According to the 2009-2010 Dorchester Schools handbook, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, ensures that all homeless children, including preschoolers, have equal access to the same free, appropriate educational programs as provided to all other children.

Homeless children experience barriers associated with transportation, proof of residency, study space, continuity in school curriculum and instruction, and school supplies, according to the handbook.

Dorchester Schools Pupil Services helps enroll and assist homeless students when they are identified. Three Pupil Services personnel workers are assigned to the schools and work with homeless families.

"Throughout any school year, the number of homeless students fluctuates depending on each child's situation," Bell said. "Our job in Pupil Services is to keep an open eye for these cases and to make sure a student's education is not interrupted."

Bell said one of Pupil Services' biggest challenges is identifying if a student is homeless.

"It's a situation where a homeless family wants to keep it private because they don't want to be labeled as homeless," Bell said. "To identify homeless students, we look at attendance records, how much a student brings to lunch and any information we get



PHOTO BY DUSTIN HOLT

In his first year as Dorchester Schools Supervisor of Pupil Services, James Bell and his staff help to identify homeless students in Dorchester County to ensure they receive the same educational opportunities all children receive in the county. Pupil Services works with homeless families and students during the school year to set up transportation to school, after school tutors, use of school libraries and computer labs and, in some cases, free lunches.

from faculty and staff. We also receive information from the Dorchester County Social Services about possible homeless families they come across."

He said a challenge a homeless student faces is lack of educational resources and supplies.

"A lot of students when they go home have an opportunity to do research online for homework and school projects," Bell said. "A homeless student may not have the same opportunity, so we are able to offer after-school tutoring along with utilizing the school libraries and computers after school."

Dorchester Schools Superintendent Fred Hildenbrand said it is important to give the student stability during an unstable situation in the student's life.

"Over the years, we find homeless students are preoccupied with their living conditions and their school work falls behind," Dr. Hildenbrand said. "With the help from our

staff, the students receive needed attention, helping them excel during a difficult situation."

With Pupil Services handling each case, Bell said a lot of pressure is taken off of the teachers to handle a homeless student's situation.

"Teachers already do a lot for the students, and this way, they can come to us so we can help the student get going in the right direction," Bell said.

Students in the county are homeless for a variety of reasons, including parents losing their job and their house being damaged in a fire, Bell said.

"Whatever the reasons are, we are here for the students, whether their situation is temporary or long term," Bell said.

Depending on the case, a homeless student can receive free lunches each day at school.

"Our staff will keep a record of a student's eating habit because it's important that the

**Dorchester County Public Schools**

- Over the last several years, the number of homeless students enrolled in Dorchester schools has risen from the mid-20s to 37 as of January.

student is fed during the day," Bell said. "You can't expect a student to learn anything if they don't have any food to eat for lunch."

Another challenge for the students is getting to school if the student moves around the county frequently.

Bell said Pupil Services meets with the parents and the student to arrange where the student gets picked up by the school bus each day.

"One week, a student could be in Hurlock and the next week, they could be in Church Creek," Bell said. "We just maintain communication so we know how to get the student to school."

If a student moves out of the county during the school year, Dorchester Schools keeps the student enrolled in the county and offers transportation to school.

Bell said Dorchester Schools will send a bus to any reasonable location outside the county to get the student to school. He said Dorchester Schools also offers to pay a parent's travel expense if they bring the student to school.

"The easiest way for a student to fall behind is for a family to move out of the county and then the student stops going to school altogether," Bell said.

"In the past, we have sent buses to Talbot, Caroline and Wicomico counties to pick students up for school."

When the school year ends, Pupil Services maintains contact with the homeless families. If a family moves to another county, Dorchester Schools will contact the board of education in the family's new county to get the student enrolled in that county the next school year.

"It's certainly a difficult situation for the student and his or her family but we'll do as much as we can to help the child excel while at school," Hildenbrand said.

## KENT

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"We've gotten better at identifying students who meet McKinney-Vento," Spurrier said as a way to explain the spike after 2005-06.

"We're doing a better job of making sure people know the law and what they're entitled to."

Fliers in English and Spanish are posted in every school's main office and guid-

ance office, the courthouse and in numerous locations throughout the county.

Spurrier attributes the increase over the last year to the recession. "Given the economy, I would be surprised if the numbers hadn't increased."

She said the "new face of homelessness is your middle class families who had nice homes and got over their heads with mortgages and lost them."

She said there has been some resistance from the newly homeless to report. They don't want to be categorized as homeless, and they see it as a temporary situation.

One homeless child is one too many, said Spurrier, a former guidance counselor and high school English teacher.

"Fortunately, we're not like some of the bigger counties where kids are in shelters," she said.

"But we still have issues where kids are struggling to get their homework done.

They might know where they're going to sleep, but the circumstances may not be conducive to studying."

Spurrier said the school district here makes sure parents know their rights and what resources are available.

The Samaritan Group's

eight-bed homeless shelter in Chestertown operates from January to March.

The nearest year-round shelters for families are Clairvaux Farm in Earleville (Cecil County) and St. Martin's Ministries in Caroline County.

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# QA's County equipped to help meet needs of homeless students and adults

By **BOBBY MCMAHON**  
Staff Writer

## Queen Anne's County Public Schools

• Homeless students in the county total 17, a number that has fallen from the beginning of this school year

**CENTREVILLE** — To many officials in Queen Anne's County, the picture of homelessness goes beyond the conventional perception of the person living on the street.

It's the person sleeping on a relative's sofa or in a hotel. It's multiple families living in a crowded house. It's the child of the migrant family.

"I think [homelessness] is more of a hidden problem," said Nancy Roe, a Human Service worker for the county's Department of Social Services.

"We see people that are in this situation, but you're not going to see them lying out on the street."

While they say that the total number of area homeless is relatively small, officials said that

programs and policies are in place to help meet the needs of both homeless students as well as adults.

Ralph Marketto, supervisor of student support services for Queen Anne's County Public Schools, said the school system recently had expanded its definition of homeless students to better identify and assist them. Rather than just those who live in a car or public area, the homeless student policy now includes students living in hotels, students of migrant

workers and generally those without a "fixed adequate night time residence," he said.

"We just wanted to make sure we were up to date," Marketto said.

Marketto recently put the number of homeless students in the county at 17, a number that has fallen from the beginning of this school year. Because these students face significant upheaval in their lives, he said the main goal for school officials is to make their school life less stressful.

"School tries to make their life as consistent as possible," Marketto said. "We try to keep that part of the life intact."

This means working to keep students in the same school if they're sent to another part of the area, which in the past has meant providing transportation from other counties.

Those decisions, Marketto said, are made on an individual basis to determine what's in the

best interest of the child.

Beyond the needs of students, county officials said that there are programs in place to assist the relatively small number of homeless adults in the area.

Roe said the county can work with people on an individual basis to help find them temporary housing (one option during the winter is the Our Haven shelter at Kent Island United Methodist Church), health care or help finding a job.

As the economy has crashed and burned as of late, Marketto has seen the number of homeless students grow as more families are forced to confront the prospect of homelessness.

"It's people who are unaccustomed to the level of poverty that they find themselves in," Marketto said. "These are electricians that had plenty of work and now have no work."

# TALBOT

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Maryland State Department of Education each month and often fluctuate during the year.

Duncan attributes the increase to the difficult economy.

"More people are losing their homes," she said. "In order to save money, people are moving in with family members."

Awareness of requirements to qualify for homelessness also has increased, Duncan said.

Public perception of a homeless person is someone living on the street or in a car or a shed, but the Maryland State Department of Education has a broader

definition, said Sutton.

If a student and his or her family had to leave their home because they could no longer afford it and they have moved in with relatives, they are considered homeless.

"The majority of our students who fall into the homeless category fit in because of that definition," Sutton said. "Some of Talbot's homeless students have lived in hotels, placed by the Department of Social Services or other agencies, but that is rare."

The Talbot County Board of Education policy on homelessness supports success for all students.

The board's position is that homeless students should be provided a full opportunity to services needed to eliminate barriers to success. The poli-

cy suggests homeless students are more at risk for developmental delays, poor academic performance, psychological stress, poor attendance and health problems.

The Code of Maryland Regulations establishes minimum requirements for providing educational programs to homeless students. Following federal and state laws, homeless students are allowed to enroll immediately with 20 days to provide immunization records.

Even if a student is displaced somewhere outside the county, transportation must be provided as well.

Last year, bus transportation was arranged for one student from Cambridge. In another instance, a parent was given mileage reimbursement to provide their own rides to and from school.

Talbot also uses some of its Title 1 funds to provide students with school necessities.

"As soon as we find a need, we're able to provide," said Homeless Education Coordinator Sandra Butler.

Tutoring, backpacks and

new pencils, warm clothes, eye glasses, medicine — whatever a student needs, they will get.

"We try to make it as seamless as possible, whoever comes to us and whatever their situation," Butler said.

This year, \$2,000 in Title 1 funds were set aside at the beginning of the school year. Some is still available, Sutton said.

Funds also have been used to help pay for expenses for the fifth-grade overnight field trip to Camp Echo Hill each year. It is part of the regular curriculum and if a family couldn't afford it, the school would pay.

Students have access to meals through FARMS and access to after-school homework help through school programs or churches such as Scott's United Methodist in Trappe. There are lots of opportunities for children to get homework help regardless of income.

The Judy Center and the Family Support Center also have helped provide more resources to low-income and

homeless families. Families can check out books and other educational materials and toys.

Having good working relationships with the other counties and agencies within the county, such as the Department of Social Services and Eastern Shore Psychological Services, has been a help, Butler said.

"The churches are also very good about helping with school supplies," said Pam Heaston.

Student progress is tracked by student service teams comprised of teachers, administrators and guidance counselors.

Homelessness is identified during the school enrollment process. Information is then passed on to guidance counselors. Parents can meet with counselors and are informed of their rights.

"When parents come in, often they don't like to use that word and we try to be sensitive," Butler said. "We understand what they're going through and we're going to be there for them."

Once a homeless student is identified, the goal is to ensure homeless students are on an equal playing field with all of the other students. Often teachers don't even know if a student in their class is homeless.

As parents develop good working relationships with school staff, if a parent's home or employment status changes, it is hoped they feel comfortable sharing that and "if there's anything we can do to assist, we do," Heaston said.

"I think we probably know about most of the families but there are probably a few who we don't. It's hard for families to admit they're having trouble providing," she said. "They feel it's their responsibility to provide and having to admit you're at a place where you can't provide for your kids, it's a very hard place to come to and it's through innocent conversation we learn about it."

"We have such good relationships with our parents, it doesn't take too long to offer help."

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**Admission: Adults \$6 • Children (12 & under) \$3**

| FRIDAY                         | SATURDAY                              |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5 pm Doors Open                | 10:30 am Doors Open                   |
| 7:30 pm Miss Outdoors Pageant  | 11:30 am Little Miss Outdoors Pageant |
| Special Entertainment          | Little Mr. Outdoors Pageant           |
| The World's Champion           | Special Entertainment                 |
| Muskrat Skinning               | 2 pm Duck Carving Contest             |
| Semifinals will follow Pageant | 5 pm Children's Photo Contest         |
|                                | 7 pm Evening Program                  |
|                                | Log Sawing                            |
|                                | Oyster Shucking                       |
|                                | Children Muskrat Race                 |
|                                | Jr. & Sr. Trap Setting                |
|                                | Muskrat Skinning Competitions         |
|                                | Corn Shelling Contest                 |
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**Registration Times:**  
Muskrat Cooking Contest - 3 pm  
Turkey, Duck & Goose Calling Finals - 3 pm (Beginners, Jr. & Sr. Categories)  
Muskrat Cooking Contest Judging - 4:15 pm

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## Easton man faces drug paraphernalia charge

**EASTON** — Maksym Lozovsky, 23, of Easton, was charged with drug paraphernalia possession Wednesday after a large smoking device was found in his backpack, according to Easton police.

Police were called to Sycamore Avenue for an unrelated matter, and found that Lozovsky had the paraphernalia in his backpack when he left a residence, police said. He was charged on a criminal citation and released on his signature.

## Fashion Showcase

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-WRUS parent, quoted 2010



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OBITUARIES

Donald C. Grove

**EASTON** — Donald Cooper Grove, a retired official of the Food and Drug Administration, died Jan. 23, 2010, at his home. He was 100.

Born June 4, 1909, in Baltimore, he was the son of the late Vernon C. and Sally E. Thompson Grove. He was married to the late Myrtle Harrison Jefferson for 56 years. They had one daughter, the late Betty Grove Collins, who was married to Dr. George E. Collins. From this marriage, five grandsons and one granddaughter were born, Gregory S. Collins, Belinda D. Levine, Glenn S. Collins, George C. Collins, Geoffrey E. Collins and the late Garry S. Collins. He had 12 great-grandchildren.

In 1929, Dr. Grove graduated from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, after earning a B.S. in pharmaceutical chemistry. After graduation, he continued his studies at the Pharmacy School, going on to earn an M.S. and then in 1932 a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical chemistry.

While in graduate school, he was also an assistant instructor at the Pharmacy School. Upon receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Grove took a job with the Food and Drug Administration. During his time at the FDA, Dr. Grove held various positions and worked on projects such as the safe and efficient production of antibiotics and treatments for malaria. At the time of his retirement from the FDA in 1965, he was the assistant director of the Bureau of Biological and Physical Sciences.

After his retirement from the FDA, he worked as a consultant to various pharmaceutical companies through the mid-1970s. Upon his second retirement, he became a volunteer in the community, explored his artistic talents and spent time with his family.

He served on the board of directors at the Academy Arts Museum in Easton, volunteered for the American Red Cross and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, drove for Meals on Wheels, and served as an escort for Memorial Hospital at Easton auxiliaries, pushing patients in wheelchairs, until he was into his mid-1990s.

As an artist he painted in oil and acrylic, drew with pastels and sculpted in clay. His finest works however, were the water and songbirds he carved and painted — winning First in Category (amateur decorative miniature), at

the 1977 Ward Foundation World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition.

A true renaissance man, Dr. Grove was a husband, a father and grandfather, a tennis player, a teacher, a scientist, an author, an artist and a volunteer in the community. He will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Easton, where Dr. Grove's family will be greeting guests starting at 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Memorial Hospital at Easton.

Arrangements by Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home P.A., Easton. www.fhnfuneralhome.com.

William H. Eberspacher

**CAMBRIDGE** — William Henry Eberspacher, 70, of Cambridge died Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, at Dorchester General Hospital in Cambridge.

Born Feb. 26, 1939, in Cambridge, he was the son of the late Frederick Edward Eberspacher and Katherine Metz Eberspacher.

Mr. Eberspacher made the family farm, The Brick House Farm in Drawbridge, his home throughout his entire life. He was a graduate of North Dorchester High School, Class of 1957, and had attended the University of Maryland, College Park, for two years.

On Nov. 10, 1962, he married the former Ann Spicer of Cambridge.

Mr. Eberspacher was a farmer, and since the 1970s he worked during the winter delivering oil in Cambridge for Leon Hurley, Granville Hooper and lastly for Pep-Up. He retired in 2000, due to his health beginning to fail as a result of severe depression. Two years ago, he developed dementia and was a resident at Mallard Bay Care Center for the past five months.

Mr. Eberspacher's early education and Confirmation were at Immanuel Evangelical and Reform Church, which later became the Immanuel United Church of Christ. He later attended Grace Baptist Church in Hurlock for 17 years, and had been a member of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in Cambridge for about 10 years.

Mr. Eberspacher was a very faithful worker and supporter of Golden Shore Christian School from 1973 to the 1990s, serving on the Golden Shore Christian School Board most of that time. He

also was a member of the Dorchester County Farm Bureau.

His hobbies were reading, particularly topics of history, and he was an avid NASCAR fan since his teenage years.

Survivors include his wife, Ann Spicer Eberspacher of Cambridge; a son, Curtis Edward Eberspacher and his wife Patricia "Trish" of Cornelius, N.C.; two grandchildren, Jeannine A. Eberspacher and Joseph M. "Joey" Eberspacher; a grandson, Elijah Eberspacher; sisters-in-law, Elois S. "Lois" Eberspacher of Grasonville and Ruth Spicer Gray of Cambridge, Doris Spicer Dove of Salisbury and R. Elaine Spicer of Seaford, Del.; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding him in death besides his parents, were a sister and brother-in-law, Anna Eberspacher VanCleve and Ben VanCleve; a brother, Fred P. Eberspacher; a brother and sister-in-law, Emerson W. Eberspacher and Norma J. Eberspacher; brothers-in-law, Joseph L. Spicer, Russell L. Gray and Ercell S. Dove; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Betty Spicer Fehsenfeld and Arthur L. Fehsenfeld Jr.; and two nephews, Steven M. Dove and Charles F. Eberspacher.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Curran-Bromwell Funeral Home P.A. in Cambridge, where the family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Officiating at the service will be Pastor Dave Stewart. Burial will follow at Dorchester Memorial Park.

Pallbearers will be John "Jack" Van Cleve, Ted Eberspacher, Doug Eberspacher, Mark Eberspacher, Emerson "Rusty" Eberspacher Jr. and Chem Albites.

In lieu of flowers, memorial offerings may be made in Mr. Eberspacher's memory to Alzheimer's Assoc. Greater MD Chapter, 1850 York Road, Suite D, Timonium, MD 21093-5122. www.curran-bromwell.com.

Ruth R. Shaw

**CHURCH HILL** — Ruth R. Shaw of Church Hill died Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010, at the Hospice of Queen Anne's. She was 89.

Born June 9, 1920, in Frackville, Pa., she was the daughter of the late Rufus Roy and Rosetta Bracey Richards.

She is survived by a son, Lawrence J. "Larry" Shaw and his wife Debra; a granddaughter, Jennifer Bedell; and a great-granddaughter, Allison Bedell.

Private services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hospice of Queen Anne's, 255 Comet Drive, Centreville, MD 21617.

Arrangements by Fellows,

Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home P.A. in Easton. www.fhnfuneralhome.com.

Shirley V. McGlaughlin

**PRINCESS ANNE** — Shirley V. McGlaughlin, 74, of Princess Anne passed away Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, at the home of her daughter in Berlin.

She was born Oct. 11, 1935, in Cambridge, and was a daughter of the late Dorsey and Louise Harris Lowe.

She attended schools in Cambridge. Some years ago, she had worked at Bumble Bee Tuna in Cambridge. On Oct. 10, 1970, she was married to Charles M. McGlaughlin. After she was married, she was a homemaker and raised her five children. They had made their home in Pocomoke for over 10 years.

Mr. McGlaughlin passed away Aug. 4, 1978. She had worked at Perdue for 11 years, until she retired several years ago. For the past 20 years, she had made her home in Princess Anne. Mrs. McGlaughlin enjoyed gardening and working with flowers. She had been in failing health for the past five years, when she passed away Thursday morning.

Survivors include two daughters, Cheryl Lynn Johnson of Berlin, Joyce A. Agosto and her husband Juan Agosto of Melbourne, Fla.; three sons, Donald J. Webb Jr. of Salisbury, Robert M. Webb of Pacolet, S.C. and Michael A. Webb of Melbourne, Fla. She is also survived by six grandchildren, Michelle A. Agosto, Jamie L. Webb, Melissa A. Piper, Joseph M. Webb, Kyle M. Webb and Samantha D. Webb; three sisters, Arbutus Sanford of Colonial Beach, Va., Anita Betts of Georgetown, Del., and Roberta O'Neal of Michigan; two brothers, Linwood Lowe of Sharptown and Robert Lowe of East New Market; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Cherry L. Webb; one grandson, Robert L. Agosto; one sister, Priscilla Lawson; and one, brother Calvin Lowe.

A funeral service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at the Thomas Funeral Home in Cambridge, with Capt. Stephen Story of the Cambridge Salvation Army officiating. Interment will follow at Dorchester Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 114 Baptist St., Salisbury, MD 21801-4911.

Edward M. Slavinski

**EASTON** — Edward "Ed" Michael Slavinski died Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010. He was 63. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Mary Adelaide Rada

**EASTON** — Mary Adelaide Rada on Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, went home to her Lord and Savior to reside in her Father's House following a long courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

Mary was born in Queenstown on July 12, 1925, to Lillie Eleanor and Clinton B. Baker. Mary was a 1943 graduate of Centreville High School and assisted her husband William in his contracting business and enjoyed being a substitute school teacher. Upon the death of her husband, she worked for Hess Apparel and Shearer The Jeweler for 12 years. Her charisma and charm made her successful in sales. Having a passion for fine clothing and design, she modeled for Beecham's and the Tidewater Inn in Easton into her 1970s.

Having a desire to work hard for her Savior Jesus Christ, Mary was involved in many lady ministries — choir and Sunday school teaching first in Calvary Methodist Church in Queenstown, Wye Mills United Methodist Church and the Easton Church of the Nazarene, always ready to witness and share the Gospel.

Those left to cherish her memory are three sons; William Rada Jr. of Cambridge, Denny Rada and his wife Ann of Wye Mills, and Donnie Rada and his wife Tereasa of Trappe; three daughters; Linda Saubier of Colora, Faye Hickman of Chester and Sherry Smith and her husband David of Church Hill; also surviving are sisters, Loraine Haberman and June Collier of Queenstown; 21 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 35 years, William Rada Sr. She was also preceded in death by brothers, Bernard and Teddy Baker; and sisters; Betty Thompson and Violet Barsotti.

A funeral service will be held at noon Wednesday, Feb. 24, at the Easton Church of God, where friends may call from 10 a.m. until time of service. Officiating the service will be the Rev. John Cahall and Pastor Denny Rada.

Private burial will take place at Woodlawn Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in her memory to Easton Church of God, Lady's Ministry, 1009 N. Washington St., Easton, MD 21601.

For online tributes, family and friends may visit www.fhnfuneralhome.com

Woodrow W. Lovette

**GREENSBORO** — Woodrow Wilson Lovette, 97, of Greensboro died Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, at Envoy of Denton. A service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home P.A. in Greensboro, with a visitation one hour prior. Entombment will be private. www.fleegleandhelfenbein.com

Richard B. Melhuish

**GREENSBORO** — Richard "Dick" B. Melhuish of Greensboro died Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, at the Chester River Hospital in Chestertown. The memorial service will be private.

Man arrested after alleged threat with meat cleaver

**CAMBRIDGE** — Thursday, Feb. 18, Cambridge police were called to a home here at 1307 Colonial Ave. at 6:10 p.m. for a complaint about a disturbance, according to a Cambridge Police Department press release.

An officer spoke with resident Twanna Demby, according to Dorchester County District Court charging documents, who said her roommate, Vernon S. Dennard, 61, came home and began complaining about food on the counter in the kitchen. She told the officer Dennard had been drinking alcohol.

Dennard allegedly picked up a meat cleaver and "started swinging it in a threatening manner," Demby told police, adding that this was the third time Dennard had behaved this way, threatening her with the cleaver.

With Demby's permission, the officer looked under a couch in the living room for the cleaver and removed it from the home.

The officer also arrested Dennard on charges of second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and the possession of a dangerous weapon with the intent to injure.

He was held on \$5,000 bond in the Dorchester County Detention Center following an appearance before a Dorchester court commissioner. Following bail review Friday, Dennard was released on personal recognizance.

Day trip offered to New York City in May

Caroline County Recreation & Parks in Denton is offering a trip to New York City Saturday, May 1. People attending the trip are free to explore the city on their own. The bus will leave at 6 a.m. from the Health and Public Services building and return around 11 p.m. Cost is \$49. To register, call 410-479-8120.

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Clovas Dickerson's wife, Margaret; their children, Debbie Radke & Teri Batchelor and their extended family would like to thank everyone who was able to attend his memorial service. It was a great comfort to see how many lives Clovas touched. We also heard from many more who were out of state and/or unable to attend, but were with us in spirit.

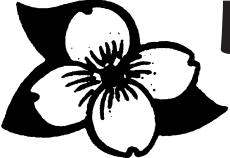
We also appreciate all of the thoughtful cards and messages sent. Clovas was a very special man, not only to all of us, but to so many of you. Your kind messages mean a great deal to us.

We would like to thank all those who helped care for Clovas in this past year: Dr. Helen Noble, and her staff and the staff at Chester River Manor including the C Wing and A Wing nursing staff. A special thank you goes out to Yolanda, Suzzy, Evelyn & Sandy whose loving care was very helpful. We appreciate all you did for Clovas and for us during this difficult time. You are all truly angels.

Thank you for all of the donations in Clovas's name to a variety of charities. Your generosity will help so many others which was such a part of who Clovas was.

Finally, we would like to offer special thanks to Rev. Ken Hickman and his wife Karen of Salem United Methodist Church who offered their supportive presence at the memorial service.

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# Shore delegation weighs how to pay for highway projects

By **BOBBY MCMAHON**  
Staff Writer

**ANNAPOLIS** — It may have not been listed on the meeting agenda, but the General Assembly's Eastern Shore delegation discussed a fundamental question of state government (and the American political system) at their Friday meeting.

At issue was taxes — namely, the inherent conflict between likely public discontent with a tax increase and the challenge of having to pay for things that government does, including building roads, teaching students and keeping people safe.

On paper, though, the meeting featured a panel of leaders in the road construction industry. During their testimony, each said they had to cut their workforce significantly in the last year, partly due to the drop in highway construction projects as well as the overall recession.

"In many ways, we feel that the construction and construction materials supply business has really borne the brunt of this recession," said David Thomey of Maryland Materials.

David Bramble of David A. Bramble Inc. said if it had it not been for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, his industry would be in much worse straits.

"I'm a staunch Republican, but Obama's stimulus kept everybody in this room busy for one year," Bramble said.

Bramble emphasized the need for dedicated revenue for highway construction and repair, arguing that the effect of letting road maintenance slip as well as leaving necessary projects on the shelf would cost the state much more money in the long term. Noting that it was a politically difficult move to make, he suggested that one fix could be increasing the state's gasoline tax

"Somewhere around the turn of the century, people decided you didn't have to pay for anything," Bramble said. "If you want to have good roads, you need to provide money."

Taking that idea one step further was Curtis Hall of Independence Construction Materials.

"With today's gas prices," Hall said, "what's another ten cents? I don't know that it would even be noticed by the general public."

Delegation members from both sides of the political aisle disagreed.

"I guarantee that the constituents I represent would

**An existing problem with highway funding is that the gasoline tax coffers are often raided to pay for other projects. The state needs to dedicate revenue meant for transportation to transportation projects.**

**Del. Richard Sossi, R-36-Queen Anne's**

notice a gas tax increase, particularly in a recession election year," said state Sen. Richard Colburn, R-37-Mid-Shore.

Del. James Mathias, D-38B-Worcester, echoed Colburn's sentiment and said there had been "tremendous push back" when they had tried to raise the gasoline tax before. He even invited members of the panel to attend a town hall meeting with him and speak to the need for highway money.

"If you want to help us," Mathias said, "come tomorrow and tell those people that when we get called the names we're going to get called [for saying taxes needed to be raised], you can stand up and say 'I'm a staunch Republican and I believe in Obama and what he did. And we need to raise taxes.' You could help us out."

Del. Richard Sossi, R-36-Queen Anne's, said that an existing problem with highway funding is that the gasoline tax coffers are often raided to pay for other projects. He said the state needs to dedicate revenue meant for transportation to transportation projects.

"If you gave me \$10 dollars to buy you a sandwich for lunch and I spent it on a CD, you'd call that theft," Sossi said. "I think we have to get serious about locking that money up."

Sossi said, though, that he didn't fault Gov. Martin O'Malley or the legislative committees for trying to balance the budget. Del. Norman Conway, D-38B-Wicomico and Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said lawmakers are trying to address the problem, but massive revenue shortfalls and the desire to maintain funding for education make that task challenging.

"We're very much aware of it," Conway said. "We're going to do what we can."



Kennedyville Volunteer Fire Company administrative officers, installed at the annual installation of officers event, were, seated from left: M. Heather Miller, president; Clint Mill, vice president; Patty Scott, secretary; Joy Price, assistant secretary. Standing, from left: Bunk Miller, S. Michelle Miller, Jim Sample, Danni Quinn (immediate past president) and James Reese, all members of the board of directors. Not pictured: Mark Dixon, treasurer; and Fred Brown, board member.

## Kennedyville VFC, auxiliary installs 2010 officers



Ladies Auxiliary Officers, announced Jan. 30, are, from left: Margaret Reese, president; Patty Scott, vice president, and Linda Shifflet, secretary. Not pictured: Chris Tilghman, treasurer.



Kennedyville Volunteer Fire Company line officers, announced Jan. 30, are, seated from left: Phillip Lott, chief; Bunk Miller, immediate past president and deputy chief; Pete Lott, asst. chief and EMS chief. Standing, from left: Clint Mills, lieutenant; Jim Sample, chief engineer; James Reese, asst. engineer and Bill Scott, fire police. Not pictured: Fred Brown, asst. engineer; Scott Black, Albert Clayton and Brandon Dixon, engineers.

# Greensboro to pursue funding for wastewater treatment plant

By **SARAH PEARCE**  
Staff Writer

**GREENSBORO** — The town of Greensboro will pursue a "pre-application" for funding to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant in order to also accommodate the sewer needs of the town of Goldsboro.

Such a project could solve the wastewater problems for Goldsboro, but would do nothing to help other north Carolina County towns struggling with similar issues.

The push to find a solution to sewer problems in the north county started about 20 years ago. Then, Town Manager David Kibler said, the project would have cost about \$6 million. Now, a sewer solution alone would cost about \$20 million.

Kibler said town officials met with representatives of the North County Water and Sewer Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, Community Development Block Grant, and Maryland Department of the Environment.

USDA representatives said the Greensboro/north county project would

**Such a project could solve the wastewater problems for Goldsboro, but would do nothing to help other north Carolina County towns struggling with similar issues.**

be the type that they like to fund; however, the USDA does not have the funds and the cost per household exceeds the limits.

Kibler said the cost per household is very high, but under current conditions, the north county towns cannot grow. Small lots available in the towns are not conducive to onsite septic systems. Similar lots with houses already have problems because the septic systems are contaminating wells.

The lots are not going to get bigger, Kibler said, and the soil is not going to change.

USDA officials said they would look at a smaller project to fund by the end of 2010 with federal stimulus money, Kibler said.

One such smaller project would be the proposal to connect just Goldsboro to Greensboro's wastewater treatment plant.

MDE officials always have said any upgrades to the Greensboro wastewater treatment facility would require Greensboro to treat the wastewater at a higher standard, Kibler said, but MDE officials said they could make an exception for this project.

A "pre-application" is a brief explanation of the project and its approximate costs.

Kibler said required upgrades would cost about \$2 million and would help in future improvements when the town would be required to increase wastewater treatment levels.

Parts of the more immediate project could be used toward the future project, so Greensboro could in the future benefit from the initial project.

Kibler said the pre-application makes the project an option for the town, but does not commit Greensboro to it.



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# Senate Democrats look to limit corporate spending in Maryland elections

By **DANIEL LEADERMAN**  
Capital News Service

**ANNAPOLIS** — Senate Democrats are using publicity from a controversial U.S. Supreme Court ruling to introduce a package of legislation targeting corporate spending in Maryland elections.

The three bills arrive in the shadow of last month's Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission ruling, which struck down restrictions on political spending by corporations in federal elections.

President Obama criticized the decision in his State of the Union address last month, and a *Washington Post*-ABC News poll released this week found that 80 percent of respondents opposed the ruling. The poll reported broad agreement on the matter between Democrats, Republicans and independents.

Maryland isn't immediately affected by the ruling because state law already treats corporations the same way as individuals. And some Republican opponents say Democrats simply want to place limits on corporations, while not restricting unions.

But proponents say the changes brought about by the Supreme Court ruling could have ramifications in the state.

"I think it will have a tremendous effect on Maryland elections," said Sen. Jamie Raskin, D-Montgomery. "It invites all of American corporations, including the ones in Maryland, to become active political players through expenditures in campaigns."

Independent expenditures, which include TV commercials that support or oppose voting for an issue or candidate, are made without the funding or approval of the candidates themselves.

Current state law holds corporations and individuals to the same standards when it comes to political contributions — up to \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 in total direct donations during a four-year election cycle — but doesn't require any disclosures regarding independent expenditures.

Raskin is the lead sponsor on a bill that would ban independent expenditures by a person receiving \$5,000 or more in state contracts.

"That pay-to-play system creates real dangers of corruption and the appearance of corruption," Raskin said.

The potential for corporate control over political elections is dangerous, said Sen. Brian Frosh, D-Montgomery.

"We don't want Exxon or Microsoft or any of these giants dictating who gets elected or defeated all by themselves," Frosh said.

Frosh introduced a bill that would require corporations to obtain the approval of two-thirds of their stockholders before making independent campaign expenditures.

"We're going to at least insist on corporate democracy," Frosh said. "This is money that would otherwise be going to the shareholders, it's money they'd be spending on dividends as opposed to trying to influence an election."

A bill introduced by Sen. David Harrington, D-Prince George's, would require businesses and nonprofits to disclose what they spend on independent campaign expenditures.

Hearings on the bills are scheduled for next week.

The legislation is likely to draw fire from some assembly members who are concerned that the proposed restrictions could violate the rights of corporations.

"The Supreme Court has issued a ruling that the First Amendment is involved in all these cases," said Sen. Andy Harris, R-Baltimore County. "I think there are going to be constitutional issues with all these bills."

Sen. Richard Colburn, R-Dorchester, criticized the legislation calling for stockholder votes for trying to limit the rights of business-

es while giving unions a pass.

"If they're really concerned about political contributions, they would have included labor, but they've chosen not to do so," Colburn said. "They want to restrict first amendment rights for businesses only."

"It's a liberal knee-jerk reaction to the Supreme Court decision," Colburn said.

Many unions are corporations themselves, Frosh said.

"If not, and somebody

**“If they’re really concerned about political contributions, they would have included labor, but they’ve chosen not to do so. They want to restrict first amendment rights for businesses only. It’s a liberal knee-jerk reaction to the Supreme Court decision.”**

State Sen. Richard Colburn

wants to propose an amendment to extend (the bill) to other union expenditures or unions that are not covered ... I don't have a problem

with that," Frosh said. Trying to limit corporate spending may be a futile task, said Dave Schwartz, director of the Maryland

chapter of the conservative advocacy group Americans for Prosperity.

"Corporations will find ways to influence who they

need to influence," Schwartz said. "They will buy access."

The three bills coming up this week are among several pieces of election-law legislation introduced this session. Sen. Paul Pinsky, D-Prince George's, who co-sponsored the three bills, has introduced legislation calling for public financing in state elections. Pinsky co-sponsored a bill with Raskin banning corporations from making campaign donations and expenditures all together. Pinsky is a teachers' union organizer.

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— REGIONAL BRIEFS —  
**TALBOT**

**MacSorley remains in critical condition at Balt. rehab center**

**EASTON** — Following a Jan. 19 accident with a Maryland State Trooper on U.S. 50 in Vienna, Hurlock resident Marjorie MacSorley, 75, was transferred from Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury to Kernan Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation in Baltimore, where she remains in critical condition, said her daughter Kathy MacSorley.

The collision occurred on Route 50 East and state Route 731 in Vienna. At about noon on the day of the accident, Tfc. Kenneth Myers Jr., 39, was driving an unmarked Ford Crown Victoria on traffic enforcement patrol on Route 50 West, according to Maryland State Police.

While Myers was in pursuit of a speeding vehicle, Marjorie MacSorley, who was driving a Toyota Avalon on state Route 731 pulled from a stop out into the path of Myers while trying to make a left turn onto Route 50, according to police.

MacSorley was flown by state police Medevac helicopter to Peninsula Regional after being freed by emergency personnel, according to police. Myers was flown in the same fashion to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, where he was treated and released the next day. He is currently on medical leave, recovering from his injuries, according to police.

By **BOBBY MCMAHON**  
Staff Writer

**ANNAPOLIS** — Jeff Moore of Centreville has been farming since he was 9 years old, living in a house that has held five generations of his family. Tilling 600 acres of land and raising 150 Holstein cows, Moore will have two daughters in college next year, and seems a bit nervous about the prospect.

One reason for concern is the challenges facing his livelihood, particularly the government regulations that make it harder for him to do business. He also said that the public's perceptions of farmers needs updating — that the quaint days of a farmer in overalls and a straw hat selling corn in front of the courthouse are gone.

"I've got to be more than quaint," Moore said. "I've got to make a living."

To address those concerns and others, Moore joined more than 200 leaders in Maryland's agricultural community at the Governor's 2010 Agricultural Forum on Friday in Annapolis. The day-long event brought farmers, experts and interested groups together to address the major concerns facing the community both now and into the future.

Tom Hartsock, chair of the Maryland Agricultural Commission, said the seeds of the forum were sown with 2006 Statewide Strategic Plan for Agriculture, which — through meeting with farmers — created more



PHOTO BY BOBBY MCMAHON

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, left, talks with Queen Anne's County Commissioner and farmer Paul Gunther during lunchtime at the Governor's Agricultural Forum. The event, held Friday in Annapolis, brought together farmers and others from across the state to identify the most pressing needs of the agriculture community both now and into the future.

than 100 steps to take to that would help improve agriculture in the state.

With many of those action items completed, Hartsock said this forum is meant to take the next step forward and understand the concerns of farmers for both the next few years as well as their vision for agriculture in 2025.

"What we wanted to do was restart that process and this time put a slightly longer time frame on it," Hartsock said.

To start, Hartsock said a survey was developed cover-

ing almost 40 major issues facing the agriculture community, including the cost of land, access to credit, the loss of farmland to development, education and the prospects of using land for wind and solar energy production.

What the survey found was that concerns about government regulations rated as the number issue in farms large and small across the state. For Moore, the amount of local, state and federal regulations force him to spend a great deal of time and money on paperwork

and compliance, which he said often forces farmers to grow their operations just to deal with the issue.

"The cost of compliance is major," Moore said.

During the forum, farmers gathered in small groups by the size of their operation to discuss those regulations and other issues, creating action items for how to address them in both the short and long term. One issue discussed in many meetings was how to improve the ways farmers market Maryland agriculture to the public —

Hartsock hoped they could in particular capitalize on the recent "buy local" movement.

"We have lots of people [in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore] that can afford to eat what they consider to be a higher quality product, and we're close by and have the capability of producing it," Hartsock said. "We just need to find ways to make that connection."

At the conclusion of the forum, all the farmers gathered in one room, sharing their ideas and strategies for how to address the myriad of challenges facing their industry. Beyond concerns about regulations and costs, a key theme among each group was the need for better education of the public, both to cultivate the next generation of farmers and that the general public understands where food comes from.

But many saw this educational need as an opportunity to restore the pride and respect people once felt about the agriculture community. In his closing comments to the forum, Secretary Buddy Hance of the Department of Agriculture echoed this sentiment.

"It's all of our responsibilities," Hance said, "to make sure that working together we change that image and we do those things we need to do to improve the impression of agriculture on citizens — not just in Maryland but across the entire country."

— REGIONAL BRIEFS —  
**TALBOT**

**College forum is Monday**

**WYE MILLS** — U.S. Rep. Frank Kratovil, D-Md.-1st, will host a "How to Pay for College" forum at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at Chesapeake College in the Todd Performing Arts Center. The forum, which is for high school students in the First District, is being made up after being cancelled due to the weather on Feb. 6.

**QUEEN ANNE'S**

**Pasadena man and teen charged with drug possession after stop**

**KENT NARROWS** — A Pasadena man and teenage boy were each charged with drug possession Friday after police said they found the two to be in possession of marijuana during a traffic violation stop.

Cortez Quincy Calhoun, 20, and a 17-year-old passenger in his 1997 Honda Civic were stopped by police on westbound Route 50, west of Kent Narrows, at about 11:31 p.m. for a traffic violation, according to police.

During the stop, a K-9 unit gave a positive alert, prompting a search by police, who found marijuana in the vehicle, according to police. Each was arrested and charged with drug possession.

**DELAWARE**

**DeIDOT: 'No end in sight' for snow removal work**

**DOVER, DEL. (AP)** — Delaware Department of Transportation crews are still working to clear roads more than a week after the second of two blizzards hit the state.

Department spokesman Jim Westhoff says "there's no end in sight" and there are still days of work ahead to clear snow.

Main roads are clear, but piles of snow remain on many side streets. Westhoff says many secondary roads are just one lane and it will take work to widen them.

Plow drivers say warmer temperatures have made their job a little easier, but the last two weeks have been tough.

Westhoff says they are still working extra hours, but they can at least sleep in their own homes.

Snow removal costs for the past two storms are expected to top \$8 million.

Information from: *WBOC-TV*, <http://www.wboc.com/>

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WEATHER

EXTENDED FORECAST

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s. Nw winds 10 to 15 mph.  
**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy in the evening. Then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows around 30. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.  
**Monday:** Cloudy. Rain likely in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 40s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent.  
**Monday Night:** Rain. Lows in the upper 30s. East winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 80 percent.

Chesapeake Bay  
Pooles Island to Drum Point

**Sunday:** Nw winds 10 to 15 kt. Waves 1 ft.  
**Sun Night:** Nw winds around 5 kt. Waves 1 ft.

MOON PHASES

Full Moon

Last Quarter

New Moon

First Quarter

Mar 11

Mar 18

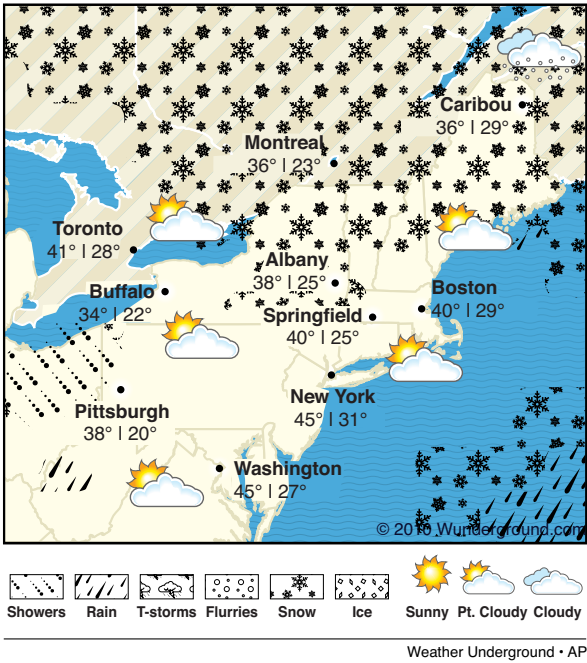
Feb 25

Mar 4

REGIONAL WEATHER

Today's Forecast

Forecast for Sunday, Feb. 21



VIKING

From  
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feet high, with a wing span of 20 feet. It weighs 320 pounds and is powered by a 38 horsepower 498i Twin Boxer engine. It can cruise at 60 knots and can reach speeds of 90 knots.

Headquartered in New York City, L-3 Communications employs over 64,000 people worldwide and is a prime contractor in aircraft modernization and maintenance. A Fortune 200 company, L-3's annual sales in 2008 was \$14.9 billion.

L-3 Corporate Vice President, Gen. (retired) Richard A. Cody spoke about the importance of the new system to U.S. fighting forces currently at war against terrorism. Cody, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, served in the Army for over 36 years, including six of the Army's combat divisions.

"We're very, very proud of the innovativeness, the initiative, the hard work, the quality of our employees here in Easton," said Cody. "You 50 employees should take great pride in what you're doing here today and what you're going to continue to do as America continues to fight this global war on terrorism, which, come this March, will be the longest war America has ever been in. ... You won't be on the front lines, but your system will."

Oxford resident Mike Ensor, the vice president and general manager for L-3's Easton facility, served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years. His last assignment was executive assistant to the director, Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C.

Ensor said since the contract was awarded, he has added eight employees and he hopes to hire up to 50 more employees later this year after the



PHOTO BY CHRIS KNAUSS

U.S. Rep. Frank Kratovil, D-Md.-1st, cuts the ribbon along with Margaret McCaskey, project manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems U.S. Special Operations Command, at the Friday rollout ceremony for the Viking 400 Unmanned Aircraft in Easton. From the left are David A. Felio, president, L-3 Unmanned Systems; retired Army Gen. Richard A. Cody, L-3 corporate vice president; Kratovil; McCaskey; Christian Johansson, secretary, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and Navy Lt. Commander Chris Tappen.

system is deployed and proven in battle.

"We have some very skilled laborers who do the composites work," said Ensor. "We have electronics technicians who put it all together and some final assembly folks who bring it all together to make this a really winning platform."

Also providing remarks were Margaret McCaskey, program manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems for U.S. Special Operations Command, and Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary Christian Johansson.

"I think it's very auspicious that we awarded the L-3 contract on Sept. 11, 2009, eight years to the day from the 9-11 attack on our country," said McCaskey. "And with any luck, well before Sept. 11, 2010, these aircraft will be our eyes in the sky in places too remote to mention."

**"We're very, very proud of the innovativeness, the initiative, the hard work, the quality of our employees here in Easton."**

**Richard A. Cody,**  
L-3 corporate vice president and retired general

"What we're seeing here, especially in the defense of our country at all the different military installations and federal facilities, the dollars that flow into the Maryland economy collectively they spend somewhere around \$26 billion a year here in the state," said Johansson. "It's a huge economic impact for the state, and it's a huge responsibility because more than money, we are here to keep this country safe."

U.S. Rep. Frank Kratovil, D-Md.-1st, who is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, spoke about the importance of bringing technologically advanced jobs to his district.

"We are very fortunate in Maryland for a variety of reasons," said Kratovil. "Geographically, we're fortunate in that we're close to the nation's capital. That helps us obviously in terms of government jobs. We're lucky in the sense that we've got Fort Meade. We have Aberdeen. We have the benefits of BRAC that are coming to Maryland and that are already here in Maryland. We are very, very fortunate. These are difficult times, but Maryland is doing better than most states not only because of those aspects but also because of the leadership of our governor (O'Malley) and the new secretary (Johansson)."

FEMA

From  
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thawing and freezing on the roads will likely require a lot of maintenance in the spring, Clarke said.

According to a report from the Caroline County Department of Public Works, nearly 6,000 labor hours were billed for the storms, with \$112,000 spent for regular pay and another \$91,000 for overtime.

Due to the stress on equipment from pushing the heavy snowfall from roads, equipment repairs are estimated to cost at least \$100,000.

Roadway damage was caused by the storms and the clean-up efforts, with portions of roads already in weakened states having been made worse by plowing.

"There's half a million dollars here that's been spent on this snowstorm in Caroline County, easily," said Caroline Department of Public Works Director Harry Cole.

One repair, for the unpaved portion of River Road near Denton, was approved by the Caroline County commissioners Feb. 16, with the expectation that a second repair may be needed soon as well.

"Some of the dirt roads are already suffering and showing damage," said County Administrator Richard Barton.

Cole said the county needed to get 40 loads of clam shells, a total cost of \$14,000, to bind the unpaved portion of River Road, which had become so muddy it was almost impassable.

Commissioner Jeff Ghrist requested Public Works keep an eye on Stevenson Road, located near Ridgely and also unpaved, too.

On Feb. 18, Denton Department of Public Works Director Scott Getchell said the town has spent around \$44,300

on clean-up since the first big snow came in mid-December. That amount, Getchell said, includes employee overtime, supplies and equipment costs.

As for the supply of sand and calcium chloride used on roads during snow, Cole said the county continues to have plenty, since it purchased more just before the last wave of winter storms.

"I just hope we don't have too many more snows here in a hurry," he said.

Getchell said Denton's supply of road materials comes from the county, so as long as the county's store is in good shape, so is the town's.

Neither Denton nor the county use salt to melt ice and snow from roadways, due to its high cost.

Officials in Queen Anne's County said that they are in the process of thoroughly analyzing the costs related to the snowstorm double punch.

One part of that analysis is complete, as the roads division of the county's Department of Public Works estimated their total costs at approximately \$800,000 for snow removal operations from Feb. 5 to Feb. 19. Shane Moore, head of the roads division, said that figure is not final, as snow removal on county roads is ongoing.

"We anticipate continuing snow removal operations next week," Moore said.

Moore also said that those costs were incurred only by the roads division and did not reflect expenses by other county departments that contributed to snow removal.

John Chew, director of the county's Department of Emergency Services, said preliminary figures show that the storms cost his department roughly \$100,000 just in overtime, emphasizing that his department was still in the process of adding up the costs in other areas. Beyond his department, he also

said that officials are working with state officials to determine the damage to homes, property and infrastructure in the area as well as the costs of those state agencies (including the Maryland National Guard and the State Highway Administration) that assisted the county.

County Administrator John Borders echoed that total costs of the storm were still being compiled.

Dorchester County Director of Finance Michael Spears said the county budgeted \$54,000 for snow removal in current fiscal year, and may have spent upwards of \$500,000.

"We are already in the process of requesting federal aid to offset our costs," Spears said. "It looks like these last two storms are to put a good dent in our budget but hopefully we'll get the federal aid to help with those costs."

In Cambridge, Town Clerk/Treasurer Ed Kinnamon estimated Cambridge spent about \$18,000 in February. Kinnamon said the city was about \$900 under their \$23,000 snow removal budget prior to the two February storms.

Hurlock Town Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Clough said Hurlock budgeted \$5,000 for the year in snow removal and spent about \$15,000.

Despite the historic snowfall, East New Market remains under budget for snow removal, according to Town Clerk/Treasurer Patty Kiss. She said the town may spend about \$1,700 of its \$2,400 in highway user revenues to pay for snow removal this year.

As for supplies in case of more snow this winter, Cambridge has about 40 tons of salt, which is enough to treat roads, according to Cambridge Department of Public Works Assistant Superintendent Curtis Opher.

*Staff Writers Steve Nery, Daniel Divilio, Bobby McMahon and Dustin Holt contributed to this report.*

TROOPER

From  
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Police said Singleton found Nancy Bounds, 80, and Manuel Mbriz, 31, inside the home trying to put out the fire. He successfully escorted Bounds and Mbriz safely out of the burning home.

According to a Maryland State Fire Marshal's press release, 30 firefighters from East New Market, Secretary and Hurlock responded to the two-story home at 2:12 a.m. and had the fire under control in about 45 minutes.

ROADS

From  
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In Dorchester County, Director of Public Works Chuck Weber said there were a few roads that still had packs of snow and ice on them, mainly those in shaded areas. Dorchester County road crews were sanding those areas Friday and continuing to clear-up and widen other roads that needed their attention, Weber said. However, for the most part, Weber said roads were clear Friday.

With higher temperatures Friday, Weber said his crews saw a lot of slush on roads from melting snow and ice. Although road crews attempted to clear the slush, Weber said they were using caution, so as not to tear up the pavement from plowing too low.

After Kent County road crews removed the remaining ice and snow packs from roads Thursday, Dan Voshell, division chief for Kent County Roads, said roads across the county are in very good shape. Voshell said all roads were pass-

Fire officials said the preliminary cause of the fire was accidental and it started due to a crack in the chimney that ignited combustible framing material.

Police said Bounds told investigators she lit a fire in the fireplace and then noticed a fire had started outside of the chimney, above the firebox. She then called 911.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Kirby Travers, who is investigating the fire, said the fire did damage to the first-floor bedroom and fireplace. Damage is estimated at \$120,000 for the structures and \$30,000 for contents. No injuries were reported.

able Friday, most with two lanes.

Earlier this week, Ricky Ball, road superintendent for Talbot County, said all roads were passable and were in good condition by Tuesday. With school buses running on schedule in Talbot County since Tuesday, Ball said his department was working closely with the Talbot County Public Schools Transportation Department this week to ensure that bus routes were as clear as possible. Although he received word of a few intersections that needed widening, Ball said roads were much improved this week and safe for buses.

A representative from Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works could not be reached by press time.

Temperatures in the low- to mid-40s this weekend could help melt more of the snow and ice from roads, although sunshine is not forecasted. Sunshine and above freezing temperatures Friday provided some assistance to road crews and residents, decreasing the density of the formerly massive snow banks in the area.

CHESAPEAKE BAY TIDES

| SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2010         |          |          |          | Vienna                              |               |          |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------------------------|
| SUNRISE: 6:48 am SUNSET: 5:47 pm |          |          |          | 02:35AML 08:54AMH 03:25PML 09:10PMH |               |          |                            |
| St. Michaels                     | 02:00AML | 08:39AMH | 04:04PML | 08:50PMH                            | Hooper Island | 12:13AML | 06:54AMH 02:17PML 07:05PMH |
| Easton Point                     | 02:17AML | 08:49AMH | 04:21PML | 09:00PMH                            | Kent Narrows  | 03:29AML | 10:04AMH 05:33PML 10:15PMH |
| Denton                           | 12:12AMH | 06:10AML | 12:55PMH | 08:14PML                            | Wye Landing   | 02:05AML | 08:37AMH 04:09PML 08:48PMH |
| Chestertown                      | 05:28AML | 12:37PMH | 07:32PML |                                     | Centreville   | 05:06AML | 11:54AMH 07:10PML          |
| Oxford                           | 02:07AML | 08:44AMH | 04:11PML | 08:55PMH                            | Queenstown    | 03:03AML | 10:04AMH 05:07PML 10:15PMH |
| Cambridge                        | 02:24AML | 08:52AMH | 04:28PML | 09:03PMH                            | Love Point    | 04:11AML | 11:09AMH 06:15PML 11:20PMH |
|                                  |          |          |          |                                     | Bloody Point  | 02:24AML | 09:08AMH 04:28PML 09:19PMH |
| MONDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2010         |          |          |          | Vienna                              |               |          |                            |
| SUNRISE: 6:47 am SUNSET: 5:48 pm |          |          |          | 03:30AML 09:52AMH 04:29PML 10:10PMH |               |          |                            |
| St. Michaels                     | 02:52AML | 09:38AMH | 05:13PML | 09:49PMH                            | Hooper Island | 01:05AML | 07:53AMH 03:26PML 08:04PMH |
| Easton Point                     | 03:09AML | 09:48AMH | 05:30PML | 09:59PMH                            | Kent Narrows  | 04:21AML | 11:03AMH 06:42PML 11:14PMH |
| Denton                           | 01:06AMH | 07:02AML | 01:54PMH | 09:23PML                            | Wye Landing   | 02:57AML | 09:36AMH 05:18PML 09:47PMH |
| Chestertown                      | 12:48AMH | 06:20AML | 01:36PMH | 08:41PML                            | Queenstown    | 12:05AMH | 05:58AML 12:53PMH 08:19PML |
| Oxford                           | 02:59AML | 09:43AMH | 05:20PML | 09:54PMH                            | Matapeake     | 12:05AMH | 05:58AML 12:53PMH 08:19PML |
| Cambridge                        | 03:16AML | 09:51AMH | 05:37PML | 10:02PMH                            | Love Point    | 03:55AML | 11:03AMH 06:16PML 11:14PMH |
|                                  |          |          |          |                                     | Bloody Point  | 05:03AML | 12:08PMH 07:24PML          |
|                                  |          |          |          |                                     |               | 03:16AML | 10:07AMH 05:37PML 10:18PMH |

LOTTERY UPDATE

**Maryland**  
BALTIMORE (AP) — These Maryland lotteries were drawn on Saturday:  
Midday 3: 0-0-7  
Midday 4: 0-9-8-8  
Friday night:  
Bonus Match 5: 14-26-29-31-35  
Bonus 24  
Pick 3: 2-0-8  
Pick 4: 2-7-7-7  
Friday afternoon:  
Pick 3: 3-2-1  
Pick 4: 5-9-5-1  
**Mega Millions**  
ATLANTA (AP) — The winning numbers in Friday evening's drawing of the Georgia Lottery's Mega Millions game were: 01-22-39-42-46 Mega Ball 36.  
**Delaware**  
DOVER, Del. (AP) — These Delaware lotteries were drawn on Saturday afternoon:  
Play 3: 1-3-4  
Play 4: 7-0-9-4  
Friday night:  
Play 3: 0-0-5  
Play 4: 0-5-2-0  
Multi-Win Lotto: 10-12-14-19-24-26  
Friday afternoon:  
Play 3: 0-4-4  
Play 4: 7-1-0-9

# PNC Bank in Chester robbed shortly after opening Friday

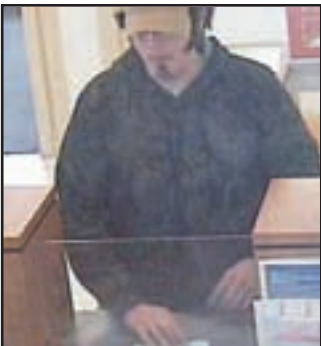
**CHESTER** — The Chester branch of PNC Bank was robbed by a lone man who escaped on foot Friday morning, police said.

A man entered the bank at 120 South Piney Road at 9:22 a.m. and gave a handwritten note to a teller demanding money. Police said he reached over the counter, grabbed an undetermined

amount of money, fled from the bank on foot, and was last seen on South Piney Creek Road headed toward state Route 18.

No weapon was displayed, said Lt. Dale Patrick, spokesman for the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office.

Investigators with the sheriff's office and Maryland



This photo is of a man at a teller's window Friday morning at the PNC Bank branch in Chester. The photo was taken from a bank surveillance camera.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The PNC Bank branch on South Piney Road in Chester was held up Friday morning. A man escaped with cash but no one was hurt. The Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police are investigating.

customers in the bank at the time, Patrick said.

No bank employees were injured in the robbery, but the bank was closed for sev-

eral hours while investigators interviewed the employees and the scene was processed by the Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Unit.

Anyone with information on the robbery should contact Det. Steve Stouffer at the sheriff's office at 410-758-0770.

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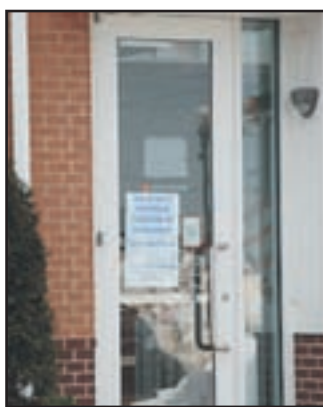
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The PNC Bank branch in Chester was closed while the Queen Anne's Sheriff's Office and state police conducted their investigations.

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