

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

WHUR and Black Entertainment Television will hold its toy drive for YMCA Kids in Need at the Iverson Mall today from noon to 4 p.m. at Iverson Mall's main entrance, 3737 Branch Ave., Hillcrest Heights, Md. The annual tradition helps bring gifts to families in need during the holidays.



WHAT'S MAKING NEWS

MEDAL OF FREEDOM

President Bush, right, bestows the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Ruth Johnson Colvin, from Syracuse, N.Y., during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Friday.

In a glittering East Room of the White House, decorated for the holidays, President Bush presented the Medal of Freedom to teachers, historians, a writer, a musician, a scientist, a former Cabinet official, a baseball player and a former Soviet dissident. — AP

NEWS IN BRIEF

IMMIGRATION

Alleged ex-Bosnian Serb soldier indicted in D.C.

A District man was one of 16 men charged with lying about serving in the Bosnian Serb military when applying for refugee status in the United States, Department of Homeland Security officials said.

Milisav Vukovic was charged with one count of false statements for allegedly concealing his prior service in the Bosnian Serb military when filing immigration applications with the U.S. government. Through these fraudulent applications, the defendants were able to gain refugee status, allowing them to enter and reside in the United States. — *Scott McCabe*

COURTS

Silver Spring man sentenced to 10 years for bank fraud

A 33-year-old Silver Spring man was sentenced to more than a decade in prison for bank fraud and aggravated identify theft, according to a release by the United States Attorney's Office in Maryland.

Cleveland Kilgore will spend 149 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised, and is ordered to pay \$268,930 in restitution and forfeiture. According to testimony at Kilgore's trial, the Silver Spring man defrauded Bank of America of about \$270,000 from September 2004 through March 2005. Witnesses testified that he obtained account holders' bank account numbers and balances, names and addresses and driver's license numbers and then used this information to forge documents. — *Dena Levitz*

MONTGOMERY

County SWAT team rescues baby after home invasion

Members of a Montgomery County SWAT team rescued a 1-year-old boy from his Forest Glen home Friday morning after four men burst into the home in a burglary attempt, according to county police. County police officers arrived around 9:30 a.m. at a home in the 2400 block of Hayden Drive in the Forest Glen Community of Silver Spring. A 42-year-old nanny told police she had escaped from the house earlier after four men in masks burst into the home. The nanny grabbed a 3-year-old girl and fled the home, police said. The SWAT team entered the home a short time later, found the baby unharmed but could not find the men, police said. — *Erica Jacobson*

TODAY'S TOP STORY » BUDGET SURPLUS

Kaine's spending plan draws questions

Some in GOP unsure about commitment to resolving state's traffic problems

By Joe Rogalsky
Examiner Staff Writer

Gov. Tim Kaine promised members of the General Assembly's tax and budget committees on Friday that clogged roads are the commonwealth's "most urgent problem," but some Northern Virginia lawmakers wondered after the speech if the governor was serious about his commitment to resolving traffic congestion.

In releasing his proposals to spend about \$1 billion worth of budget surplus Kaine reiterated his plan Friday to devote about half of that to key transportation projects, including creation of high-occupancy toll lanes on the Beltway.

Republicans in the House of Delegates believe the plan does not go far enough. They have proposed spending about \$200 million more on transportation than Kaine.

"The governor's actions have to speak louder than his words," said

Del. Jeff Frederick, R-Prince William. "If transportation is really his biggest priority, then he has to act like it."

Kaine would use the remaining \$500 million for a variety of initiatives, including reducing income tax rates for lower-income workers and funding economic development projects and health care initiatives.

"Transportation is the most important thing, but there are a lot of other things that are important and deserve attention," he told reporters after his speech.

During his annual budget address, the governor said he would introduce a plan next month to raise additional revenue to fund new transportation projects.

His plan to generate money through increasing the sales tax on automobiles died in the House earlier this year, as did a Senate plan to hike the gasoline tax.

"While we may disagree over how to pay for transportation, there is unanimous agreement that we need sustainable, long-term funding for our transportation system," Kaine told legislators.

Del. Frank Hall, D-Falls Church, said he understood the governor's need to fund more than transpor-

FINANCE SECRETARY SAYS GROWTH LIKELY WILL STAY ROBUST

Virginia's economy likely will continue to outpace that of the rest of the country, Finance Secretary Jody Wagner told the General Assembly's tax and budget committees Friday. The forecast below, prepared by the governor's Advisory Board of Economists, could be impacted by the cooling housing market and unpredictable energy prices, Wagner said. — *Gayland Hethcoat*

	Annual percent change	Fiscal year '06	FY07 Forecast	FY08 Forecast
Employment		To date		
U.S.	1.5		1.2	1.2
Virginia	2.2		1.7	1.8
Personal income				
U.S.	5.9		6.4	5.2
Virginia	6.1		6.6	6.2
Wages and salaries				
U.S.	6.6		6.2	4.6
Virginia	6.8		6.5	6.1
Unemployment				
U.S.	4.8		4.8	5.0
Virginia	3.2		3.3	3.5

tation in his spending proposal and predicted that more money could be coming for roads and mass transit. "We can move some of that around when we start in January," he said.

Del. Vincent Callahan, R-McLean, was upset about something that was not in the governor's speech.

Unlike House Republicans, Kaine opposes selling bonds, which have to be paid off over many years with interest, to fund transportation.

"The people I represent can't afford to have their leaders leave a vital and already-available transportation funding tool sitting idle on the table," he said.

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Task force sets target for finishing Tysons blueprint

By William C. Flook
Examiner Staff Writer

A blueprint for the future of Tysons Corner will be complete by the end of 2007, according to a task force drafting the plan.

Tysons Corner — the closest thing to a downtown in Fairfax County — has become one of the most closely watched neighborhoods in the region. The commercial nexus is primed for massive change with rail slated to run through its center and dramatic redevelopment likely to follow.

The coming metamorphosis prompted officials to form the Tysons Land Use Task Force — and sign a \$1 million contract with an urban planning firm — to chart out a course for Tysons. About 20 development proposals have been put on hold pending the completion of the task force's work.

Communities around Tysons



The intersection of International Drive and Chain Bridge Road, also known as Route 123 in Tysons Corner during evening rush hour traffic, with the Mall in the background. — *Brig Cabe/Examiner*

Corner are worried that development will bring even more traffic to an area already choked with cars. Task Force Chairman Clark Tyler said the group plans to launch major community outreach efforts next month.

"In certain quarters, the words

density and growth send shivers up the spine," he said. "Especially the communities around Tysons, they're ... saying 'what kind of development is going to swamp us with more traffic?' We want to hear what they think and get some ideas from them."

The group's recommendations are slated to be finished in one year, according to a timeline released this week, at which point it will be submitted to the county's Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

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