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CAUGHT IN LIQUOR STING

Eight allegedly sold alcohol to a minor, 21 did not
NEWS A2

CANCER IN HARFORD

County mirrors national trends
PP&T AA1



Monday's morning's showers didn't discourage Sam Teague of Edgewood, who waits for a nibble under cover while fishing at Friend's Park in Forest Hill.

MATT BUTTON | AEGIS STAFF

Murder snarls highway

2 shot, 1 killed along I-95

BY JOSH DOMBROSKIE
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Near death, a Havre de Grace man who had been shot in the chest, was found on a shoulder of I-95 near the Route 24 interchange early Tuesday morning.

A short time later, a man who had been shot in the leg was dropped off at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air.

The investigation of the crime scene on I-95 resulted in all but one of the lanes for southbound traffic being shut down well into rush hour, disrupting traffic for hours, and on feeder roads for miles around.

Police say the shootings may be related and, while they said they didn't have anyone in custody as of late Tuesday, they had found the car suspected being used in the crime in the Prince George's County Community

Please see **MURDER, A14**

Crime is up in Harford

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The number of violent crimes increased in Harford County in 2007, according to the annual report released this week by the Harford County Sheriff's Office. The same statistic had decreased in 2006.

On the positive side, drug seizures by the agency last year exceeded \$1.4 million.

Crimes including homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft rose from 3,533 in 2006 to 3,940 last year.

"I would prefer the rate of violence wasn't what it was," Harford County Sheriff L. Jesse Bane, said. "To this point in 2008 data is indicating violent crimes are decreasing. There is no single reason why they are up, no single reason why they are down. Some things we can control, some things we can't."

Bane said one area that the sheriff's office can improve on is in its use of technology to fight crime.

"An area that I believe we can improve most upon is to make certain that we are taking advantage of all

Please see **CRIME, A5**

-600 kids, +600 jobs

BY AMANDA BRENNER
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Harford County Public Schools has about 600 fewer students than it did two years ago, but that enrollment decrease hasn't slowing spending or the adding of new jobs.

While enrollment has declined of late, the school system has added nearly 600 new full-time positions since 2005, Harford County Executive David R. Craig said Monday

morning. Craig is prepared to increase the county's annual contribution to the school system operating budget by \$11.3 million in the new fiscal year which begins July 1.

Along with the increased funding will come increased hiring, at least 17 more employees — mostly classroom teachers, if the school system follows Craig's recommendation for how the additional money from the county should be spent. As a result, Craig expects the four-year hiring spree by the school system

to reach 616 full-time equivalent employees, more jobs added than the decline in total enrollment.

"They have about 600 fewer students, but they continue to grow in terms of employees," Craig said during a briefing on his proposed 2008-09 budget Monday for members of the editorial board of The Aegis.

Some of the growth is inevitable, Craig conceded. Of the new positions he has provided

Please see **GROWTH, A5**

Six of 10 Harford high school seniors report binge drinking

PAGE A3

Legislature's last week

Elected board bill down to the wire

BY LINDSEY ROBBINS
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Supporters of the elected school board bill for Harford County hope that the bill's getting out of the House of Delegates subcommittee Friday means there's a better chance the House will approve it.

The bill, which includes three governor-appointed board members and six elected from each of the councilmanic districts, has been languishing in the House Ways & Means Committee, despite earlier Senate approval.

It is one of the many locally sponsored bills that have passed one house only to be dangerously stalled in the other. Two local delegates' bills targeting sex offenders face a similar snag. All bills must be approved by both houses by the last day of the Maryland General Assembly session, April 7.

The lack of local courtesy for the school board bill has baffled members of the Harford County delegation to this point, spawning numerous explanations. Some of these have included that the Democrats who control the House are punishing the Harford

delegation's majority Republican members for voting against the state budget. Another explanation is that the House is confused by a "blended" board concept because no other county has a mix of appointed and elected members.

But the bill's recent hint of movement has slightly raised the delegation's spirits, said Del. Susan McComas, a Republican representing Bel Air District 35B.

"We're not out of the woods yet, but things are looking up," she said. "We can't turn our back on this."

Sen. Barry Glassman, a Republican representing Northern Harford County District 35, met with Speaker of the House Michael Busch and Ways and Means Committee Chairperson Sheila Hixson Thursday to try and push the bill.

He will speak on the bill before the House today (Wednesday) as part of a sponsor-only hearing.

Crime bills

After receiving House approval in February, McComas' bill increasing penalties for people possessing child pornography remains under Senate

Please see **LEGISLATURE, A4**



MATT BUTTON | AEGIS STAFF

Gwen Wright, front, one of the hosts of the PBS show "History Detectives" and a professor at Columbia University in New York, uses the Harford Community College library for some research about the Black Tom Explosion of 1916 in Whitehouse Station, N.J. Please see Page A2.

No secrets about thefts at Victoria's

BY JOSH DOMBROSKIE
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Not all the recent incidents of missing lingerie from the Victoria's Secret store in Harford Mall may have been actual thefts, Bel Air's police chief says.

At least three times in the last six months there were reports of thefts or attempted thefts of merchandise at the store, but police don't believe the store was being targeted by professional thieves.

On Oct. 3, a store employee told police that more than \$1,800 in bras and underwear had been stolen.

Police then responded Feb. 22 to a report of a theft in which, according to police reports, about 45 bras, again worth around \$1,800, were stolen.

The latest incident occurred March 12 when a Latino woman was taking merchandise, but dropped it and left the store after she was being watched. No one was charged in the incident and all of the property was recovered.

"I know that our officers have talked with them before about crime prevention measures," Bel Air Chief of Police Leo F. Matrangola said Thursday. "I guess we're going to have to go back and talk with them again about it."

Matrangola said he thinks the store has a problem with inventory control and some of the missing merchandise may never have even reached the store. He said no other stores in the

Please see **SECRET, A13**

WEDNESDAY

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HARFORD COUNTY'S #1 NEWS SOURCE

MDDC NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

SPORTS

ALL-HARFORD ATHLETES

The Aegis names the All-Harford teams in swimming, wrestling and girls and boys basketball.
SECTION C



COMING FRIDAY

LOCAL BUSINESSES

create lots of trash, much of which can be recycled. How do local businesses dispose of their paper, aluminum, plastic or any other recyclable?