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The Capital



FRIDAY

JULY 31, 1998, ANNAPOLIS, MD

35 CENTS

New starting times for schools

By LESLIE GROSS
Staff Writer

Dismissal times change for many students also

Almost one-third of the county's schools including those in Annapolis will have new starting and dismissal times this fall, school officials announced yesterday.

The plan has been in the works since last month, when the county school board made \$9 million in cuts to balance this year's budget. This change will save \$80,000 by combining more bus trips and further staggering dismissal times, which eliminates the need for nine bus contracts, said Winship Wheatley, supervisor of transportation.

The school system farms out most of its

bus service to 52 different contractors. School officials yesterday released the new times, which parents have been anxiously awaiting so they'll know how to shuffle their carefully orchestrated work-day-care and school schedules.

And many are irked by the new times. "I don't think it's going to be the best thing for kids," said Carrie Miller, a Windsor Farm Elementary School parent whose daughters will now have a 4 p.m. dismissal time.

The official listing was mailed to schools Wednesday.

Starting and dismissal times will change for 35 schools, mostly elementary schools. Some will start earlier and some will start later. In most cases, the changes will range from five to 35 minutes.

"I think most people recognize that we're in a very different mode here and that adjustments are necessary and that we all have to make adjustments," Mr. Wheatley said.

But some schools will be affected more than others. Students at Windsor Farm Elementary School on the Broadneck Peninsula and Meade Heights Elementary

School at Fort George G. Meade will face the biggest change from their 2:55 p.m. dismissal times. Those are the only two schools at which the day will now start at 9:45 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

Most Annapolis schools were affected, with at most a 35-minute change. None of the schools in south county, where the bus rides are particularly long, will have later dismissals.

Transportation officials made the changes so they would disrupt the fewest schools, he said.

"When you change the school hours, it

generates a lot of problems," Mr. Wheatley said.

Windsor Farm parents have echoed that sentiment. Mrs. Miller, who has a first- and a second-grader at the school, said her little children will be worn out by the end of the day. Her kids will still wake up early, around 7:30 a.m., so ending the school day at 4 p.m. will make for a very long day.

"I'm concerned about the brain power in the afternoon," she said. "Nobody's happy about it that I've talked to."

It will also throw a monkey wrench into participating in after-school activities. The late dismissal will force Mrs. Miller's children

(See TIMES, Page A8)

Regency Homes files for bankruptcy

By KRISTIN HUSSEY
and JEREMY SHWEDER
Business Writers

Regency Homes Corp., one of the biggest home builders in the county and state, declared bankruptcy yesterday, effectively shutting the business down.

Regency, known for its aggressive style, built local projects including South River Colony in Edgewater, Russet in Laurel and Waterford in Riva. The company also sold condominiums at Waterford and at Admiral's Reach, just outside the city.

The company was based in Annapolis until 1997, when the home building division moved to Columbia. The corporation's headquarters remained in Annapolis.

"We've been hearing about this for months and months and months," said Michael DeStefano, president of the Anne Arundel County chapter of the Home Builders Association of Maryland.

"It's the case of a company being really aggressive and not being properly capitalized."

The bankruptcy filing leaves the fates of an unknown number of home buyers in limbo.

While the Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing locked up all company assets, the Maryland Insurance Administration said that Regency had filed a \$500,000 bond with the agency to protect consumers who made home deposits.

Only Maryland residents are eligible to receive compensation from that bond, said Thomas Raimondi, deputy commissioner for the agency.

State officials expect to have a full list of people who put deposits on Regency homes by Monday after

(See REGENCY, Page A8)



William Klamon of Arnold inspects the charred remains of the home he was building in Cape Anne. The fire is the second one at the site since January.

Dreams dashed again as fire destroys home for 2nd time

By CHRISTOPHER MUNSEY
Staff Writer

Two years ago, William Klamon and Mary Barnes had the same dream — refurbishing a 1940s-era summer cottage in Churchton.

He would provide the capital and she would provide the labor to transform the Cape Anne house at 1108 Wildwood Lane into a year-round residence.

But those dreams were dashed — first when the house burned on Jan. 4, and again on Monday when the house being built to replace it went up in flames.

"That's why this is really devastating, because it's the second fire on the site... but this is much worse," said Mr. Klamon, an Arnold resident.

"You can imagine our feelings. We were just picking siding colors and picking out bathroom fixtures — and now this."

Monday's fire was reported at 5:02 p.m., said Battalion Chief John Scholz, county Fire Department spokesman.

The first firefighters to arrive got there in five minutes and found the two-story structure engulfed in flame. The blaze went to two alarms, but was

declared under control about a half-hour later.

"When it's just a pile of lumber, it doesn't take too long to burn completely," Chief Scholz said.

Mr. Klamon said the burned structure will have to be leveled to its foundation. He and the builder, Joseph Mona of JFM Enterprises of Accokeek, are trying to determine whose insurance company will cover the loss.

After the early morning fire on Jan. 4, attributed to wood stove cinders, Mr.

(See BLAZE, Page A8)

Schools see slight increase in expulsions

By SUSAN HERENDEEN
Staff Writer

The spate of bomb threats that plagued county schools last year fueled a slight increase in the number of students expelled, according to an annual disciplinary report released yesterday.

During the academic year that ended in June, 543 students were kicked out, about 6 percent more than in the previous year. Forty-four were expelled for making false bomb threats.

Huntley J. Cross, special assistant for discipline for county schools, was at a loss to explain the bomb threat craze. County police investigated 160 false bomb threats during the school year, and made 55 arrests.

"I don't know, Dad? New idea? I don't have the foggiest idea why," Mr. Cross said.

Overall the number of discipline cases remained flat, with 1,093 students last year, after 1,094 the previous year, according to the report sent to the school board's Office of Student Safety and Discipline.

The report, which will be discussed Wednesday by the county Board of Education, found:

- The school system's most troubled youngsters tend to be 14- to 16-year-old boys.

- Black students make up a disproportionate number of those expelled. Black students make up just 20 percent of the 72,665 students in county schools, but 38 percent of all students expelled were black.

- Assault cases fell to 302 in 1997-98, down from 369 the previous year.

- The number of guns and knives found in schools fell to 129 last school year from 145 in 1996-97.

Any student who brings a weapon to school or engages in an unprovoked attack or malicious act of violence is shown the door.

- Students were caught with drugs in schools 69 times in the last year, down from 100 the previous year.

School rules require the expulsion of any student who is caught distributing drugs or alcohol on school grounds, or is caught with drugs or alcohol in his or her possession more than once. Students caught smoking cigarettes more than three times are also kicked out.

- Reports of sexual harassment increased from 145 to 169, but only two students were expelled for improper language or inappropriate touching.

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3 new firms in line for Navy facility

By JEREMY SHWEDER
Business Writer

County officials hope to sign three new high-tech businesses to leases in the Naval Surface Warfare Center by Monday, the day the county signs its own lease for the Navy facility.

The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corp. is hustling this week to complete leases for Vector Research, Maritime Applied Physics Corp. and Jackson & Tull Chartered Engineers.

The expectation is that County Executive John G. Gary Jr. will announce the new businesses at a formal lease-signing ceremony Monday, when the county signs a

master lease for the soon-to-be closed 45-acre Navy facility on the Severn River across from Annapolis.

The three companies that could soon move into the facility are a mix of high-tech and maritime use — exactly the combination the county hopes to attract to the center.

The Defense Department announced in 1995 that it was closing the research facility, which employed about 1,100 people.

Earlier this year the County Council approved plans to lease the facility. The county hopes to market it as a high-tech center and eventually turn it over to the private

sector. Vector Research, an engineering company doing machine research and development for maritime applications, already has a 12,000-square-foot building at the facility, formerly known as the David Taylor Research Center.

The company hopes to sign leases for two more buildings, totaling 35,000 square feet, said Tim Doyle, head of the machinery systems division for Vector.

The research center "was designed as a machinery research lab," he said. "That's the business we're in, so it suits us well."

The company now employs about 45 people and expects to grow, Mr.

Doyle said.

Maritime Applied Physics Corp. is a Savage-based company that designs and builds prototype vehicles for land and sea use.

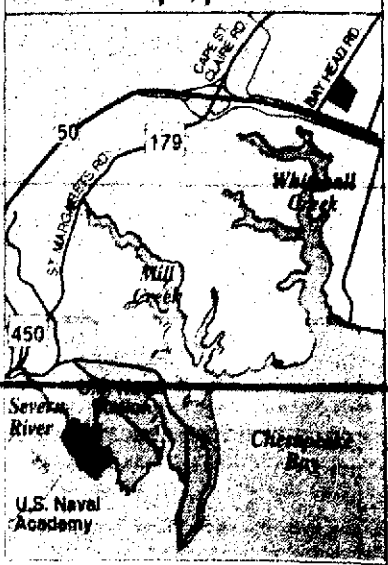
"We need the deep water access," said Mark Rice, company president.

Maritime Applied Physics, with annual revenue of about \$1 million, should move into an 11,300-square-foot space at the center in January, after the company's lease expires.

The 12-year-old company employs 16 people and also expects to grow.

The third company, Washington-based Jackson & Tull, builds "smart" buoys, according to Bill Badger, senior vice president of the Economic Development Corp.

Naval Surface Warfare Center properties



Capital Graphic

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

NEW STARTING AND DISMISSAL TIMES

The following schools will have new starting and dismissal times this school year because of a cut in transportation funds. If a school is not on the list, the starting and dismissal times are the same as last school year.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Annapolis - 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Arnold - 8:25 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
- Belvedere - 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
- Benfield - 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Broadneck - 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Brock Bridge - 9:20 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.
- Cape St. Claire - 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Eastport - 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- Georgetown East - 8:55 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.
- Germantown - 8:50 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
- Glendale - 8:05 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.
- High Point - 8:50 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
- Hillsmere - 8:55 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.
- Jessup - 8:50 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
- Manor View - 8:05 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.
- Maryland City - 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Meade Heights - 9:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Mills-Parole - 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Pershing Hill - 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- Rolling Knolls - 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Solley - 9:20 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.
- Sunset - 8:35 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
- Tyler Heights - 8:50 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
- West Annapolis - 8:25 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
- Windsor Farm - 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Annapolis - 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- Bates - 8:10 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
- Chesapeake Bay - 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

OTHER SCHOOLS

- Center for Applied Technology South - 7:10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Phoenix Chesapeake Bay Middle - 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Phoenix Glendale - 8:05 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.
- MacArthur - 8:35 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
- Magothy River - 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Old Mill-South - 9:05 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.
- Severn River - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

BLAZE

(Continued from Page A1)

Klamon bought out Ms. Barnes share in the home. He decided to tear the cottage down and build a new house. Work started last month.

Ms. Barnes said she and Mr. Klamon disagreed about what to do with the cottage. She now lives in Annapolis.

Next-door neighbor Laureen Of-

fer, at 1110 Wildwood Lane, said another neighbor came to her back fence and yelled that there was a fire next-door Monday afternoon.

The Offers called 911 and moved their vehicles out of the driveway that separates their house from the burning structure. The house is about 15 feet from their home.

"Within two or three minutes, the whole house was engulfed in flames," Mrs. Offer said.

They tried to get a garden hose set up to spray water on the side of their home, but the heat was too intense. It was a windy afternoon,

and the Offers were afraid the fire would jump to their house, too.

"We couldn't get close. We were like, 'Hurry up and get here so our house doesn't burn down,'" she said.

The fire's intense heat melted vinyl siding on the Offers' home on one side, and a home owned by Nancy Jane Adams on the other side.

Neighbor Tammy Malanka said she heard from other residents that the smell of burning plastic was in the air on the street Monday afternoon.

The house had been under construction for about two weeks, and workers had installed windows and doors on the front on Monday. Ms. Malanka said.

"It's a sad sight," she said.

Fire investigators believe the blaze originated on the second floor of the house, but the cause is under investigation. Construction workers had left about an hour before the fire, he said.

The house is listed as a total loss, with damages estimated at \$60,000.

Search for Delaware official's body called off

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Investigators have decided to abandon the search for the body of Anne Marie Fahey, who was Gov. Thomas Carper's scheduling secretary and is thought to have been killed and dumped at sea by a prominent attorney.

Investigators called off the search after Navy divers unsuccessfully searched the Atlantic Ocean off Stone Harbor, N.J., on June 27, according to *The (Wilmington) News Journal*.

Gerard Capano has testified that he helped his brother, Thomas, dump the body some 70 miles out to sea on June 28, 1996. The body was wrapped in two anchors and tossed overboard, along with a padlocked chain, Gerard Capano has said.

Navy divers were optimistic about finding the body last month because a scan of the ocean floor had spotted items thought to be an anchor and a chain. A large mechanical claw scouring the ocean find an anchor and a chain, but they were not of the same size as those Gerard Capano described, the newspaper said.

Calling off the search means Ms. Fahey's family would have to give up hopes of ever giving her a proper burial.

"Our hope was that they would find Anne Marie's remains and we would have some semblance of a burial," Ms. Fahey's brother, Robert, said yesterday. "Now we're

denied that forever."

Also, prosecutors will have to prosecute Mr. Capano without a body — something tried only once before in a Delaware murder case, and that, too, unsuccessfully.

But investigators have been able to corroborate much of Gerard Capano's story. Their key piece of evidence is an oversized fishing cooler, with a bullet hole, recovered from a fisherman on Nov. 13, 1997, the day after Capano was arrested and his brother's statements about the burial at sea became public.

Gerard Capano has testified the body was packed in ice in a padlocked, 162-gallon fishing cooler when he and his brother set out to sea. They tossed the cooler overboard, but it wouldn't sink. Gerard Capano, using a shotgun he often used to kill sharks, said he fired at the cooler, but it still wouldn't sink.

So Thomas Capano pulled out the body, wrapped the anchors around it, and threw it into the water, Gerard Capano has testified. Afterward, he said, he took the lid off the cooler and tossed both pieces overboard.

A few days later, a fisherman found a large cooler with two holes from a single slug — floating in the ocean.

Mr. Capano is charged with first-degree murder. He's being held at Gander Hill Prison until his trial, set for October.

Limo firm sues IRS over liens

By JOSEPH DILEO For The Capital

BALTIMORE — An Annapolis limousine company has filed a federal lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service on the grounds that it was wrongfully assessed more than \$40,000 in taxes, liens and penalties for alleged unpaid payroll taxes.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court here by A Better Limousine Service Inc. of 1994 Moreland Parkway.

The litigation seeks the removal of the liens, penalties and taxes assessed quarterly from Jan. 1, 1993, to Dec. 31, 1995.

The action also contests any liens, taxes and penalties assessed by the IRS since Jan. 1, 1995.

The plaintiff states in the lawsuit that all of its drivers are independent contractors who are responsible for paying their own income taxes.

Rob Taylor, owner of the limousine service, said many limo companies nationwide had similar problems with the IRS.

Vaccination plans for wild raccoons

The county Health Department is planning to vaccinate wild raccoons around Annapolis for rabies and will brief residents about the procedure on Monday.

Medical, veterinary and other specialists from the health department will join federal and state officials from 6 to 8 p.m. at Annapolis High School to give information and answer questions about the county's program to give wild raccoons oral rabies vaccines.

The vaccines will be placed in bait throughout the Annapolis peninsula in late October. The vaccine a first for the county, may reduce the number of raccoons and other animals that contract rabies.

For more information, call the Health Department at (410) 222-7256 or see the Web site at www.health.co.anne-arundel.md.us.

Correction

A story in *The Capital* yesterday incorrectly explained former Annapolis alderman Wayne C. Turner's role in legislation that prohibited liquor licenses for organizations that maintained discriminatory membership bylaws.

The law was sponsored by then-alderman Carl O. Snowden in 1990 and opposed by Mr. Turner. Mr. Turner ultimately supported a weaker version of the law.

TIMES

(Continued from Page A1)

dren to miss church choir and ballet lessons.

Dee Dee Janos, a day-care provider in Annapolis, said the change could hurt her business. The later opening means her preschoolers will have to head off to school before the school-age children. Since she can't fit the whole crew in her van, she won't be able to take in any school-age children now.

"So that means I will have to take

fewer kids," she said. "I would have to be giving up school-age child care."

For working parents, it could also mean a financial burden. For those who were able to get their children off to school before going to work, the change will require them to find morning child care.

Traditionally, all elementary schools are closed by 3:35 p.m., Mr. Wheatley said. In about half of the schools with new times, school officials had already planned to make those changes as part of the annual adjustment in bus routes. That's the case for the Annapolis and Broadneck schools, he said.

EXPEL

(Continued from Page A1)

Other disciplinary cases — such as fighting, insubordination, verbal threats, truancy and vandalism — are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Cross said he would like to think the expectation of stiff punishments has brought the numbers down. But it may just be that such behavior fell by the wayside when making bomb threats became the thing to do.

There is, after all, a popular saying among teens: "You da bomb."

"It means you're cool," Mr. Cross said.

School officials found 56 students guilty of making false bomb threats last year; 44 of them were expelled.

In 12 cases, special education students caught making false bomb threats were offered home schooling instead of expulsion. That's because the schools are required to teach such students for a certain number

of days, Mr. Cross said.

But that's the tip of the iceberg.

Each false threat disrupted classes and caused the evacuation of the school so police officers with bomb-sniffing dogs could search the buildings. In the end, the bomb scares cost the school system more than \$1 million. No devices were found.

Just why boys were more likely to commit offenses than girls is an open question.

But the statistics show a clear trend. Of 534 students expelled last year, 77 percent are boys. And nearly 48 percent of those boys are 14, 15 or 16.

"Those middle years are very challenging years," Mr. Cross said. "You're trying to show your manhood to your peers."

The race question is another puzzle for school officials.

"There is a disproportionate amount of expulsions for African-American students," Mr. Cross said. "Certainly we're concerned about that."

REGENCY

(Continued from Page A1)

noon, but it's unlikely that home buyers will get all of their money back.

"My understanding is that (the deposits) exceed \$500,000 considerably," said Mr. Raimondi, deputy commissioner for the insurance administration.

Regency president Frank V. Mazza, an Anne Arundel County resident, expressed regret that the company was forced to declare bankruptcy. He said that the company was close to selling before a deal fell through.

"It is extremely unfortunate that we have been unable to reach an agreement," he said in a prepared statement. "In recent months, we have been working very hard with a buyer for the company or its assets."

At the last moment the parties could not agree. To our customers, subcontractors and employees, we are very sorry for the difficulties this has caused.

The company saw a 60 percent growth in 1996, settling on 679 new housing units. Regency was the fifth largest home builder in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area in 1996.

Regency brought in \$127 million in revenues that year with a net income of \$12 million.

In 1997 the company had sales of

\$130 million and was the only privately held home builder among the top 10 in sales in the Baltimore-Washington region.

In recent years, Regency started an aggressive marketing push and widening of the company's geographic base. The company bought out Lovell Homes, its British partner, last year.

Yesterday's bankruptcy filing did not include the total assets or liabilities for Regency but did include 119 pages of creditors, said Paul Trinkoff, Regency's attorney. The company has 15 days to submit financial information to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The County Department of Planning and Code Enforcement could not immediately identify how many projects Regency was currently working on in the county.

Frank Ward, director of the permit application center for PACE, said that permits had recently been issued for two local developments, Stoney Beach in Pasadena and Cambria in Davidsonville.

Two other Regency projects were under way, he said.

Those were Harbour Gates off Bestgate Road in Annapolis and West River Estates in Shady Side.

Mr. DeStefano said that the smaller subcontractors usually suffer the most in bankruptcies such as this.

"It has put a real bad hurt on a number of small contractors," he

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