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Challengers Lag in Congressional Cash Collections

Incumbents Well Ahead in Campaign Fund Raising

BY WRITER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Maryland's congressional incumbents handily outraised their challengers in campaign funds in the 2008 third quarter, according to Federal Election Commission filings.

In each Maryland race featuring an incumbent candidate, quarterly financial information shows challengers lagging behind considerably in fundraising.

Campaign finance information was due to the Federal Election Commission Wednesday.

The only district in which fundraising by two opponents was relatively equal was in the 1st District, where the seat is

open after the incumbent lost in the primary.

State Sen. Andy Harris, R-Cockeysville, and Democratic opponent Frank Kratovil, the Queen Anne's state's attorney, this quarter raised \$557,000 and \$597,000, respectively.

Harris, however, leads Kratovil in total fundraising by more than \$1 million and has about \$250,000 more cash on hand than Kratovil, according to FEC filings.

This fundraising pattern is normal in congressional races but does not necessarily guarantee an incumbent win, said Stephen Weissman, associate director for

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Rep. Donna Edwards, D-4th District

Budget Deficits, Slots Failure Threaten Teacher Salaries, Pensions Administration Looking Into Turning Pensions Over to Counties

BY ALLYSON DICKMAN
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - A threat to make counties responsible for teacher pensions has made slots backers out of agitated educators.

Gov. Martin O'Malley's administration is looking into a call to turn pension plans over to counties for funding responsibility.

To keep pensions a state responsibility, teacher unions are encouraging members to vote on Nov. 4 for the slots referendum, which will allow 15,000 slot machines to be placed in five specific sites.

"The simple answer is (the counties) can't afford to pay for the shift in retirement responsibility," said David Bliden, executive director of Maryland Association of Counties. "It's a reality check. The funding costs the state in excess of \$600 million."

O'Malley's administration has projected \$650 million in revenue from slots, with more than half of it to be put in the Education Trust Fund.

"There hasn't been a plan B set in place if the slots referendum were to not pass," said Shaun Adamec, O'Malley's spokesman. "Most education funding in Maryland is legally mandated ... the state would have to figure out another way to fund it, and that's obviously very difficult

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State Hacks \$350 Million from Budget

The Board of Public Works Cut 883 Positions

By ELI SEGALL
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - State leaders dropped the budget guillotine Wednesday, slicing nearly \$350 million from hospitals, jails and a slew of other programs - even school chess.

The Board of Public Works, at a packed hearing near the State House, unanimously approved the cuts, which affect more than 180 agencies, offices and programs. The board's vote also wiped out 833 positions, most of which were vacant.

Board members described the cuts as painful but necessary, given the state's financial woes. Among other problems, the country's struggling economy has slashed Maryland's income and sales tax receipts, leaving the state with less money for salaries and operations.

The cuts apply to the current fiscal year's budget.

"There are certain services for the public that simply cannot be continued because we don't have the resources for it," said Treasurer Nancy Kopp, who sits on the three-member board with Gov. Martin O'Malley and Comptroller Peter Franchot.

Some agencies were hit harder than others.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, for example, had \$127 million in

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Democrats Blowout GOP in Voter Registrations

BY CHRISTOPHER WEAVER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - New Democratic voter registrations were 10 times those of Republicans since the 2004 election.

According to data released by the Maryland Board of Elections, 210,000 new Democrats registered compared with 21,000 Republicans. Overall registration had grown by 302,961 new voters, as of Friday.

For weeks, pundits and political analysts have warned of unprecedented throngs of new voters, compelling county election boards to pump up poll staffs. Even though state Democrats tallied record gains in the rolls, more new voters registered between the 2000 and 2004 cycles than this one by 57,000.

Across the state, new registrations in the last month of the period ending Tuesday, tallied to just over 100,000, falling 20,000 voters short of the state election board's predictions, and 40,000 short of the 2004 election cycle, when Republicans and Democrats both saw large gains.

The Republican Party, energized by then-Gov. Robert Ehrlich, nearly matched Democrats in registration

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Prince George's Hall was built in 1944 and is named after Prince George's County.

Board Approves Dorm Construction

The New Building Will be Constructed on the University's North Campus

By MEGAN A. CONLAN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - The Board of Public Works Wednesday approved construction of an \$80 million dormitory on the University of Maryland, College Park campus, just two weeks after saying the money could be "better spent."

At the board's Oct. 1 meeting, Comptroller Peter Franchot said he was considering voting against construction of the dorm, believing the university should make use of public-private partnerships instead.

But officials from the University System of Maryland and the College Park campus said there are benefits

to a mix of student housing types.

"We are great fans of private-public partnerships and in fact in the last nine years we have built 2,500 beds in that fashion," said Linda Clement, vice president for student affairs at Maryland. "This particular building that we want to build is different than the projects that we've done before."

The new building, Oakland Hall, will be constructed alongside other dorms on the university's North campus and will provide 650 beds to predominantly underclassmen.

Under a public-private partnership, the construction of the building would have been funded by a private company that would manage the residence after its completion.

Maryland's Courtyards and South Campus Commons were built following this arrangement.

Although this sort of partnership removes the financial burden from the university, it also eliminates the school's ability to create a living environment in Oakland Hall that is consistent with other dormitories.

"We want them to live under the same rules of our student codes of conduct and we want them to pay the same costs that the other people in that housing complex are going to pay," Clement said.

According to the University of Maryland Facilities Management Web site, construction of the dorm is projected to begin in August 2009. It is expected to be completed by April 2011.

Equine Masseuse Sues Md. Agencies Over Massage Ban

BY ANATH HARTMANN
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Rockville massage therapist Mercedes Clemens thought she had the perfect job, until she got a letter from two state agencies telling her to stop working with horses or risk losing her massage therapy license.

"They told me that I could not do massage on any animal in the state of Maryland and that I could not advertise animal massage," said Clemens, who received the letter in February and has since been working full time as a massage therapist to humans. "I was limited to massaging the human body (because) you had to be a vet to do equine massage. It was basically a complete blanket prohibition."

The letter, from the Maryland Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners with a note from



PHOTO BY ANATH HARTMANN

Massage therapist Mercedes Clemens prohibited from massaging animals.

the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners attached, cited Maryland's Veterinary Practice Act. The law prohibits anyone other than a veterinarian from massaging a horse for "the purpose of

diagnosing and treating a specific ailment or injury."

Clemens, who has been certified

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INSIDE

Neighbors Columns: Morningside/Skyline, Brandywine/Aquaso, Clinton
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Rep. Maxine Waters has called on the U.S. Department of Justice to protect the rights of Americans to vote and to investigate thoroughly and immediately complaints.
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Maryland Business Taxes Among the Nation's Highest, Study Says
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ERIC D. SNIDER'S movie review: "RACHEL GETTING MARRIED"
Graded: A-, Rated: R
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Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Blind date leads to Golden Anniversary for the Reillys

Tom and Mary Reilly were guests of honor as the family gathered at the Chart House in Annapolis on October 4 to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Thomas Lawrence Reilly was born in Mount Olive, Ill., and grew up in Detroit before moving to Washington where he graduated from Gonzaga. He served with the Army in Korea and in Europe, and with the Reserves in Viet Nam. He attended a refrigeration and air-conditioning school and used those skills to serve as a civilian with the Air Force, retiring in Jan. 1983. He then was a driver for Carey Limousine and met a lot of interesting people.

Mary Margaret Mundie grew up in Hazelton and Scranton, Pa., before moving to New York City. She attended Ballard Business School and worked for the Fifth Avenue Bank, Eastern Air Lines and Ford Motor Co. in Detroit, Yonkers, Jersey City and Washington. From 1974 to 1990 she worked at the Census Bureau.

In 1957 Mary and Larry (which is what she calls him) met while visiting in District Heights, and then were fixed up on a blind date at the Andrews Officers' Club. It worked! They were married Oct. 4, 1958 at Holy Family Church in Hillcrest Heights, by Father Michael Farina. Their reception was in Riverdale at St. Bernard's Crystal Room.

They moved to Elmendorf Drive, in Skyline, and then around the corner to Ladd Road and are founding members and past officers of the Skyline Citizens Association. They are active with the Knights of Columbus in Forestville and parishioners at St. Philip's where Tom was president of the Holy Name Society and Mary is past president of the Sodality and sang in the choir. She was also a volunteer with Hospice.

Among those helping them celebrate their Golden Anniversary were their children: Christine, an engineer

with Aeronautical Radio, Inc., better known as ARINC, and Kevin and Jimmy, both battalion chiefs with the Prince George's Fire Department.

New fire station opens

The new District Heights Fire Station was dedicated Oct. 8 with County Fire Chief Lawrence Sedgwick there to salute the new facility. "May she stand for many years," he said, "to serve the citizens and residents of our wonderful community."

The station features four apparatus bays, an audio-visual-equipped training room, multiple computer networks, offices, living space, an exercise room, male and female sleeping and locker rooms, and a First-In Fire Station Alerting system to reduce response time.

Inside the new fire station there's a plaque dedicating the building to District Heights Volunteer Chief Tom Stommel, in recognition of his 50 years of continuous service.

Halloween in Morningside

Come out to trick-or-treat on Friday, Oct. 31, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Then stay on for the Costume Judging at Morningside School. Registration is required, 7:30 to 8 p.m.

School honored for "protecting the planet"

St. John the Evangelist School in Clinton received the Cardinal Theodore McCarrick Award for Service and Justice on Oct. 10 for their program, "Protecting God's Planet." The principal, Susan Scott, accepted the award and said that through prayer, community service and education, her students "have embraced the concept of protecting our planet in God's name."

Where is it now?

In my last column I mentioned the Suitland Moose Lodge, once on James Street overlooking Suitland Parkway, near Morningside. I wondered what happened to it. I received this response from Dennis and Susan Simpson:

"Suitland Moose lodge left the hill in June of 1989 after selling the building to the painters' union. They moved in

with Columbia Moose Lodge in Clinton till May of 1994. About four years later they leased property on Parston Drive in Forestville until August of 1999. After selling some property on Marlboro Pike (across from Robey Acres), they bought the old Bob Hall Budweiser building in Upper Marlboro and moved in. The lodge is there today, beside the railroad tracks on Marlboro Pike."

May they rest in peace

Ruth Stirling, 90, formerly of Goodfellow Drive in Skyline and of Fort Washington, died Sept. 19. Years ago she worked in Washington for a hotel which is where she met her future husband, James Stirling, a native of Scotland. He preceded her in death on Sept. 19, 1989. Survivors include three stepsons, Drew, Scott and Alan Stirling. Burial was in North Carolina.

Cynthia Juanita Kearney died suddenly Oct. 8 when her Mazda 6 crashed into a tree along Suitland Parkway in the Morningside area. Her body was thrown about 35 feet into the woods and was not found until ten days later by U.S. Park Service employees doing maintenance work. An investigation is underway to determine why her daughter, Sharron Williams, was not notified earlier about the wrecked car, and why it took ten days for the body to be discovered. A homegoing service was held on Oct. 16 at Second New St. Paul Baptist Church in Northeast Washington.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Daniel John Fitzgerald and Anna Norris, Oct. 24; my granddaughter Kathryn Shearer and Donna Anderson, Oct. 25; Orva Heissenbittel, Juanita Starke and Christopher Flaherty, Oct. 27; Diane Cvitko, Oct. 28; my grandson Isaac Gallegos, Oct. 29; Denise Williams, Kim Miller and my daughter Kathleen Shearer, Oct. 30.

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on November 2.

Clinton Conversations

by Norma Fazenbaker 301 579 6116

We are still trying different things since I got my new computer, so I am hoping that one of these days, everything will work correctly. My daughter, Barbara, was here from South Carolina for a few days and she did some work, including downloading some new software. I wish I was as much of a wiz at the computer as my kids are, but I know that the younger generation is a lot better at it than us old folks.

Get out Friday or Saturday and do the Marlboro Ghost Walk from 7 to 9pm. This is a ghost walk of spooky historic Upper Marlborough replete with colonial spirits and mischief-makers. Guided tours last one hour and begin at 7pm, running continuously every 20 minutes until 9pm. No reservations are necessary. Just show up at Darnall's Chance Museum on Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro. For more information, call 301-952-8010.

Recently, a new restaurant opened on Old Branch Avenue at the place that has been a number of different ones. This time it is called El Patron, and it is Mexican and Salvadoran food. The address is 8319 Old Branch Avenue and it is near where we used to go back to the Ranch Drive-In. The food is very good as I can testify to since I

was there last week. Call 301-877-8180 if you want more information.

If you are a member of NARFE, and you would like to know what is going on, the weekly legislative message is available by telephone at 703-838-7780, and toll free at 1-877-217-8234. This is also posted on the internet site, www.narfe.org, which is made available to NARFE-net coordinators and broadcast to 43,000 GEMS e-mail addresses. Each delivery channel is a service to the National Active and Federal Retired Employees Association. NARFE members are urged to use the website.

Point Lookout State Park will have "Spirits of Point Lookout" on October 24 and 25 from 5 to 7pm. There will be tours, children's games and food. Call 888-316-5679 or go to www.stmaryskiwanis.org.

Washington Street in Leonardtown will have Trick-or-Treat on the square from 1 to 4pm on October 25. Scarecrow making will begin at 3pm. Call 301-475-9791.

Greenwell State Park in Hollywood will be having their fall festival on October 25. There will be lots of crafts and entertainment. Call 301-373-9775 or go to www.greenwellfoundation.org.

Dress the family for daytime trick-or-treating at AnneMarie Gardens in Solomons on October 25 from 11am to 4pm. Call 410-326-4640 for more information.

Hallowing Point Park in Frederick will have spooky stories, a bonfire, and trick-or-treating on October 25 from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Call 410-535-1600, ext. 2225.

St. Leonard will have a fun fest on October 25 from 11am to 3pm with games, contests, a parade, entertainment, and crafts. Call 410-586-0109.

On October 26, you can go to the haunted waterpark in Chesapeake Beach from 6 to 7:30pm. (Call 410-257-2230); or go to the Capital Clubhouse Recreation Center in Waldorf and skate on ice (call 301-932-4348 or go to www.capitalclubhouse.com);

October 31 is the date for the 8th annual Monster Mash Cruise from the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons Island from 5 to 6pm. The museum will also be having a Haunted Lighthouse Tour this same night. Call 410-326-2042, ext. 41. If you live near Accokeek, you can take your kids to the Safe Kids Halloween at the Accokeek Fire House from 6 to 9pm, where there will be tricks, treats, snacks and drinks for everyone.

Prince George's County Commander Awarded M.A.D.D. Visionary Award



PHOTO BY PFC. HENRY TIPPETT #2727
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS INFORMATION OFFICE

Prince George's County, Maryland... Major Everett Sesker, Commander of the Prince George's County Police Department's Community Policing Institute was honored today at the Wild West Arrest and Recognition Ceremony held at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Caroline Cash, Executive Director of M.A.D.D. Chesapeake Region, presented Major Everett Sesker with the "Visionary Award" for his work by introducing a new generation of law enforcement officers to the M.A.D.D. organization. Student officers will receive an eight hour block of instruction from a member of the organization on the problems and affects associated with drunk driving. They will also be required to attend victim/witness impact sessions to gain a full understanding of the importance of apprehending drunk drivers.

"It is with a great source of pride for all of the men and women of this Department to have one of our own so honorably recognized. Major Sesker has demonstrated the kind of leadership required of command officers for a community policing agency to be effective," stated Acting Police Chief Roberto L. Hylton.

Suitland Beat

by Janice Euell 240 619 5235

Counting down to ELECTION DAY! I hope that all of you registered to vote and that you plan to go to the polls on November 4th to exercise your right to VOTE. Political analysts are forecasting heavy turnouts. Let's not disappoint them.

Hunter A.M.E. Memorial Church located on 4719 Silver Hill Road is sponsoring a BIG party for children on October 31st starting at 6:30 PM. The event is being held to give parents and children a safer alternative to "trick or treating" on Halloween. The event entitled "Hallelujah Praise" night will feature a DJ, outside activities like basketball, games, hot dogs, popcorn and other exciting features. Reverend Harold B. Hayes, Jr., Pastor, extends this special invitation to every-

one to come out and have some fun. Please -- NO COSTUMES!

Also on October 31st, Galilee Baptist Church, the Suitland Civic Association and St. Paul's Church are sponsoring a celebration at Suitland Elementary School on Homer Avenue in Suitland starting at 4:30 PM. This will also be an evening of fun, games, food and entertainment for children and their families. All are invited to attend this special event that provides a safe environment for our children.

Are you paying through the nose for your prescriptions? These days, practically everyone is. There may be some relief in sight. Prince George's County offers a prescription discount card that can save an average of 20% on your pre-

scription drugs. This excerpt is taken from the card itself to give you additional savings. "as part of this program, you will also be eligible for higher discounts on select medications, as well as high-tech and injectable drugs. For details of these programs and our mail service program, which offers and average savings of 50% on a 3-month supply of select medications, call toll-free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <https://naco.advancex.com>."

This is not insurance and the card is free. In our community, cards are available at the Health and Wellness Center on Silver Hill Road, next door to McDonald. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to save some money, a luxury that many of us do not have these days.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 1139

ANNUAL SEAFOOD DINNER

Christ United Methodist Church Methodist Men will sponsor Annual Seafood Dinner on Saturday November 1, 2008 beginning at 11:00 AM. The church is located

at 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, MD. Brother Ronald Banks, President and Rev. Robert E. Walker, Jr. Pastor.

Fish \$10.00, Crab Cake \$14.00, Oysters \$14.00, Combination Dinner (Fish, Crab Cakes and Oysters) \$18.00. Fish Sandwich (only) \$6.00.

All dinners include a green vegetable, potatoes Salad, sweet potatoes, bread and cake.

ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

It's the time for our Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, December 13, 2008

8:30 AM at St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish, Baden, Maryland. Brother Dean Brooks from Asbury United Methodist Church will deliver The Spiritual Message.

Annual Breakfast is sponsored by the Women of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden Parish. Adults \$10.00, Children 12 and under \$5.00 Chairpersons Shirley Cleaves, Deborah Butler and Janel Butler.

GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT

The Joyful Noise Gospel Choir Concert will be held at Nottingham Myers Church on

Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 4:00 PM. Joyful Noise is a multi denominational Gospel Outreach Group, made up of singers from many churches all over Southern Maryland. Joyful Noise formed in 1996, and has brought Gospel Music to thousands of people in nursing homes, senior centers, churches, festivals, benefits and many civic events throughout the area. Joyful Noise never charges for program and uses any gratuities for music, equipment and charitable donations.

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. Please contact the church for information on 301-888-2171.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The "Connecting Our Talents" conference will assist females being their best.

This conference will provide you with information on how you can use your talents to help a young woman or girl reach their full potential.

Experts in foreclosure and financial management, health and beauty, exercise and care giving. In attendance at the conference will be the staff from the Prince George's Volunteer Center and volunteer components from Prince George's County.

The Conference will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Dr.

Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School located at 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. (Registration begins promptly at 7:15 AM) Please logon to www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/wutho or call Eugenia Mercer at 301-265-8410 for registration information.

Admission is free. There will be give-a-ways and complimentary breakfast will be served.

BRANDYWINE DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 7:00 PM Brandywine Democratic Club will meet at the Brandywine Firehouse at 7:00 PM. We will be making plans for our Annual Christmas Party. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please bring a small goodie to share. Also we are looking for new members to join the Democratic Club.

Members if you have not paid your 2008 dues of \$5.00, please send them to Jean Hahn, 3714 Halloway Place, Upper Marlboro, MD. Please make your check payable to the Brandywine Democratic Club. Please don't forget to vote on November 4, 2008.

FLU SEASON

Don't let the flu knock you off your feet. It is the season-cold and flu is in the air, a reminder to get your flu vaccination now.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Flexible Spending Accounts Cut Taxes

In these tough economic times, many people are seeking ways to stretch their buying power. Although cutting back on purchases and avoiding extravagances make sense, another good strategy is to look for ways to trim your tax bill.

As workplace benefits open enrollment season approaches, consider participating in health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts (FSAs), an increasingly common employer-provided benefit that can save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars in federal taxes.

FSAs (also known as reimbursement accounts) let you pay eligible out-of-pocket medical and child care expenses on a pre-tax basis; that is, before federal, state and Social Security taxes have been deducted from your paycheck. Using FSAs to cover expenses you would've paid for anyway reduces your taxable income by those amounts, which in turn lowers your tax bill.

Here's how it works: Say you earn \$35,000 a year and have a 25 percent marginal tax rate. By contributing \$1,000 to a health care FSA and \$3,000 to a dependent care FSA, your taxable income would drop to \$31,000, in turn lowering your taxes by \$1,000. Larger contributions result in even bigger tax savings.

You can use a health care FSA to pay for any IRS-allowed medical expenses not covered by your medical, dental or vision coverage. This includes deductibles, copayments, braces and other dental work over plan limits, contact lenses, glasses, prescription and over-the-counter medicines, acupuncture and chiropractic care, smoking cessation programs and many more. Check IRS Publication 502 at www.irs.gov for a complete list of allowable expenses.

Dependent care FSAs let you use pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible expenses related to care for your child, disabled spouse, elderly parent, or other dependent incapable of self-care, so you (and your spouse) can work. For some people taking a federal income tax dependent care tax credit is more advantageous, so ask your tax advisor which alternative is better in your situation.

FSA contribution amounts are deducted from paychecks throughout the



year. As you incur eligible expenses, you submit receipts to the plan administrator for reimbursement.

Keep in mind these FSA restrictions:

Maximum contribution amounts vary by employer, but commonly are \$2,000 to \$5,000 a year for health care and \$5,000 for dependent care FSAs.

Estimate planned expenses carefully because you must forfeit unused account balances. Some employers offer a grace period of up to 2 ½ months after the end of the plan year to incur expenses, but that's not mandatory, so check your enrollment materials carefully.

Outside of open enrollment, you can only make mid-year FSA changes after a major life or family status change, such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or dependent, birth of a child, or a dependent passing the eligibility age. If one of those situations should occur mid-year, re-jigger your FSAs accordingly for maximum savings.

You must re-enroll in FSAs each year — amounts don't carry over from year to year.

To learn more about how FSAs work, go to Visa Inc.'s free personal financial management site, Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/benefits). If your company doesn't offer FSAs, consult a financial advisor about other ways you can save taxes on health and dependent care-related expenses.

It's not that difficult or time-consuming to estimate next year's health and dependent care expenses — especially if you know it will save thousands of dollars on your tax bill.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. Sign up for his free monthly e-Newsletter at www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter.

Reps. Steny Hoyer, Donna Edwards Have Cash on Hand

Campaign from A1

policy at The Campaign Finance Institute in Washington, D.C.

"It works out that (the better-funded candidate wins) well over 90 percent of the time, but challengers can defeat incumbents even if they have less money," Weissman said. "The rule of thumb would be if you have about half as much money as the incumbent, you ... have a chance of winning."

Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Cockeysville, who is seeking a fourth term in the 2nd District, outraised Republican challenger Richard Matthews by about \$87,000. Ruppersberger has about \$788,000 more than Matthews in cash on hand.

In the 3rd District race, Rep. John P. Sarbanes, D-Towson, collected \$52,400 in the third quarter and has \$346,000 cash on hand. His Republican challenger, Thomas E. "Pinkston" Harris, did not post third-quarter campaign finance records.

District 4 Rep. Donna Edwards, D-Fort Washington, has \$47,424 cash on hand, while

her Republican opponent Peter James has \$464 and no contributions this quarter.

Edwards received \$58,754.64 during the third quarter, with more than one-fifth of the money coming from political action committees such as Democracy for America and Women's Campaign Forum.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, raised \$384,265 in third-quarter contributions for re-election in the 5th District. His campaign has more than \$1.5 million in cash on hand.

Hoyer's Republican challenger, Collins Bailey of Waldorf, raised \$13,864 in the third quarter, according to his campaign.

"The American people have an opportunity to come together on principle," said Bailey, a business owner who has \$8,498 cash on hand. "It should be about issues and principles and not the highest bidder."

In the 6th District, Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Frederick, reported nearly \$50,000 more in total contributions and about \$350,000 more in cash on hand than his Democratic challenger,

former Frederick Mayor Jennifer Dougherty. Bartlett received \$78,538.91 in total contributions and has \$374,142.18 in cash while Dougherty received \$30,432.07 in funds and \$27,986.80 in cash.

Dougherty said she was satisfied with her fundraising this quarter.

"I said from the beginning this is not about how much money we can raise, but about whether people want real change in Congress," Dougherty said. "The people who oppose the change I promise tend to be the special interests that write the big checks."

Libertarian challenger Gary Hoover Sr., who appeared with Bartlett and Dougherty at a virtual town hall debate earlier this month at Frederick Community College, did not file a report for the quarter.

Incumbent Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Baltimore, is the only major party contender for the 7th District congressional seat. Cummings raised \$839,191 during the third quarter, and has \$689,556 on-hand.

Cummings, who is seeking

an eighth term, has four challengers, but only one of them has raised funds. Republican and Baltimore dentist Michael Hardagon raised \$17,175 in the third quarter and has \$632 in cash, according to FEC filings.

Incumbent Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Kensington, has more cash on hand, \$2.7 million, than any other congressional candidate in Maryland.

His war chest dwarfs those of Eighth District Republican challenger Steve Hudson, with \$5,515, and Green Party candidate Gordon Clark, with \$4,535. Van Hollen raised about \$384,000 more than Hudson and about \$387,000 more than Clark this quarter.

Despite the disparity, Hudson, who has donated more than \$21,200 to his own campaign, said he remains undeterred.

"I wish money would come in, but this is not a big money campaign — this is a grassroots campaign," Hudson said. "We've got people working all over the district doing the same thing that I'm doing, going door-to-door and reaching out to people."

State Democrats Blowout GOP in Voter Registrations

Voters from A1

gains in 2004, but failed to recapture momentum this time around.

"The Republicans are not keeping pace with their past (registration drives), and that's why we're not getting record registrations here," said Michael Cain, a professor at St. Mary's College and the director of the Center for the Study of Democracy. "If these people all come out on Election Day, it's going to be a blow out."

Nobody expects John McCain to win Maryland in November, and only Maryland's 1st Congressional District is considered likely to choose a new Republican congressman, but if Democrats continue to outpace Republicans in recruitment, the already wide gap could become enormous.

"In this election cycle, it's clear that the economy is going to play very well for the Democrats," Cain said.

However, "these registration numbers show something much more long term. The long term prospects for the Republican Party do not look good."

This reality is not lost on the state's GOP leadership.

"It's not good," said Justin Ready, a party spokesman. "We've definitely got to work hard."

The Republican Party has had volunteers in canvassing and setting up registration booths in every county, but their drives have been more targeted than Democrats.

"We have a high conversion percentage within the types of folks who tend to register as Republican," Ready said, referring to small business owners and other groups the party targets. "The people we register are people who are going to vote. We don't often have Bruce Springsteen concerts and register thousands, not that there's anything wrong with it."

He added that, after what's

been "a tough time for the Republican Party nationally," it may be worthwhile for Republican strategists to consider using such tactics to amplify their rolls.

A Democratic official attributed the registration success to "shoe leather," not concerts.

"Within the Democratic Party, we have fairly sophisticated and very involved clubs and elected (officials) who know and understand how to register new voters," said spokesman David Paulson.

"It's been more successful where there's more people, in your major metropolitan areas," he added, but noted that earlier this year, Calvert County Republicans outnumbered Democrats by a few voters.

In registration numbers, Democrats are now ahead by a few hundred in that more rural part of the state.

"The credit for that goes to the local Democrats in Calvert County," said Paulson. "They

created their own program, their own scientific approach to going out and registering voters, and then they hit the road."

Jonathan Carpenter, an Obama organizer from Denton, but who operates in Baltimore City, says voter registration is all about location. At the Obama headquarters a few blocks from Lexington Market, he said at least 100 new voters signed up a day during the registration period, and for the last few weeks, his coworkers have registered thousands.

"We got to the point where we set up tables on the sidewalk," Carpenter said.

From the vantage point of a Democratic organizer, this week marks the end of a very successful season.

"It's a relief," Carpenter said, "but also, for someone like me who's enthusiastic, it's also kind of sad. I've never seen so many people just voluntarily, enthusiastically want to get registered to vote."

Equine Masseuse Sues Md. Agencies Over Massage Ban

Massage from A1

since 2007 to massage both people and horses and had been splitting her work week between the two types of clients, filed a lawsuit in June in Montgomery County Circuit Court against the agencies for the right to continue her equine massage therapy work.

Both boards asked to have the case thrown out, and a dismissal hearing is expected this month.

Clemens compared the state requirement that equine massage be performed by a vet to mandating that human massage therapy only be done by doctors.

"My constitutional rights are being violated," Clemens said. "I have the right to pursue an honest living doing what I love without arbitrary regulation by

the government. It serves no public purpose to prohibit me from practicing."

Paul Sherman, a staff attorney with Institute for Justice, the Alexandria, Va.-based public interest law firm representing Clemens in the lawsuit, said Clemens' predicament is part of a larger, national problem.

Sherman cited a Louisiana law that requires would-be florists to undergo a written exam to earn that title and a recently-defunct Alabama law that forbade people who decorated homes to call themselves interior designers unless they had obtained a degree in the subject and passed a licensing test.

"This has nothing to do with the health of animals and it has everything to do with the financial interest of the veterinary cartels," Sherman said.

James Vallone, executive director of the chiropractic board, said his agency sent Clemens the letter simply because she was not in compliance with state law. Other massage therapists doing the same work with horses also received the letter.

"The law in Maryland under the Massage Practice Act states that a licensee may not practice on anyone other than a human," Vallone said. "She got a letter because she was advertising with her massage certification. We don't issue anything other than certifications to practice on the human anatomy."

Vallone declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Horse owners say they feel the loss.

Brandywine resident Jan Denno began using Clemens'

services when her show horse, Tramp, was on stall rest for a pulled muscle.

"He was in a 12-by-12 stall and his muscles were cramping," Denno said. "(Massage) relaxed him. It helped his muscles be a little looser."

Damascus resident Kim Harpster, owner of Mezza Luna Farm in Damascus, said her mare, Maddie, had been showing great improvement in leg muscle flexibility following massage therapy appointments with Clemens. Harpster called the cease-and-desist order "insane."

"These are my horses, not the state's, and to come to find out that I'm being denied body work for my horses simply because (of) regulations written for veterinary licensing purposes ... is absolutely insane."

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COMMENTARY

Rep. Maxine Waters *California's 35th congressional district*



Rep. Maxine Waters Urges Justice Department to Protect Right to Vote

Washington, DC — Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) has called on the U.S. Department of Justice to protect the rights of Americans to vote and to investigate thoroughly and immediately complaints about efforts to suppress or interfere with the rights of eligible voters.

Congresswoman Waters expressed her concerns in a letter this week to Attorney General Michael Mukasey:

I am writing to urge you to fully carry out your responsibilities under the Constitution and the laws of the United States to ensure that no eligible American is prevented from exercising his or her right to vote. I am very concerned about the growing number of reports in numerous states indicating that the ability of eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming elections might be at risk. I request that you share with me the status of any investigations that the Department of Justice has undertaken to prevent election crimes or other efforts to suppress or interfere with the right of eligible individuals to vote. Credible complaints must be investigated in a timely and thorough manner by the Department of Justice when these complaints are brought to the Department's attention and not after the upcoming elections.

As Election Day (November 4th) approaches, and early voting is already underway in many states, there have been troubling reports about impediments to voting. Congresswoman Waters cited "a widely reported scheme in Michigan to use foreclosure lists to challenge voters at their polling places."

During a September 16th oversight hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, of which she is a member, Congresswoman Waters asked the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate this matter, noting that the FBI had done commendable work this year to investigate and prosecute some of the institutions and individuals who have been involved in mortgage fraud and other activities that have contributed to the financial crisis that our nation is currently experiencing. On September 18th, she joined Chairman John Conyers (D-MI) and other Members of the Judiciary Committee in sending a letter to the Attorney General requesting a prompt investigation of complaints regarding the use of foreclosure lists to challenge voters in Michigan.

In her more recent letter to the Attorney General, Congresswoman Waters — who chairs the Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity — explained, "I have been particularly concerned about those

who have engaged in predatory lending because this illegal practice disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable in this country, including the elderly, the poor and minorities." Efforts to disqualify voters on the basis of foreclosures would similarly target members of these groups.

Last month, Congresswoman Waters introduced House Concurrent Resolution 424, which urges the Department of Justice to protect the right to vote of every eligible person in the United States by promptly and thoroughly investigating possible violations of federal law. The Resolution enumerates some of the most serious complaints of problems and possible violations of federal law, including voter caging, deceptive practices, and improper list purges. If unaddressed, they could interfere with the right to vote of citizens in Michigan, Virginia, Mississippi, Maryland, Florida and other states affected by recent hurricanes or natural disasters. This Resolution currently has 61 co-sponsors.

Congresswoman Waters noted that the New York Times published an investigative report on October 9th that describes in detail possible violations of federal law in several states that have resulted in tens of thousands of eligible voters being wrongly removed from the voting rolls or blocked from registering to vote. "It appears that media organizations have conducted more investigations into these allegations than the Department of Justice," she wrote.

The implementation of a new "No Match, No Vote" state law in Florida potentially threatens to disenfranchise thousands of voters in that pivotal swing state, which of course was at the center of the controversial presidential election contest between George W. Bush and Al Gore in 2000. Several Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, who are also cosponsors of H. Con. Res. 424, sent a letter to the Governor of Florida earlier this month expressing concerns.

Because voting rights are fundamental rights within a democracy and because the consequences of this year's elections are so significant, Congresswoman Waters wants to make sure the rights of all Americans are protected.

In concluding her letter, she wrote, "Given the growing number of reports of problems that could result in the disenfranchisement of countless voters in several states, I believe it is imperative for the Department of Justice to accelerate the investigation of these complaints immediately.

I am deeply concerned that failure to act could result in the irreversible loss of the exercise of the right to vote in the upcoming election. Investigations after the elections will not cure the damage of a lost vote in what has been described as the most important election in a generation."

Letters to the Editor

Representative of the People, or the Bank?

Editor:

It is not every day that voters have a real choice, and an opportunity to make a statement.

The American public opposed the \$700 billion dollar bailout, and many were left feeling confused and abandoned by their immediate representatives in Congress who sided with their big bank donors over the bailout. Their despair only deepened with the

realization that both presidential candidates McCain and Obama supported the bailout. Our representative in Congress Steny Hoyer promoted the bailout and tried to explain why he felt it was necessary to do so his letter entitled "Main Street at Heart of Economic Stabilization Bill." Walt Whitman said it eloquently, "All faults may be forgiven of him who has perfect candor." It is a matter of public record that Congressman Hoyer's number

one donor is a large well known Wall Street bank (see www.opensecrets.org)—a fact that Hoyer failed to mention in his letter. Our other candidate for representative, Collins Bailey, nailed it when he said "The bailout is and was a slap in the face to all hard working Americans and a wink to billionaires who had already profited from past transactions."

Jeff B. Vockrodt
University Park, MD

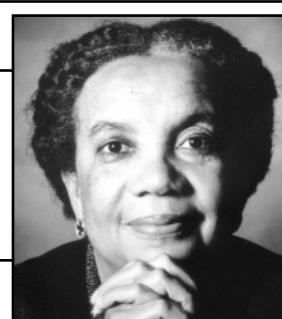


The Laurel Museum, 817 Main Street, Laurel, Maryland
Located in a former 1840's mill workers' home. The museum houses collections of books, photographs, tools, personal artifacts, textiles and oral histories. The Museum's main floor is the site of exhibits devoted to the history of Laurel, Maryland. - Maintained by the Laurel Historical Society.

Discover the rich history of Laurel, Maryland, an historic town located on the Patuxent River half way between Baltimore and Washington. Learn about its mill town roots, railroad connections, African-American community and early suburban experiences. Explore the history of its schools, fire department, shops, banks, Main Street. Meet the people who helped it grow into a thriving and diverse community.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Eternity Isn't Forever

Eternity means forever. Perhaps a mother who names her child Eternity hopes it will be a talisman to ward off the dangers that stalk poor and crime-ridden neighborhoods.

Sadly, with the gun violence that is so pervasive in many of our communities, too many parents live with a paralyzing fear that their children may not be safe from those dangers. A parent's worst fears were realized on the streets of a Chicago neighborhood the Sunday before Labor Day, 2008, when Eternity Gaddy and some playmates were standing outside her grand aunt's home. They heard some men shouting as they spilled out of a nearby alley and started shooting. Before the girls had time to react, Eternity, 13, was killed by one of the flying bullets. Most 13-year-old girls think they're going to live forever. I certainly did. But Eternity will never see her 14th birthday, will never go to college or land that first job. She'll never get married or have children of her own.

Eternity was one of three Black children killed in Chicago on Labor Day weekend. Nequiel Fowler, 10, was struck by a bullet while bending down to tie the shoelaces of her five-year-old sister. Terrence Jones, 16, was playing basketball at a park near his home when several young men approached and shot into the group on the basketball court. Terrance was shot in the back. He was a special young man who cared for his 60-year-old diabetic and arthritic mother and helped manage her medications. He dreamed of going to Duke University and becoming a pharmacist some day. How these children died didn't make national news, nor are they likely to be mentioned in a presidential campaign speech. But they should be.

As I think about the thousands of youthful victims of gun violence, I'm concerned that we're not hearing enough from the candidates for public office at all levels about what they will do to protect our children. The time for action is now because the danger of gun violence has increased. The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveal that 3,006 children and teens were killed by firearms in 2005, the first jump in the deaths from gun violence among youngsters since 1994. The 2005 data also happen to mark the first increase in such deaths since Congress allowed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban to expire in 2004.

The federal and local governments have the responsibility to

enact and strengthen laws that will protect children and the public at large. We must make gun safety a national priority and push for measures to ban assault weapons, tighten background check requirements and make it easier for victims of gun violence to hold firearm dealers and manufacturers accountable. And the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives must have sufficient funds to aggressively enforce our nation's gun laws.

Despite the Supreme Court's District of Columbia v. Heller ruling striking down Washington, D.C.'s 32-year-old handgun ban, the Second Amendment of the Constitution does not deny communities the right to enact gun control laws designed to protect public safety. States and cities must move forward with measures to prevent firearms from falling into the hands of children, felons and the mentally unstable.

The next President and the 111th Congress must renew the Federal Assault Weapons Ban on high-powered, high-capacity weapons. Federal legislation must be enacted that requires thorough background checks for every gun sale including those at gun shows. It is criminal that guns are sold in private transactions where no background check takes place. This background check loophole enabled Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold to acquire, through private sales at a gun show, some of the weapons they used to kill 12 students and

a teacher in 1999 at Columbine High School near Littleton, Colorado.

The President and Congress must support initiatives promoted by Mayors Against Illegal Guns to hold gun dealers or manufacturers accountable for the damage to our neighborhoods caused by firearms.

At the conclusion of the November 4 election, political leaders of all stripes and at every level should pursue common sense gun laws to make our streets and homes safe for our children. It is unconscionable that a child at play should ever be at risk of being shot and killed. No one lives forever, but we should build a society where a girl named Eternity, and every other child, can at least make it to adulthood without dying from a random gunshot.

To learn more, read the Children's Defense Fund's 2008 report, *Protect Children, Not Guns*: www.childrensdefense.org/gunreport.

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

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BUSINESS

Maryland Business Taxes Among the Nation's Highest, Study Says

By DAVID HILL
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Numerous tax increases during the past year have turned Maryland into the nation's sixth-worst business tax climate, according to a recent study.

The Washington-based Tax Foundation, a non-profit research group, ranked Maryland 45th among the 50 states, down a staggering 21 spots from last year. In addition to criticizing state tax increases, they labeled Maryland as having "by far the worst individual income tax in America."

The state rated 24th in the last year's study, but dropped largely due to Democratic Gov. Martin O'Malley and the General Assembly's approval of more than \$1.3 billion in tax increases last November.

Among the increases, the report pointed to the corporate income tax, up from 7 to 8.25 percent; sales tax, up from 5 to 6 percent; and cigarette excise taxes, up from \$1 to \$2 per pack, as being especially significant. All took effect in January.

Budget from A1

cuts that will affect services for the disabled and veterans, among others.

"I'm under no illusion that these are not significant," said Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary John Colmers. "They're likely not to be the last."

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore had nearly \$190,000 sucked from its budget. As a

Slots from A1

result, the zoo may have a temporary hiring freeze and be forced to close on Mondays, among other options being considered, said president and CEO Donald T. Hutchinson.

Elsewhere in Maryland, cost-cutting measures include reducing hours of operation and limiting the use of contracted labor. Even school chess programs lost \$25,500.

"Naturally, everyone would like to have more money in their budget, but we're going to do our part" to cut costs, said Roger Hill, chief operating officer of Historic St. Mary's City, a state-owned museum in southern Maryland. The museum had \$88,000 cut from its budget.

The board's vote comes amid a string of bad economic news for the state. On Tuesday, officials slashed Maryland's expected revenue stream by nearly \$600 million, and recent reports have outlined the rise in

unemployment claims, welfare receipts and foreclosures.

Next month, officials will release updated revenue estimates, and many predict another write-down.

"We're in a better position to fight the economic downturn in this national economy than many other states," O'Malley said. "But we are not immune."

Capital News Service's Jessica Groover contributed to this report.

"Taxes diminish profits," said the report, released Oct. 6. "Thus a state with lower tax costs will be more attractive to business investment, and more likely to experience economic growth."

State officials did not comment directly on the report, but defended Maryland's taxing methods.

"There are several different studies and you never know the agenda behind the groups that do them," said Joe Shapiro, spokesman for Comptroller Peter Franchot. "But we believe that the business climate in Maryland ... is among the best in the nation."

The Tax Foundation rated states primarily on their individual income tax, corporate tax, sales tax, unemployment insurance tax and property tax, with heavier emphasis placed on the first three areas.

Maryland rated favorably in sales and corporate tax, ranking 10th and 14th respectively. But the state was 31st in the unemployment insurance tax, 34th in property tax and dead last in individual income tax.

Neil Bergsman, director of

Education Association.

The union, school board and superintendent are still in meetings discussing salaries and the budget deficit, said Cullison.

"I worry about teachers leaving if we don't get raises simply because of the cost of living here," Cullison said. "I've got about 30 percent of my members who are commuting from out of the county... And you know what? They need teachers in other counties in Maryland."

The county has already frozen money for materials and decreased instructional assistants and professional development. The county might also face larger class sizes with more budget cuts.

Baltimore County Public Schools voted against a 2 percent cost-of-living allowance for teachers, added to the end-of-the-year salary, in a closed meeting on Sept. 23.

"This is now a series of things they're doing that appear anti-employee," said Cheryl Bost, president of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County.

A claim that teachers might not receive a promised 5.3 percent raise was deemed premature by the Montgomery County



PHOTO COURTESY COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT'S OFFICE
Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot

the independent and non-profit Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute, criticized the report, saying that despite its tone, taxes are not necessarily bad for business.

"Clearly, (the Tax Foundation's) agenda is to reduce the tax burden on people with the highest income," said Bergsman, whose organization focuses on the effects of tax policy on low- and middle-income families. "Taxes pay for education ... they pay for roads. And these things are good for

budget, but we're going to do our part" to cut costs, said Roger Hill, chief operating officer of Historic St. Mary's City, a state-owned museum in southern Maryland. The museum had \$88,000 cut from its budget.

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business." Bergsman pointed out that some of the nation's more affluent states did not fare well in the study. Three states that rank high in most income studies, Connecticut, Maryland and New Jersey, ranked 37th, 45th and 50th respectively.

"All three of those states get pretty poor ratings from the Tax Foundation," Bergsman said, "which kind of suggests that their policy preferences are not well-connected with economic well-being."

unemployment claims, welfare receipts and foreclosures.

Next month, officials will release updated revenue estimates, and many predict another write-down.

"We're in a better position to fight the economic downturn in this national economy than many other states," O'Malley said. "But we are not immune."

Capital News Service's Jessica Groover contributed to this report.

On Oct. 7, five labor organizations, including TABCO, protested the decision and the board's recommendation to use only one retirement plan provider.

TABCO and other public employees hired arbiters and found the county has enough money to add the 2 percent COLA. Multiple retirement providers would not cost the county additional money.

"The county has the money to pay for employee salary increases, it's a matter of re-prioritizing their top priorities," Bost said. "So we've continued to say, why do you need to fund new programs in the county which should first be invested in our employees?"

Baltimore County has one of the lowest starting teacher salaries, ranked 13th, in Maryland and a turnover rate of about 1,000 teachers a year, the second highest in the state.

Less populous counties are feeling similar fiscal strain and are exploring budget options over the next few weeks before making decisions.

Business Exchange

by William Reed



The Rich, The Wealthy, and the Others

In case you are not one, and didn't know any, the world's richest got even richer last year. Even as world financial markets broke down last year, personal wealth around the world grew 5 percent to \$109.5 trillion. It was the sixth consecutive year of wealth expansion around the planet.

The fastest growth rate was not on America's shores but among households in developing regions, such as China and the Gulf States. In these regions, the world-wide axiom applies: the families who were already rich got richer. Wealth is growing among households in Asia and the Pacific Rim - rising 14 percent. Wealth growth was fueled by manufacturing in Asia and commodities in Latin America and the Middle East.

The world's wealth is increasingly concentrated among those that have the most. The top 1 percent of the world's households owned 35 percent of its wealth last year. Meanwhile, the top 0.001 percent, ultra-rich households holding at least \$5 million in assets, commanded \$21 trillion - a fifth of the world's wealth. Forbes lists 1,125 individuals and families as billionaires. Americans account for 42 percent of the world's billionaires and 37 percent of their total wealth. Russia is number two with 87 billionaires. Germany is third with 59 billionaires. Africa has two of the world's richest, South Africa's Patrice Motsepe and Nigeria's Aliko Dangote. Mohamed "Mo" Ibrahim is a Sudanese-born communications billionaire based in Briton. The planet continues to mint new millionaires rapidly. The biggest jumps in 2007 of second-tier rich came from emerging countries in Asia and Latin America. Overall, the number of millionaire households in the world grew to 10.7 million last year.

Hampered by the mortgage crisis and credit crunch North Americans' personal wealth growth slowed to 3.8 percent last year. The number of U.S. millionaire households is now roughly seven percent of all households - 9.3 million. The number of millionaire black households in America is 110,000. Most black millionaire households get their wealth from family businesses - funeral homes, medical practices, real estate and construction, retail and service sector businesses. America's two black

billionaires, Oprah Winfrey and Bob Johnson amassed their fortunes in communications and entertainment, and real estate.

TNS research company reports that the median age of the head of millionaire US households is 58 percent - 45 percent are retired. Roughly 19 percent own in whole or part a professional practice or privately held business. Over 50 percent of millionaires said they had become more conservative in their investment approach over the past year. Their wealth is the result of long-term wealth accumulation. Although real estate is not their sole source of wealth, it remains a staple for many American millionaires. Forty-six percent own investment real estate like a second home or rental properties and 70 percent of millionaire households own stocks and bonds, and 68 percent own mutual funds.

Reports show that while the world's rich have been making some adjustments as a result of the financial crisis. This year, assets are being shifted to more conservative investments, more money is being kept onshore in home markets and some investments have been curtailed. The outlook for wealth markets and the banks who serve them remains dimmed by the current financial crisis. Banks, brokerages and money managers will have little choice, but to expand their presence among these individuals, families and investment programs in the world's fastest growing centers.

Personal wealth in America is expected to continue growing, but at a slower pace. With Wall Street's slump, growth in assets is expected to rise less than 1 percent. Things are expected to improve over the next five years with personal wealth growing more than 3 percent annually - well off the 8.5 percent set between 2002 and 2007. While Black Americans have increased their presence in mainstream and middle-class-status numbers, their wealth profile remains comparatively low.

The median black household income was \$33,916 (national median: \$50,233). Blacks' per capita incomes was \$18,428 (national figure: \$26,804). Their poverty level was 24.5 percent (national rate: 12.5%). Blacks' rate of poverty remained statistically unchanged.

(William Reed - www.BlackPressInternational.com)

Clinic Offers New Hope For AUTISM

Genetic Consultants of Maryland (GCM) announces a new combined genetic, biochemical, heavy metal and hormonal evaluation treatment for autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). GCM has provided innovative genetic services for over 28 years and is a leader in research and treatment of ASDs. Mark Geier, MD, PhD, a founder of GCM, is a prominent expert and author of numerous scientific papers on ASDs. GCM is excited to offer this innovative evaluation treatment which has successfully helped over 500 ASD patients and is covered by most health plans. Call 301-989-0548 for info.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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Movie Review

"RACHEL GETTING MARRIED" (limited release)"

"RACHEL GETTING MARRIED" (limited release)

Grade: A-

Rated R for some harsh profanity, some brief sexuality
1 hr., 53 min.

The character at the center of "Rachel Getting Married" is Rachel's sister, Kym, a barely recovering drug addict and alcoholic who has gotten out of her latest rehab stint just in time for Rachel's wedding. But why, you ask, if the movie is about Kym, is it named after her sister? As it happens, that is the very question Kym is asking, at least in principle. If Rachel getting married is the important thing happening this weekend, that means Kym is somehow NOT the most important thing. And that's the hard truth facing Kym in this expertly acted, carefully crafted drama.

Kym, played by Anne Hathaway, is an intelligent young woman from an educated, socially liberal Connecticut family. She has been in trouble for as long as anyone in the film can remember -- it is the defining aspect of her personality. She and Rachel (Rosemarie DeWitt) had a little brother who died years ago, which exacerbated Kym's dysfunction. Now, after nine months in a treatment facility, she's back at the Buchman family's large house while chaotic preparations for the lavish, multi-cultural backyard wedding are in full bloom.

The sisters' reunion when Kym first comes home is touching. While we intuit that there's going to be friction between them eventually, their initial reaction to each other is warm, tender, and heartfelt. It sets the tone for the film, which wants to assure us of two things: One, that beneath the turmoil there is great love, and two, that love isn't always enough. Through it all, Hathaway and DeWitt convey the sisterly bond -- tears of joy one minute, strangling each other the next, laughing at a

shared memory two minutes after that -- with more realism and nuance than I've seen in a movie in a long time.

Kym and Rachel's eager-to-please father, Paul (Bill Irwin), is all smiles, glad to have his little girl home, wary of letting her drive the car anywhere. He is remarried to a nice woman, Carol (Anna Deavere Smith); his ex-wife, the girls' mother, is Abby (Debra Winger), also remarried, a little spacey, frequently detached and absent from things. She seems closed in temperament to Kym. Remember, it was her little boy who died all those years ago. I would be interested in seeing Abby's story.

Rachel's fiance, Sidney (Tunde Adebimpe), is a black man. The interracial element of the wedding is never mentioned in the film, though it is mentioned quite a bit in reviews of the film, which mention how not-mentioned it is. I take it as another angle of the movie's central theme, that the world is larger and more diverse than Kym and her problems -- and, what's more, that everyone except Kym seems to already realize this. Rachel and Sidney plan to live in Hawaii. Kym, who is notorious and recognized everywhere she goes in this small town, would do well to get out of her protective bubble, too.

Two more characters are significant. One is Sidney's best man, Kieran (Mather Zickel), who has flown in for the wedding and is attending local Narcotics Anonymous meetings. It's there that he and Kym meet, even before they are introduced back at the Buchman house, and they have a natural kinship and a physical attraction. Kieran is a much more well-adjusted ex-addict than Kym is, and he's able to help some of the others in her family understand where she's coming from. This puts him in contrast with the other significant character I need to mention, Rachel's maid of honor, Emma (Anisa George). As Rachel's best friend, Emma is protective



Rachel Getting Married Pictures: Bill Irwin, Rosemarie DeWitt
Anne Hathaway, Debra Winger,
PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

of her and her feelings, and she's the first one to tactlessly articulate the "not everything revolves around you" motif to Kym. She's right, of course, though that doesn't change the fact that she's a b-word.

The film was written by Jenny Lumet (daughter of director Sidney Lumet) and directed by Jonathan Demme. It's the first thing Demme has directed since 1998 that wasn't a documentary or a remake, and it represents a revitalized, ambitious Demme. With the exception of one contrived scene at a hair salon where crucial information is revealed in a stazy fashion, there is no artifice in the film. It all looks and sounds like real people with real connections to each other. Numerous small touches in their speech patterns -- nicknames, code words, family jokes -- indicate shared history.

I noted before that I would like to see Abby's life story. That goes for most of the other characters too, and among the film's many admirable qualities is that its characters actually seem to HAVE life stories. Shooting with handheld cameras in a real house (rather than a set) provides intimacy, while the acting and dialogue are uniformly authentic, even among the minor roles. Sidney's younger sister has only a few lines, and then she's glimpsed in the wedding

scenes -- yet I feel like I know her as well as if I'd spent the weekend in Connecticut with her and the rest of the huge wedding party.

Demme is sympathetic to all of his characters, including Kym, who is needy, yes -- but for heaven's sake, who wouldn't be needy, given the circumstances? Since the film is mostly seen through her eyes, we're inclined to be on her side, and we want Rachel and the others to cut her some slack. But we understand how they all feel, too, and we ultimately come to see Kym the way she sees herself: as an outsider, an observer whose sadness is at odds with the happy event she's trying to be part of.

Anne Hathaway's performance might be the best one I've seen this year: heartbreaking, fierce, funny, and thoroughly believable. But while the hype, deserved though it may be, surrounds her, one shouldn't overlook the rest of the ensemble. Rosemarie DeWitt, Bill Irwin, and Debra Winger join her in creating a fractured American family that's bracingly honest and relatable. The film invites us to immerse ourselves completely in Rachel's wedding weekend, to witness the family drama and enjoy the simple comedy (yes, there are laughs) that arises from everyday life.

A Book Review

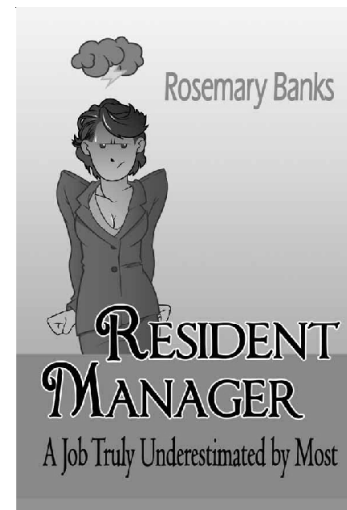
New Book Tells the Other (Resident Manager's) Side

Rosemary Banks' new book "Resident Manager" a job truly underestimated by most. will be on the market just before Christmas. It's about 28 years of experience in property management.

The book will make a great conversational piece. It is filled with 60 pages of raw testimony. Rosemary Banks said, I am tired of seeing landlords portrayed as villains, or fools in the mainstream media. I want the world to listen to the landlords side of the story for a change."

Listening to the continuous outlash, severe bitterness, disrespect and outrage directed at landlords and resident manager is almost inconceivable and alarming. One has to have thick skin otherwise they will be shaking in their boots. Imagine a resident calling a resident manager a ### and saying your tenure on this property is in the palm of my hands.

Residents have had their 15 minutes of fame. Now it's the landlord and resident manag-



er's turn to unveil what really goes on behind closed doors in reference to property management and residents living in multifamily apartments.

Rosemary Banks originally from the Eastern Shore of Maryland has resided in Prince George's County for over 25 years.

For more details in reference to purchasing the book, e-mail Ms. Banks at rbresidentmanager@yahoo.com.

County Events

October 31, - November 5, 2008

Friday, October 31, 6-10 pm

Ghost Tour

Ride along with us as we visit haunting locations in the area. Bring your own spending money. Space is limited. Vans will depart promptly at 6 pm. All participants must have a valid M-NCPPC card or M-NCPPC Youth ID card.

Ages 13 & up; FREE

Potomac Landing Community Center

12500 Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington

Information: 301-292-9191; TTY 301-203-6030

Friday, October 31, 6:30-10 pm

Haunted Centers Tour

Join us for an evening of thrills and scares as you journey between three of our haunted community centers. Transportation will be provided between our spooky sites. Each child will receive a treat bag. Registration is required.

Ages 4 & up

Fee for all 3 sites: Resident \$20; Non-Resident \$24

Drop in fee for 1 site: Resident \$5; Non-Resident \$6

Bowie Community Center

3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie

Information: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-218-6768

Glenarden/Theresa Banks Complex

8615-A McLain Avenue, Glenarden

Information: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-218-6768

Seat Pleasant Activity Center

5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant

Information: 301-773-6685; TTY 301-218-6768

SMARTlink #123894

Friday, October 31, 8 pm

Montpelier Fall Jazz Series: Ameranouche

In the final concert of the Fall Jazz Series this group from Maine plays Gypsy jazz in the tradition of Django Rhinehardt. Tickets: \$20/person, \$18/seniors & members

Montpelier Arts Center

9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel

Information: 301-953-1993, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Saturday, November 1-Friday, November 21,

Center hours: Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am-9:30 pm; Fridays, 9 am-5 pm;

Saturdays, 9 am-4:30 pm, and Sundays, 12 noon-3 pm

Coat Drive

Have your children outgrown their winter coats or do you have an adult coat that you no longer wear? Consider donating it so others may stay warm this winter.

Prince George's Plaza Community Center

6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville

Information: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-445-4512

Monday, November 3-Friday, November 21, 10 am-9 pm

Canned Food Drive

Please donate canned goods for those in need. All contributions will be given to local charities.

Palmer Park Community Center

7720 Barlowe Road, Landover

Information: 301-773-5665; TTY 301-218-6768

Monday, November 3-Monday, November 17, 10:30 am-8:30 pm

Food Drive Help us collect food for those in need. Please donate non-perishable items.

Peppermill Community Center

610 Hill Road, Landover

Information: 301-350-8410; TTY 301-218-6768

Monday, November 3, 7:30-8:30 pm

Bop: Beginning

Learn the smooth dance steps of bop during this one-day workshop. Ages 16 & up

Fee: Resident \$5; Non-Resident \$6

Lake Arbor Community Center

10100 Lake Arbor Way, Mitchellville

Information: 301-333-6561; TTY 301-218-6768

SMARTlink #123995

Tuesday, November 4, 10 am

Hands-on History: Political Animals

In honor of Election Day, children who have the day off can learn about the history and stories behind political party symbols. Children will take part in a variety of activities that highlight the Democratic Donkey, Republican Elephant, and more!

Fee: Resident \$15; Non-Resident \$18

Riversdale House Museum

4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park

Information: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Beginning Tuesday, November 4, 6-10 pm

Lifeguard Training Class

Become an American Red Cross Lifeguard by completing our 3-week course held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Course includes CPR for the Professional Rescuer and Community First Aid & Safety. Interested participants must pass a pre-test on the first day of the course. Registration required by November 4. Ages 15 & up Fee: Resident \$150/3 weeks; Non-Resident \$170/3 weeks

Glenarden/Theresa Banks Complex (pool)

8615-A McLain Avenue, Glenarden?

Information: 301-772-55151; TTY 301-218-6768

SMARTlink #123462

MARYLAND LOTTERY
mdlottery.com

MARYLAND LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS							
For the week ending Saturday, October 18							
Pick	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18
Mid	397	190	130	945	945	966	182
Eve	896	191	099	719	145	650	652
4							
Mid	5061	9965	2912	1123	0660	4440	2746
Eve	7825	2548	7805	1619	8959	7468	7050

<p>MULTI-MATCH</p> <p>02-05-12-39-41-42 Wednesday, October 15, 2008</p> <p>08-09-25-26-30-31 Saturday, October 18, 2008</p>	<p>BONUS MATCH 5</p> <p>02-08-28-34-38 Bonus Ball: 21 Sunday, October 12, 2008</p> <p>05-17-23-27-37 Bonus Ball: 14 Monday, October 13, 2008</p> <p>01-09-17-18-38 Bonus Ball: 20 Tuesday, October 14, 2008</p> <p>02-15-25-26-35 Bonus Ball: 17 Wednesday, October 15, 2008</p> <p>02-07-11-34-38 Bonus Ball: 31 Thursday, October 16, 2008</p> <p>05-06-18-33-39 Bonus Ball: 30 Friday, October 17, 2008</p> <p>07-08-22-30-37 Bonus Ball: 02 Saturday, October 18, 2008</p>
<p>MEGA MILLIONS</p> <p>14-35-41-42-51 Mega Ball: 23 Tuesday, October 14, 2008</p> <p>07-15-27-28-31 Mega Ball: 35 Friday, October 17, 2008</p>	

For the most current Lottery information, go to mdlottery.com

The Counseling Corner

by the American Counseling Association

Keep Your Anger From Controlling You!

We live in a world of high stress and tension. Whether it's bad economic news, local reports of growing crime rates, that traffic jam that made us late this morning, or a boss who never understands or appreciates us, we face lots of things that make our lives stressful.

Unfortunately, for many people, the stress and tension of daily life can build to the point that it only takes one small incident for them to explode, letting their anger get out of control.

Experts say anger is the most poorly-managed emotion in our society, with as many as one in five Americans having an anger control problem. Not being able to manage one's anger is a major cause of conflicts in both professional and personal relationships.

Is it a problem for you? One way to judge how well you control your anger is to consider whether you've ever, during an argument: raised your voice; broken something; pushed, slapped or physically hurt someone; embarrassed yourself; or felt out of control.

If any of those apply, you might consider some actions to help you better manage your anger:

- Accept responsibility for your anger. Anger may be triggered by someone else, but it's you who lets it happen and grow out of control.
- Learn to recognize the beginning signs of anger. Anger is easier to control when emotions are still at a low level.
- Try to identify the cause of your anger. It isn't someone else, but rather something within you, emotional or psychological from your past, that's usually the real source of your anger.
- Focus on the situation or behavior making you angry, rather than the other person. Criticizing or name-calling doesn't resolve a problem but merely escalates it. Rather than putting the other person on the defensive and raising the conflict level, use "I" statements to talk about what you're feeling and experiencing.

EARTH TALK - Will the LED light bulb dethrone the compact fluorescent as king of the green lighting choices?

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the story with LED light bulbs that are reputed to be even more energy-efficient than compact fluorescents?

- Toby Eskridge, Little Rock, AR

Perhaps the ultimate "alternative to the alternative," the LED (light-emitting diode) light bulb may well dethrone the compact fluorescent (CFL) as king of the green lighting choices. But it has a way to go yet in terms of both affordability and brightness.

LEDs have been used widely for decades in other applications—forming the numbers on digital clocks, lighting up watches and cell phones and, when used in clusters, illuminating traffic lights and forming the images on large outdoor television screens. Until recently LED lighting has been impractical to use for most other everyday applications because it is built around costly semiconductor technology. But the price of semiconductor materials has dropped in recent years, opening the door for some exciting changes in energy-efficient, green friendly lighting options.

According to HowStuffWorks.com, LED bulbs are lit solely by the movement of electrons. Unlike incandescents, they have no filament that will burn out; and unlike CFLs, they contain no mercury or other toxic substances. Proponents say LEDs can last some 60 times longer than incandescents and 10 times longer than CFLs. And unlike incandescents, which

generate a lot of waste heat, LEDs don't get especially hot and use a much higher percentage of electricity for directly generating light.

But as with early CFLs, LED bulbs are not known for their brightness. According to a January 2008 article in Science Daily, "Because of their structure and material, much of the light in standard LEDs becomes trapped, reducing the brightness of the light and making them unsuitable as the main lighting source in the home." LED makers get around this problem in some applications by clustering many small LED bulbs together in a single casing to concentrate the light emitted. But such LED "bulbs" still don't generate light much brighter than a 35-watt incandescent, much too little light for reading or other focused tasks.

If LEDs are going to replace incandescents and CFLs, manufacturers will have to make them brighter. EarthLED is lighting the way with its EvoLux and ZetaLux bulbs, which use multiple LEDs in a single casing to generate light. The EvoLux delivers light equal to that of a 100-watt incandescent, the company says. But the \$80/bulb price tag may be tough to swallow. The ZetaLux, which retails for \$49.99, delivers light equivalent to a 50- or 60-watt incandescent, will last 50,000 hours and costs only \$2/yearly to run.

Other bulb makers are working on similar designs for high-powered LED bulbs, hoping that an increase in availability will help spur demand, which will in turn lower prices across



PHOTO: BY "EARTHLED."

LED bulbs have not been known for their brightness, but manufacturers are working hard to change that. EarthLED is lighting the way with its EvoLux and ZetaLux bulbs, pictured here, which deliver the equivalent of 100-watt and 50-60 watt incandescents, respectively.

the board. Until then, consumers can find LED bulbs suitable for secondary and mood lighting purposes in many hardware and big box stores. C. Crane's 1.3-watt LED bulb, for example, generates as much light as a 15-watt incandescent bulb. Check your local hardware store for other options, as well as online vendors such as Best Home LED Lighting, Bulbster, SuperBrightLEDs.com and We Love LEDs.

CONTACTS:
How Stuff Works, www.howstuffworks.com/led.htm; EarthLED, www.earthled.com;

Best Home LED Lighting, www.besthomeledlighting.com; Bulbster, www.bulbster.com; SuperBrightLEDs.com, www.superbrightleds.com; We Love LEDs, www.weloveleds.com.

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Expanding Affordable Health Care

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Congressman Hoyer is protecting jobs at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Indian Head and St. Ingoes and helped secure funding for research and development projects at 5th District defense facilities.

Protecting Our Federal Employees

Congressman Hoyer is leading the fight for fair pay and benefits for federal employees. He successfully fought for pay parity – providing federal civilian employees with the same pay adjustments as the military.

Fighting to Improve Our Transportation System

Congressman Hoyer secured \$172 million for the reconstruction of the Baltimore/Washington Parkway; \$42 million for the dualization and restoration of the Suitland Parkway; nearly \$3 billion in funding for expansion of Metro's Green Line in Prince George's County; and funding for the Southern Maryland Commuter Bus Initiative to construct six new commuter parking facilities in the tri-county region.



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Anthony G. Maclin, Pastor

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Meals On Wheels Needs Volunteer Drivers

Columbia, MD - The Howard County Meals on Wheels program, the program that delivers meals to Laurel residents who are homebound, is in need of volunteer drivers and substitute drivers on Thursdays. Drivers would pick up the meals at approximately 11:15 a.m. at the Phelps Senior Center, 701 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707. The delivery routes take approximately an hour and a half to complete. To volunteer, call Karen Saul, 410-730-9476, or e-mail

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