

FCC REPORT

JULY – SEPT 2015

CRIME & VIOLENCE

7/16 - 11pm

NEW DEVELOPMENTS, 40 YEARS AFTER A HEINOUS CRIME. INVESTIGATORS ARE FOCUSING ON RELATIVES OF THE MAN CHARGED WITH MURDERING THE LYON SISTERS BACK IN 1975. CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER LLOYD LEE WELCH HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH MURDERING THE CHILDREN. TODAY, INVESTIGATORS SCOURED A SITE IN BEDFORD, VIRGINIA WHERE WELCH ALLEGEDLY BURNED THE GIRLS' BODIES. POLICE BELIEVE WELCH'S UNCLE, RICHARD WELCH, HAD SEXUALLY ABUSED ONE OF THE GIRLS -- AND DESCRIBED A CONSPIRACY TO COVER UP THE CRIME.

7/31 11pm

D-C POLICE ARE FIGHTING AN UPHILL BATTLE AGAINST CRIME. AS WE FIRST REPORTED LAST NIGHT -- HOMICIDES ARE UP 21 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR IN THE DISTRICT. BUT ANOTHER STUNNING FACT TONIGHT: HOW MANY OF THOSE CASES ARE UNSOLVED. THE CLOSURE RATE -- USING THE F-B-I STANDARD -- HAS FALLEN FROM BETWEEN 70 AND 90 PERCENT -- TO ABOUT 55 PERCENT SO FAR THIS YEAR. AMONG THE UNSOLVED -- THE SHOOTING DEATH OF JOURNALIST CHARNICE MILTON.

8/25

HERE ARE SOME OF THE TOP STORIES WE'RE FOLLOWING. SEVEN IS ON YOUR SIDE WITH A CRIME ALERT. A SIXTH WOMAN HAS NOW BEEN ATTACKED IN ARLINGTON JUST IN THE PAST MONTH. POLICE SAY A MOTHER WAS WALKING WITH HER TODDLER IN LUBBER RUN PARK WHEN A MAN INAPPROPRIATELY TOUCHED HER.

8/26

NEW THIS MORNING.. A SIGN OF PROGRESS IN THE DISTRICT, IN GETTING ILLEGAL GUNS OFF THE STREETS. D-C POLICE TWEETED THESE PHOTOS OF THREE ILLEGAL GUNS THEY FOUND IN JUST ONE CAR LAST NIGHT. ONE OF THEM, THE ONE YOU SEE HERE, HAD A HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINE. RIGHT NOW.. FIVE PEOPLE ARE IN POLICE CUSTODY. POLICE CHIEF CATHY LANIER SAYS GETTING THESE ILLEGAL GUNS IS A CRUCIAL PART OF THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE RISE IN VIOLENT CRIME IN THE DISTRICT. 103 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED SO FAR THIS YEAR. POLICE ARE OFFERING A CASH REWARD FOR ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ILLEGAL WEAPONS.

8/28

RIGHT NOW -- IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK IN THE DISTRICT. ALL WEEKEND LONG, EVERY AVAILABLE DC POLICE OFFICER WILL BE OUT ON PATROL. THE MOVE IS MEANT TO EMPHASIZE COMMUNITY POLICING, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH. D-C HAS SEEN A SHARP UPTICK IN VIOLENT CRIME. MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED THIS YEAR.

8/31

IN AN ONLINE POLICE UNION SURVEY, ALMOST ALL OF THE OFFICERS WHO RESPONDED GAVE CHIEF CATHY LANIER A VOTE OF NON-CONFIDENCE. THAT'S ABOUT A THIRD OF THE DEPARTMENT. THAT, AFTER AN "ALL HANDS ON DECK" WEEKEND THAT CHIEF LANIER SAYS CUT VIOLENT CRIME BY 39-PERCENT. BUT STILL SAW AT LEAST THIRTEEN PEOPLE SHOT, AND TWO PEOPLE KILLED. D-C BUREAU CHIEF SAM FORD IS LIVE IN SOUTHWEST D-C WITH THE PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

7/21

A BLOW TONIGHT FOR PREDATORY TOWING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVED THE BILL TO LIMIT SOME OF THE PRACTICES LEADING TO PREDATORY TOWING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. INCLUDED IN THE BILL -- SETTING FLAT RATES FOR CERTAIN TOWING SERVICES. TOWING COMPANIES MUST ALSO STAFF IMPOUND LOTS 24 HOURS A DAY SO OWNERS CAN RETRIEVE CARS ANYTIME. THE BILL ALSO BANS TOW COMPANIES FROM USING "SPOTTERS."

7/29

AND SO AFTER YEARS OF COMPLAINTS THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL PASSED A UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION YESTERDAY. THAT RESOLUTION NOW AWAITING STATE APPROVAL WOULD CREATE TWO CATALOGUES FOR BEER AND WINE ONE CALLED MAINSTREAM AND THE OTHER CRAFT. MAINSTREAM ALCOHOL SUCH AS BUDWEISER, MILLER AND CORONA WOULD STILL BE PURCHASED THRU THE COUNTY. HOWEVER RETAILERS WOULD NOW BE ABLE TO ORDER CRAFT BEERS AND WINES VIA PRIVATE DISTRIBUTORS. IN SUM PRICES WOULD STAY THE SAME BUT SPEED AND SELECTION WOULD IMPROVE.

8/27

YESTERDAY'S SHOOTING ALSO HAS VIRGINIA'S GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE CALLING FOR NEW GUN LAWS. HE'S ADVOCATING FOR WHAT HE CALLED "COMMON SENSE LAWS" THAT INCLUDE MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECKS AT GUN SHOWS. BUT WITH A REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THOSE MEASURES NEVER MADE IT PAST A STATE SENATE COMMITTEE. LAST YEAR, THE LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE GAVE VIRGINIA A "D" GRADE ON ITS ANNUAL STATE GUN LAW REPORT CARD.

9/16

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING A BILL TO PREVENT THE DOWNGRADE OF LAUREL REGIONAL HOSPITAL. THE HOSPITAL OWNERS ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH A PLAN TO SHUT DOWN MOST OF CURRENT FULL-SERVICE HOSPITAL, AND REPLACE IT WITH AN EMERGENCY CARE CENTER. THE UNION REPRESENTING HOSPITAL WORKERS HAS PROPOSED ALLOWING COUNTY COUNCIL WITH INPUT FROM NEARBY RESIDENTS - TO ULTIMATELY DECIDE IF THAT PLAN CAN PROCEED. A PUBLIC FORUM IS BEING HELD TONIGHT FOR RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY ANY CHANGES. YOU CAN COME VOICE YOUR CONCERNS TONIGHT AT SEVEN, AT BELTSVILLE ACADEMY.

9/28

IN THE DAY AHEAD.. MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE WILL UPDATE THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ABOUT THE USE OF POLICE BODY CAMERAS. SOURCE: FRFILE MPD BODY CAMERAS (WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, SO DON'T USE ANY SHOTS THAT ARE OBVIOUSLY DC POLICE LAST SPRING, POLICE INDICATED THERE ARE MANY LEGAL AND TECHNICAL ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. THIS YEAR, THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED A BILL CREATING A COMMISSION ON BODY CAMERAS. THE COMMISSION IS REQUIRED TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION BY THURSDAY.

9/29

THIS MORNING, D.C. MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER WILL BRIEF COUNCIL MEMBERS ABOUT HER PLAN TO STREAMLINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE. SHE WANTS TO HIRE A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR TO HANDLE NON-LIFE-THREATENING CALLS. D.C.'S FIRE CHIEF ESTIMATES.. THAT'S FOUR OUT OF FIVE CALLS. THE HOPE IS.. PRIVATE AMBULANCES WOULD FREE UP THE CITY'S LIMITED NUMBER OF PARAMEDICS AND AMBULANCES FOR THE MOST SERIOUS CALLS. AND THAT COULD LEAD TO QUICKER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES. THE COUNCIL MUST APPROVE THE PLAN.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

7/29

MONTGOMERY COUNTY WANTS TO CHANGE OUTDATED LIQUOR LAWS. THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL PASSED A UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION TO CREATE TWO BEER AND WINE CATALOGUES ---- ONE CALLED MAINSTREAM ---- AND THE OTHER ---- CRAFT. THAT WOULD ALLOW RESTAURANTS AND STORES TO BUY CRAFT ALCOHOL FROM PRIVATE DISTRIBUTORS. THE BILL IS AWAITING STATE APPROVAL.

8/27

A NEW STUDY BY THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION EXAMINES COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THEIR DRUG USE. MARIJUANA, INHALANTS, AND ALCOHOL IN SUMMER IT FOUND MOST STUDENTS ARE LIKELY TO TRY MARIJUANA, INHALANTS AND ALCOHOL DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, NOT DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. 1ST TIME UNDERAGE DRINKING IN JUNE UNDERAGE COLLEGE STUDENTS WERE MOST LIKELY TO HAVE THEIR FIRST ALCOHOLIC DRINK IN JUNE. STIMULANTS IN NOV., DEC. AND APRIL AND THE REPORT SAYS NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND APRIL ARE THE MOST COMMON MONTHS FOR STUDENTS TO FIRST USE STIMULANTS FOR NON-MEDICAL REASONS...PERHAPS TO STUDY FOR EXAMS.

9/2

IT'S BEING CALLED ONE OF THE BIGGEST SYNTHETIC DRUG BUSTS IN D-C HISTORY. ABOUT 265 POUNDS OF THE DRUG KNOWN AS "BIZARRO" WAS SEIZED AT A D-C WAREHOUSE. THAT INCLUDES 19-THOUSAND PACKETS OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE - WITH AN ESTIMATED VALUE OF 2.3 MILLION DOLLARS. TWO MEN ARE NOW FACING CHARGES - AND POLICE SAY THEY HOPE THE SEIZURE WILL MAKE THE STREETS SAFER.

9/6

A SEVEN ON YOUR SIDE HEALTH ALERT A WARNING ABOUT HAND SANITIZERS. THE GEORGIA POISON CONTROL CENTER SAYS SINCE 20-10, THERE'S BEEN A 400-PERCENT INCREASE IN KIDS UNDER 12 GETTING DRUNK ON THE SUBSTANCE. AND THEY'VE BEEN ENDING UP IN EMERGENCY ROOMS. HAND SANITIZER CONTAINS UP TO 95-PERCENT ALCOHOL. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL..153 CASES OF ALCOHOL POISONING BY HAND SANITIZER HAVE BEEN CALLED IN THIS YEAR. ABOUT HALF OF THOSE CASES INVOLVED CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF ONE

9/16

D-C POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN SCRAMBLING TO OFFER SOLUTIONS TO THE CITY'S SKYROCKETING VIOLENT CRIME AND HOMICIDE RATES. COUNCUMAN KENYAN MACDUFFIE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING THIS AFTERNOON AT FIVE. THE TOPIC IS A BILL TO TRY AND SLOW THE EXPLOSION OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS IN THE FEDERAL CITY. THAT'S ONE AREA COPS AND POLS HAVE CITED AS A REASON FOR THE BLOODY SUMMER AND BEYOND. SO FAR THIS YEAR, THERE'VE BEEN 110 HOMICIDES IN THE DISTRICT. THAT'S A WHOPPING 41 PERCENT HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

7/29

AND ON BENNING ROAD THIS MORNING, GROUNDBREAKING ON A NEW FACILITY THAT WILL BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND FOR THE HOMELESS AND LOW INCOME COMMUNITY IN D-C. ONE-HUNDRED-AND-TEN-THOUSAND D-C RESIDENTS LIVE IN POVERTY AND MORE THAN 7-THOUSAND ARE HOMELESS. THIS BUILDING WILL PROVIDE HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND JOB TRAINING ALL IN ONE LOCATION. THIS PROJECT IS CALLED "BUILDING HOPE AT BENNING ROAD" AND IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED BETWEEN 20-17 AND 20-18

8/26

SOME LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS IN BALTIMORE WILL BE GETTING SOME HELP.. IN REMOVING DANGEROUS LEAD PAINT FROM THEIR HOMES. U.S. HOUSING SECRETARY JULIAN CASTRO ANNOUNCED A NEARLY FOUR-MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO THE CITY YESTERDAY. THE MONEY WILL BE USED FOR LEAD ABATEMENT.. AND THE CLEANUP OF OTHER HAZARDS THAT HARM PEOPLE'S HEALTH. LEAD PAINT WAS BANNED FOR SALE IN BALTIMORE BACK IN 1950.. BUT MANY HOMES STILL CONTAIN IT.

8/27

MOVE OVER NEW YORK. A NEW MARKETWATCH REPORT SAYS THE DISTRICT IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE PLACE IN THE COUNTRY FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR TO LIVE. TAKE FS: D.C. MOST EXPENSIVE PLACE FOR FAMILY OF FOUR TO LIVE THE ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE RANKED 618 METRO AREAS ON CATEGORIES SUCH AS THE COSTS OF HOUSING, CHILD CARE, FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION. D-C CAME OUT ON TOP, WITH AN AVERAGE COST OF LIVING OF 106-THOUSAND-493 DOLLARS.

9/1

AND, IN ARLINGTON, PROTESTERS ARE SET TO MAKE A FINAL PUSH FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING TODAY. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROTEST THE COALITION OF ARLINGTONIANS FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT CLAIM CHILDREN LIVING IN THE HOUSING ALONG COLUMBIA PIKE DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE HIGHEST-ACHIEVING SCHOOLS. THEY WILL PROTEST THE COUNTY'S PLAN TO ADD NEARLY 16-THOUSAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS BY 20-40 TONIGHT AT SIX-30 AT CLARENDON BOULEVARD AND NORTH WAYNE STREET.

9/1

D-C MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER IS TAKING ON THE PROBLEM OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY. THIS AFTERNOON AT 2PM, SHE PLANS TO UNVEIL A NEW SET OF LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TO BRING DOWN THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE AND HELP KEEP THEM OFF THE STREETS, AND IN A HOME.

9/22

THE MAN WHO FOUNDED RESTON, VIRGINIA HAS DIED.. ROBERT-E-SIMON-JUNIOR PASSED AWAY AT HIS HOME IN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY YESTERDAY.. HE WAS 101-YEARS-OLD. SIMON WAS RUNNING HIS FAMILY'S REAL ESTATE BUSINESS IN NEW YORK WHEN HE BOUGHT NEARLY 68-HUNDRED ACRES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY IN 19-61. SIMON LENT HIS INITIALS "R-E-S" TO THE NAMING OF RESTON.

HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

7/31

MAJOR CHANGES ARE ON THE WAY FOR LAUREL HOSPITAL. DIMENSIONS HEALTH CARE -- WHICH RUNS THE HOSPITAL -- PLANS TO REPLACE IT WITH A 24-MILLION-DOLLAR AMBULATORY CARE FACILITY. THE NEW CENTER IS SLATED TO OPEN IN 2018 AND WILL EMPHASIZE OUTPATIENT CARE. DIMENSIONS SAYS THE HOSPITAL HAS RUN AT A SIGNIFICANT LOSS FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS.

7/30

D-C VETERANS WILL BE ABLE TO GET INSIGHT INTO THE FUTURE OF THEIR HEALTHCARE TODAY. THE VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER WILL UPDATE THEM ON HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS, ENROLLMENT, AND UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TONIGHT AT FIVE. THEY'LL TALK ABOUT THE REALIGNMENT OF IT'S OUTPATIENT CLINIC WITH THE SOUTHERN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CLINIC IN CAMP SPRINGS, MARYLAND.

8/27

LOTS OF PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH BEING TIRED- WHICH ALSO IMPACTS CONCENTRATION...

BUT THESE COMMON SYMPTOMS COULD ACTUALLY BE A SIGN OF A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM. DOCTORS SAY IT COULD BE A SIGN OF ANEMIA. ABOUT THREE AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE IN THE U-S SUFFER FROM THE BLOOD ILLNESS. IT'S A DECREASE IN RED BLOOD CELLS CIRCULATING THROUGH THE BODY-- WHICH MEANS ORGANS GET LESS OXYGEN.

8/28

A HEALTH MATTERS ALERT NOW... THAT MIGHT MAKE YOUR SKIN CRAWL... RESEARCHERS SAY A STRAIN OF SO-CALLED "SUPER HEAD LICE" ARE NOW HERE IN OUR AREA. THE MUATED LICE ARE RESISTANT TO OVER-THE-COUNTER TREATMENTS. SCIENTISTS PREDICT SOON, THE SUPER-LICE WILL BE FOUND EVERYWHERE. SPECIAL INSECTICIDES CAN BE USED TO TREAT THE NEW STRAIN-- BUT THEY REQUIRE A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION.

9/25

IN HEALTH NEWS.. A C-D-C SURVEY HAS DISTURBING FINDINGS ABOUT PREGNANT WOMEN AND ALCOHOL. ONE IN 10 PREGNANT WOMEN IN THE U.S., AGES 18 TO 44, ADMIT TO DRINKING ALCOHOL IN THE PAST MONTH. AMONG EXPECTANT MOMS, ALCOHOL USE IS HIGHEST AMONG 35 TO 44-YEAR-OLDS. ALSO, THERE'S A HIGHER LEVEL OF DRINKING AMONG COLLEGE GRADUATES AND SINGLE WOMEN. THE NUMBERS ARE CONCERNING, BECAUSE DRINKING DURING PREGNANCY CAN RESULT IN MISCARRIAGES AND BIRTH DEFECTS.

9/25

AND ANOTHER LAWSUIT THIS MORNING AGAINST D-C RESTAURANT FIG & OLIVE. A MONTGOMERY COUNTY WOMAN IS NOW THE SECOND PERSON TO SUE. SHE SAYS SHE CAME DOWN WITH SALMONELLA AFTER SHE ATE THERE EARLIER THIS MONTH. HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE INVESTIGATING.

9/28

7 IS ON YOUR SIDE WITH THIS HEALTH ALERT-- ANOTHER RABID BAT FOUND IN FREDERICK. THIS IS THE FOURTH ONE IN THE CITY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST, ACCORDING TO THE FREDERICK NEWS POST. ALL FOUR BATS WERE FOUND IN THE SAME AREA OF THE CITY. RABIES CAN BE TREATED IF YOU'VE COME INTO CONTACT WITH IT, HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE ALSO REMINDING PEOPLE WHO HAVE PETS TO MAKE SURE RABIES BOOSTERS ARE UP TO DATE.

RACIAL, ETHIC, RELIGIOUS & SEX

7/17

THE COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC AMERICAN RELATIONS HAS CONDEMNED THE SHOOTINGS IN TENNESSEE. IT'S ALSO SOUNDING ITS OWN ALERT, ASKING FOR ADDED SECURITY AROUND TONIGHT'S END OF RAMADAN PRAYERS. MEANWHILE, THE GROUP WANTS POLICE TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER TWO ACTS OF VANDALISM AT THE MANASSAS MUSLIM ASSOCIATION WERE INSPIRED BY HATE. TWICE THIS WEEK SOMEONE HAS CUT APART COPPER IN THE CONGREGATION'S AIR CONDITIONER. NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

7/28

THE BOYS SCOUTS OF AMERICA ENDED ITS BAN ON GAY ADULT LEADERS. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ENDS BAN ON GAY LEADERS THE SCOUTS MEMBER-BOARD VOTED LAST NIGHT TO LIFT THE BAN -- EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. IT FOLLOWS AN UNANIMOUS VOTE BY THE ORGANIZATION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD EARLIER THIS MONTH. THE GROUP'S PRESIDENT - FORMER U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT GATES -ALSO HELPED END THE MILITARY'S "DONT ASK DONT TELL POLICY." HE SAID THE BOY SCOUTS' BAN WAS NOT SUSTAINABLE.

8/26

IN SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE, THE MORMON CHURCH WILL KEEP ITS AFFILIATION WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. THAT DESPITE THE SCOUTS' DECISION TO ALLOW GAY TROOP LEADERS. THE CHURCH IS THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST SPONSOR OF BOY SCOUT TROOPS. IT MADE THE DECISION AFTER BEING ASSURED TROOP LEADERS CAN BE APPOINTED ACCORDING TO THE CHURCH'S OWN RELIGIOUS AND MORAL VALUES. IT FOLLOWS THE JULY 28TH ANNOUNCEMENT THE SCOUTS WOULD LIFT ITS LONGTIME BAN ON GAY SCOUT LEADERS, BUT ALLOW CHURCH-SPONSORED UNITS TO CONTINUE EXCLUDING GAY ADULTS.

9/18

DORITOS IS CELEBRATING THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY WITH SPECIAL RAINBOW CHIPS. THEY'RE AVAILABLE FOR A TEN-DOLLAR ONLINE DONATION TO THE "IT GETS BETTER PROJECT." THE GROUP PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR L-G-B-T YOUTH AND WAS CREATED IN RESPONSE TO THE SUICIDES OF SEVERAL L-G-B-T TEENAGERS. THE BAGS WILL FEATURE INSPIRING QUOTES. THEY'LL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME.

9/18

AN HISTORIC NOMINATION FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA. HE'S CHOSEN 'ERIC FANNING' TO BE THE ARMY'S NEW 'SECRETARY' -- A MAN WHO, IF CONFIRMED, WOULD BE THE FIRST OPENLY GAY LEADER OF A MILITARY BRANCH. 'FANNING' CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE ARMY'S 'UNDER-SECRETARY'. IF CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE, FANNING WOULD REPLACE 'JOHN MC-HUGH'... WHO HAS SAID HE PLANS TO STEP DOWN BY NOVEMBER FIRST. THE NOMINATION COMES... AS THE WHITE HOUSE WORKS TO ELIMINATE 'BARRIERS' TO MILITARY SERVICE.. BASED ON SEXUALITY OR GENDER.

9/21

MEANWHILE-- PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, DOCTOR BEN CARSON, IS STANDING BY CONTROVERSIAL COMMENTS HE MADE-- SAYING A MUSLIM SHOULD *NEVER BE ELECTED PRESIDENT. THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST MUSLIM CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, CAIR, IS CALLING ON CARSON TO DROP OUT OF THE RACE. SEVERAL DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HAVE ALSO CONDEMNED CARSON'S STATEMENTS.

9/23

DURING HIS VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING, PRESIDENT OBAMA PRESENTED POPE FRANCIS WITH THE SCULPTURE OF AN ASCENDING DOVE. THAT IS THE CHRISTIAN -- AS WELL AS THE INTERNATIONAL -- SYMBOL FOR PEACE. THAT SCULPTURE INCLUDES AN ORIGINAL ARMATURE BAR FROM THE STATUE OF LIBERTY THAT WAS PRESERVED DURING LADY LIBERTY'S CENTENNIAL RESTORATION.

THE SCULPTURE SITS ON A WOODEN BASE RECLAIMED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN AND INCLUDES A PERSONALIZED INSCRIPTION.THE PRESIDENT ALSO GAVE THE POPE A KEY FROM THE MARYLAND HOME OF ELIZABETH ANNE SETON.MOTHER SETON WAS THE FIRST NATIVE-BORN AMERICAN DECLARED A SAINT.THIS YEAR MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER CANONIZATION.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMY

7/14

THE D-C COUNCIL IS INTRODUCING THE "BUILDING SERVICE EMPLOYEES MINIMUM WORK WEEK ACT" TODAY THE BILL WANTS TO INCREASE WORKERS' ACCESS TO FULL-TIME HOURS AND WAGES. IT WOULD ENSURE THAT BUILDING SERVICE WORKERS OF LARGE COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDINGS ARE EMPLOYED IN SHIFTS OF NO LESS THAN 30 HOURS A WEEK. CREATING HUNDREDS OF FULL-TIME JOBS WITH HEALTH BENEFITS.

7/31

AMAZON REPORTS BETTER THAN EXPETED HIRING. THE ONLINE RETAILER SAYS IT'S HIRED MORE THAN 25-HUNDRED WORKERS IN BALTIMORE. THE FULL-TIME POSITIONS WERE FILLED AT THE NEW ONE-MILLION-SQUARE-FOOT WAREHOUSE THERE. THAT NUMBER EXCEEDS THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF ONE-THOUSAND JOBS WHEN THE PLANS WERE ANNOUNCED BACK IN 20-13.

8/27

THERE ARE NOW TWO COMPANIES IN HAGERSTOWN SEEKING MEDICAL MARIJUANA GROWING LICENSES FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND. ACCORDING TO THE HERALD-MAIL, "PEAKE RELEAF's" PRESIDENT IS THE LATEST TO NOTIFY THE CITY'S PLANNING COMMISSION. IF GRANTED-- THE COMPANY'S PRESIDENT SAID HE COULD ADD 20- TO 40 JOBS TO THE AREA. MARYLAND WILL ISSUE UP TO 15 LICENSES BY DECEMBER.

9/9

TWO-HUNDRED WELL-PAYING JOBS ARE COMING TO PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY. SOFTWARE COMPANY VENTECH SOLUTIONS PLANS TO BUILD A 23-THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT FACILITY IN MANASSAS. THE AVERAGE PAY WILL BE ABOUT 80-THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR.

9/9

JOB CUTS AT LOCKHEED MARTIN. THE BETHESDA-BASED DEFENSE CONTRACTOR ANNOUNCED TODAY, IT'S ELIMINATING ABOUT 500 JOBS FROM ITS INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND GLOBAL SOLUTION SEGMENT. THE REDUCTION INCLUDES VOLUNTARY AND INVOLUNTARY LAYOFFS.. AND WILL BE DONE BY MID-NOVEMBER. LOCKHEED MARTIN IS TRYING TO GET MORE COMPETITIVE AND ADJUST TO CHANGING GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES.

9/29

WHOLE FOODS PLANS TO CUT ABOUT 15-HUNDRED JOBS OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. THE UPSCALE GROCERY CHAIN SAYS IT NEEDS THE CUTS, IN ORDER TO INVEST IN TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES, AND IMPROVE ITS COST STRUCTURE. BUT IT SAYS SOME PEOPLE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOVE INTO NEW JOBS AT NEW STORES. THE COMPANY IS DEVELOPING A CHAIN OF CHEAPER STORES GEARED TOWARD YOUNGER CUSTOMERS. WHOLE FOODS' STOCK DROPPED 40-PERCENT OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, AFTER SALES AND PROFITS FAILED TO MEET EXPECTATIONS.

9/30

TONIGHT WE'RE LEARNING MORE THAN 70-PEOPLE WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS WHEN LAUREL REGIONAL HOSPITAL CLOSES. THE CLOSURE WAS ANNOUNCED EARLIER IN THE SUMMER. DIMENSIONS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PLANS TO REPLACE THE HOSPITAL WITH AN AMBULATORY CARE CENTER. THE WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL REPORTS THE CUTS WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH. MARYLAND LEADERS ARE WORKING WITH DIMENSIONS TO FILL GAPS LEFT IN MEDICAL SERVICES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

EDUCATION

7/14

THE DAY AHEAD/MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS CONSIDER TEST CHANGES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAY REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TESTING IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL CONSIDER FOUR TESTING OPTIONS DURING A MEETING THIS MORNING. THE DISTRICT SAID A REVIEW OF TESTING PROCEDURES FOUND TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS FAVOR LIMITING OR GETTING RID OF FINAL EXAMS IN EXCHANGE FOR MORE INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.

7/22

VIRGINIA'S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS REDESIGNING STATE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS.. AND IT'S ASKING FOR FEEDBACK IN AN ONLINE SURVEY, PARENTS AND OTHERS CAN WEIGH IN ON THE ISSUE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DIRECTED THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP THE REDESIGNED REPORT CARDS BY OCTOBER OF NEXT YEAR.

9/3

IF YOUR CHILDREN COMPLAIN ABOUT TOO MUCH HOMEWORK.. THEY MAY BE RIGHT. A NEW STUDY FINDS.. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE GETTING SIGNIFICANTLY MORE HOMEWORK THAN EDUCATION LEADERS RECOMMEND. THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SUGGESTS 10 MINUTES OF HOMEWORK PER GRADE, PER NIGHT. MANY FIRST GRADERS, ARE ASSIGNED THREE TIMES THAT AMOUNT! RESEARCHERS FROM SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING BROWN UNIVERSITY, CONDUCTED THE STUDY.

9/9

STUDENTS AT HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY WON'T TAKE FINAL EXAMS.. STARTING NEXT YEAR. MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTED YESTERDAY TO ELIMINATE THE END-OF-SEMESTER EXAMS. THE MOVE COMES AMID NATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT TOO MUCH STUDENT TESTING.. AND THE TOLL IT TAKES ON INSTRUCTIONAL TIME. EXAMS WILL BE REPLACED WITH SHORTER ASSESSMENTS TAKEN DURING THE QUARTER. THEY COULD TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS, INCLUDING TESTS, ESSAYS, PORTFOLIOS, AND PROJECTS.

9/29

BACK NOW WITH A LOOK AT A UNIQUE ART PROJECT IN D-C.
STUDENTS FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE CITY PAINTED PICTURES TO COVER THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE ON CAPITOL HILL. CREWS ARE WORKING AT THE SITE OF A FORMER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AT SEVENTH STREET AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. AS YOU CAN SEE, THOSE PICTURES COVER THE WOODEN STRUCTURE PROTECTING THE SIDEWALK.

9/30

TONIGHT, D.C. SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR KAYA HENDERSON WILL DELIVER HER ANNUAL STATE OF THE SCHOOLS ADDRESS. THE EVENT RUNS FROM SEVEN TO 10 P.M. AT DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL..AT 101 "N" STREET NORTHWEST. HENDERSON WILL DISCUSS THE SCHOOL SYSTEM'S PROGRESS AND ONGOING PRIORITIES. AND SHE'LL TALK ABOUT BUDGET CONCERNS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

FAMILY ISSUES

7/9

A NEW STUDY FINDS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN BIRTH DEFECTS AMONG BABIES BORN TO WOMEN WHO TOOK CERTAIN ANTIDEPRESSANTS. ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND BIRTH DEFECTS

THEY'RE PAXIL AND PROZAC. THOSE WOMEN TOOK ONE OR BOTH OF THE DRUGS IN THE MONTHS BEFORE GETTING PREGNANT.. AND DURING THE FIRST TRIMESTER. THE C-D-C CONDUCTED THE STUDY, AND FOUND ANTIDEPRESSANTS ZOLOFT, CELEXA, AND LEXAPRO WERE "NOT" LINKED TO BIRTH DEFECTS.

7/27

ARE APPARENTLY GETTING *TOO MANY* POINTERS FOR THE JOB STUDY: CONFLICTING ADVICE FOR NEW MOMS THAT'S THE WORD FROM A NEW STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL "PEDIATRICS" TODAY. IT SAYS MOTHERS ARE BOMBARDED WITH CONFLICTING ADVICE ABOUT HOW TO CARE FOR THEIR BABIES. THAT INCLUDES A NUMBER OF ISSUES LIKE BREAST-FEEDING AND VACCINATION. AND IT COMES FROM EVERYONE: DOCTORS, FAMILY MEMBERS, MEDIA.

8/24

IN HEALTH MATTERS.. MANY PARENTS ARE WORRIED THAT PEER PRESSURE COULD CAUSE THEIR CHILDREN TO DRINK OR SMOKE. BUT A NEW STUDY FINDS.. PEER PRESSURE COULD HELP KIDS MAKE INTELLIGENT CHOICES.. "IF" THEY HAVE THE RIGHT FRIENDS. RESEARCHERS STUDIED SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS WHO WERE PART OF A FAMILY-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAM. AS TIME PASSED, TEENS WHO HAD FRIENDS IN THE PROGRAM WERE LESS LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN RISKY BEHAVIOR. THE STUDY IS PUBLISHED IN THE "JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH."

8/25

SUMMER IS OVER FOR 130-THOUSAND CHILDREN IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGAN THIS MORNING. IT INCLUDED A RIBBON CUTTING AT TWO NEW INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS, ONE IN LANGLEY PARK, THE OTHER IN LARGO

8/25

CHILDREN IN CALVERT, ANNE ARUNDEL AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES -- RETURNED TO SCHOOL THIS MORNING. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SCHOOL OFFICIALS SAY ENROLLMENT IS UP THIS YEAR, WITH NEARLY 2-THOUSAND NEW STUDENTS JOINING THE SYSTEM. THAT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO 129-THOUSAND. TWO NEW INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS ALSO OPENED FOR THE FIRST-TIME...ONE IN LANGLEY PARK, THE OTHER IN LARGO.

9/18

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY MOTHER, ACCUSED IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HER TWO YOUNG CHILDREN, WILL APPEAR IN COURT TODAY. CATHERINE HOGGLE HAS A STATUS HEARING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. SHE'S CHARGED WITH ABDUCTION, NEGLECT, AND HINDERING THE INVESTIGATION AFTER HER TWO CHILDREN, 3-YEAR-OLD SARAH AND 2-YEAR OLD JACOB, WENT MISSING LAST YEAR. SO FAR, A JUDGE HAS SAID HOGGLE IS NOT YET COMPETANT TO STAND TRIAL.

9/18

THREE INSTITUTIONS DEDICATED TO CHILDHOOD CANCER ARE SET TO RECEIVE NEARLY ONE-MILLION-DOLLARS.. "HOPE ON WHEELS," WILL AWARD 900-THOUSAND-DOLLARS FOR RESEARCH ON CAPITOL HILL THIS MORNING.AMONG THE RECIPIENTS.. HILDREN'S NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT... GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S LOMBARDI COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER.. AND SIDNEY KIMMEL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER AT JOHNS HOPKINS IN BALTIMORE.

ELDERLY & AGING

7/9

NEW THIS NOON... FEDERAL MARRIAGE BENEFITS, ON THE WAY FOR *ALL* COUPLES. ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA LYNCH ANNOUNCED JUST HOURS AGO THAT PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND ELDERLY AND DISABLED AMERICANS WILL APPLY TO ALL MARRIAGES NATIONWIDE. BEFORE, THOSE BENEFITS WERE NOT GIVEN TO SAME-SEX COUPLES IN STATES THAT DIDN NOT RECOGNIZE THEIR MARRIAGES.

7/13

ONLY ON SEVEN-- A ONCE-TRUSTED CARE-GIVER IS BEHIND BARS TONIGHT-- DIANE HARRIS IS CHARGED WITH FELONY THEFT-- ACCUSED OF EMPTYING A MAN'S APARTMENT AFTER HE DIED. SHE ALLEGEDLY STOLE HUNDREDS OF ITEMS-- INCLUDING JEWELRY, COMPUTERS-- EVEN THE MAN'S CAR. THE HEIST WAS SO BIG-- DETECTIVES SAY SHE RENTED A U-HAUL-- USING THE DECEASED MAN'S CREDIT CARD.

8/24

AN ELDERLY MAN -- ARRESTED IN A TERRIFYING CASE OF ABUSE. POLICE SAY HE SUSPECTED HIS WIFE HAD AN AFFAIR FIFTY YEARS AGO. NOW: HE'S FACING CHARGES FOR ATTACKING HER WITH A SEARING CURLING IRON. GEORGE KEPHART IS ALSO ACCUSED OF BEATING AND STRANGLING HIS 78-YEAR-OLD WIFE INSIDE THEIR DERWOOD HOME. ANOTHER DISTURBING FACT: KEPHART WORKS AS A BUS AIDE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS -- SERVING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. IT'S UNCLEAR IF HE'LL KEEP HIS JOB. HE'S DUE IN COURT NEXT MONTH.

9/15

AN UPDATE TO A STORY A-B-C 7 FIRST BROUGHT YOU AT FOUR. AN ELDERLY MAN HAS PASSED AWAY AFTER GETTING THE WEST NILE VIRUS IN BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND. IT'S THE FIRST THIS SEASON. EVEN THOUGH IT'S LATE IN THE SEASON -- HEALTH OFFICIALS STILL RECCOMEND TAKING PROPER PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID GETTING BITTEN BY MOSQUITOS.

9/16

A DEVELOPING STORY.. A TREATMENT CENTER IN D.C. FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN NEED.. IS IN TROUBLE THIS MORNING. THE CENTER IS CALLED "WASHINGTON HOUSE".. AND SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL IS BUYING IT. THE NON-PROFIT LIVE-IN CENTER SERVES ABOUT 150 LOW INCOME ELDERLY AND DISABLED PATIENTS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH ALZHEIMER'S. WE TALKED WITH ONE WOMAN WHO'S CONCERNED ABOUT HER MOTHER, WHO LIVES THERE.

9/18

THERE'S A LAWSUIT TONIGHT -- IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRUESOME DEATH OF AN ELDERLY MAN. THE SUIT -- WORTH 12 MILLION DOLLARS -- IS AGAINST A D-C CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, AFTER THE VICTIM WAS HIT AND KILLED BY A STREET SWEEPER.