

More top news**American to host panel discussion**

American University will host a panel discussion on the legal implications of the military commissions that will try detainees at Guantanamo Bay as war criminals. The discussion is scheduled for noon Wednesday. For more information, call Kathy Thompson at 202-274-4279 or send an e-mail to kthomp@american.edu. — Mike Rupert

Discussion on condo conversion to be held

The D.C. Bar will host a panel discussion on condo conversions today at the Bar's conference center, B-1 level, 1250 H St. NW.

The discussion is geared to lawyers who represented developers, but there will also be a discussion of "a unique D.C. funding source" for condo conversions.

For more information, call the Bar Sections Office at 202-626-3463. — Mike Rupert

Maryland sues drug company

Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran Jr. joined 21 other states Monday to sue a pharmaceutical company for preventing competition for an oral contraceptive from a generic provider.

The lawsuit alleges the Warner Chilcott Corp. paid Barr Pharmaceuticals Inc. \$20 million to keep Barr from marketing a generic version of a drug called Ovcon last year. — Anna Bailey

Pr. George's County swears in new police watchdog today

Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson's nominee for the Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel, William Simpson, will appear before the County Council for a confirmation hearing this morning.

County officials announced a confirmation hearing and swearing-in ceremony 10 a.m. in the County Administration Building's Council Hearing Room, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro. — Karl B. Hille

Association: Tolls should be 'primary option' in road funding

Toll roads "should be the primary option for all road construction and reconstruction projects," the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association, a worldwide alliance of toll operators and associated industries, said Monday.

IBTTA plans to issue a direct challenge to state and local governments Nov. 15 to consider toll roads for new roads and construction projects. — Christy Goodman

Multiplying love by adding to the family

Actress Rowell speaks out for adoption program

BY KAREN DEWITT

Examiner Senior Correspondent

Many a parent would like to give away their children when they become teenagers.

But on Nov. 19, teacher William Nolen will adopt 17-year-old Adam Coleman into his family at the 19th annual Adoption Day in Court at the District's Moultrie Courthouse. The ceremony will mark Adam's adoption and 30 others.

National Adoption Day is sponsored by a coalition of groups, including Casey Family Services and Target Corporation, dedicated to

improving the lives of foster-care youngsters through adoption.

Getting adopted as a foster child is challenging enough. For a teenager like Adam, it's almost a miracle.

Nolen taught Adam algebra and geometry at Baltimore's Forest Park High School, then became his mentor.

"I would bring him home and then last November just after Thanksgiving, we decided to become his foster parents," said Nolen, program director for emotionally disturbed children at the high school. "So I've been his teacher, his mentor and now his adoptive father."

Victoria Rowell, the actress who plays Drusilla Winters on "The Young and the Restless" and who is the keynote speaker for the adoption day, can appreciate that kind of encouragement.

"It is my duty to show what can happen even after 18 years of foster care if you're getting consistent encouragement," said Rowell, a former foster child who now runs a foundation to aid foster care children at www.rowellfosterchildren.org.

Nolen said that he and his wife, Joi, a lawyer, had always planned to adopt an older child but friends and family initially thought that the couple, who have two daughters, Jessica, 11, and Leila, 4, were "crazy to become foster parents."

"Maybe it was that he was from D.C.," said Nolen, a program director at Baltimore's Forest Park High School, "but Adam was different from the kids who had always lived in Baltimore. Adam always had a smile, a sparkle about him, an aura that made him different. He's a great kid."

*kde Witt@dcexaminer.com***FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION**

■ 129,000 children in foster care nationwide are available for adoption

■ Since 1987, the number of children in foster care has nearly doubled

■ Each year, approximately 20,000 children age out of the foster care system without ever being placed with a permanent family

■ National Adoption Day, sponsored by a coalition of organizations, works with courts, judges and attorneys to finalize foster care adoptions; see nationaladoptionday.com

■ For more information on foster care adoptions in the District, visit dcmfapa.org

D.C. hopes to hit pay dirt with program

BY MIKE RUPERT

Examiner Staff Writer

The piles of leaves District residents are raking from their lawns this fall could end up back in their yard by spring, that is if the city has its way.

The city has started a pilot program to turn the 10,000 tons of leaves expected to be collected this year into a fine, nearly professional-grade mulch that could be available to residents by March — and might raise some money, said Kevin Bryant, a deputy director of operations with D.C. Public Works.

Bryant said the city tested the equipment — a \$50,000 screener that separates leaves from street trash — on Friday and the results were excellent.

"We think this is going to be a great program that will deliver a high-quality product relatively quickly," Bryant said. It will be the first year the recycled leaves will be available to the public.

After a brief stop at the city's two transfer stations, the leaves, which will be collected through Jan. 7, will be taken to city-owned land in Laurel, Bryant said. They will then be screened again for trash, ground into a fine mulch and allowed to compost.

"We will make sure there is enough moisture and turn them through the winter," Bryant said. "By spring,



Greg Whitesell/Examiner

Vernon Matthews, 45, of the D.C. Department of Public Works, shows a new leaf mulch product that can be used for landscaping.

we should have a great product."

Initial test samples are already available to the public at the city's New Jersey Avenue facility.

Similar programs in Alexandria and Arlington have been successful, said Erik Grabowsky, acting director of Arlington's solid waste division.

Grabowsky said the county delivers mulch to residents for a fee, but also makes it available for free at designated sites.

"It's really a win-win situation," he said.

*mrupert@dcexaminer.com***MAKE LIKE A TREE ...**

■ Do not park cars on top of a leaf pile — it may ignite leaves.

■ Rake leaves into a pile in the tree box space. Leaves in the street create travel and parking hazards.

■ Put leaves where city crews can easily vacuum them. Avoid areas where there are parked cars or low-hanging trees.

■ Bags of leaves should weigh no more than 60 pounds each.

Man with gun causes lockdown at Md. school

BY KARL B. HILLE

Examiner Staff Writer

Using tactics perfected after snipers shot and wounded a Bowie middle school student about three years ago, Prince George's County police locked down Arrowhead Elementary School in Upper Marlboro on Monday after a man armed with a rifle tried to enter the school.

School students and staff were confined to the gym for their safety as police searched the area with helicopters and dogs for four hours. No arrests were made.

"An officer on routine patrol saw a man wearing a black jacket, dark pants and a ski mask carrying a long gun on school grounds," Cpl. Diane Richardson said. "He said he had no doubt it was a long gun."

By the time the officer made a U-turn in his cruiser, the man had run down to the school building and was trying to open a locked door. After seeing the officer approach, he ran into the woods. It was 11:30 a.m.

No one was hurt and everyone in the school was accounted for, Richardson said.

Just after 3 p.m., parents who showed identification were allowed in to get their children during the regular dismissal hour.

khille@dcexaminer.comTODAY AT 4PM **OPRAH**®**Medical mysteries**

Meet the girl who FEELS NO PAIN! Then, the MERMAID GIRL MIRACLE! Plus other mysteries that baffle doctors, at 4!



THEN AT 5PM

Beating speeding tickets?

Area drivers speeding AND dodging tickets! They seem to SLOW DOWN in ALL THE RIGHT PLACES! Do they know something you don't?