MRS. SANTA: $1,722 needed to reach $20,000 goal!

Food trucks due to start rolling Friday!

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 89TH YEAR

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Community centers complain

City's poor will get oil

State official says 'there is oil for everybody'

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Despite claims by a local community center director that people in need are having difficulty receiving fuel assistance from the Maryland Energy Assistance Program, (MEAP), a spokesperson for the state said this week that there is "fuel available for everybody."

Charles Tildon, assistant secretary for the state Department of Human Resources, said that he did not know who Tom Culotta, director of the Survival Community Center in Remington had talked to, but "fuel is available for everybody."

"It is clear to me," he said, "that Mr. Culotta either has not talked to anybody at the Department of Human Resources, or if he did, he failed to understand the process."

Culotta accused the department of poor management this week, stemming from complaints he has received from needy families who have apparently found problems when applying for energy assistance through the program.

In one case, he said, a man recuperating from cancer surgery allegedly called one Urban Services Agency outlet, which has been given responsibility for implementing the program in Baltimore City, and was told there was no energy assistance available for him at that point because "his case was not an emergency."

Culotta said he began to make investigations into the program, and when he tried to get through to city officials, he was "given the run around."

He also said that he learned that funds to be used for the MEAP program were not available, would not be released until Dec. 15, and that the city and state knew this when the program was set up.

"The whole thing this year is that the program is not an "emergency program like it was last year," Culotta said. "This year, the state has said it is a benefit program...and that makes a lot of difference in the way the program is run."

Culotta said that because of the change in Classification there are more opportunities for delay in dissemination of the energy "benefits."

One of the biggest hold-ups is the applications process itself.

"People are calling USA now and are being given appointments to begin the application process in mid January or after," he said.

"What happens to the people who need fuel before then? Because the program has been named a "benefit" program instead of an emergency program, people in need can't call today and expect to receive fuel tomorrow."

Culotta also sharply criticized the application process once it begins.

"You make application to the program...and your application is sent to York, Pennsylvania, where it is sent through a computer."

"If everything has been filled out correctly, you get a letter in about three weeks that lets you know how much money you are eligible for," he said.

"But if you have made a mistake in your application, it is possible that the computer will reject the application...after three weeks have passed, and the applicant would have to begin the process over again."

Culotta said that visits to several of the USA centers which are taking applications convinced him that the applicants were poorly informed about the process and that USA employees were not trying to answer any of the questions that every applicant should know.

He also said that in conversations with state officials about the program, it was explained to him that they "had anticipated the problems."

"It seems to me," Culotta said, "that the way the program is set up, people could still be applying for fuel assistance in April and could be determined eligible in late May."

While Culotta said he understood the monies for the program came from both the federal government and the state, he said he felt the city could do more to expedite the program and

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Murder-rape trial

'I deserve to be punished'

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

The psychiatrist for 36-year-old Elvis Horton testified this week that Horton told him he "deserved to be punished for the March 2 first degree rape and first degree murder of 12 - year - old Walisia Fergurson.

Dr. Alan S. Greenberg, who examined Horton after he was arrested and charged told a Criminal Court jury, "I asked Horton about the crime and he said, "It's a terrible thing and I deserve to be punished."

Horton, of the 2200 block East Lanvale St., has been on trial since Dec. 12 and faces a possible death penalty for the crimes.

Dr. Greenberg testified that Horton was a "border - line schizophrenic and was known to break down under drugs and alcohol."

Assistant State's Attorney Timothy Doory told the jury in his opening statement that Walisia left home last March to shovel snow from her neighbors' sidewalk around 10 a.m. and never returned home.

After she was later reported missing by her mother, her clothes were found by her brother in a paper bag around the corner from her house.

A police officer testified that he and several officers were forced to kick down the door to Horton's house because he would not open the door.

Walisia's body was found by homicide detectives in a cardboard box in the basement of Horton's house.

During cross examination, Doory asked the doctor if the defendant had been arrested and examined.

Dr. Greenberg told the jury, "He (Horton) said a man came to his house and offered to sell him a television and some pills. The man said the pills would keep him high for days and also gave him an injection that would keep him high."

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ALTHOUGH THE IDEA IS to tell the guy in the red suit what you want for Christmas, 2-year old Tyan Frazier doesn't seem at all impressed with the whole process. Tyan is one of thousands of young children who have or who are visiting area shopping centers with their parents in preparation for the Christmas holiday. Many merchants report lower sales this year . . . but business is far from shirking.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

Strike ends; 2,000 return to work

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Striking members of Union Local 1199-E, the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, returned to work this week, ending the longest hospital strike in the city's history.

Contract negotiations between union officials and the management of Johns Hopkins and Sinai Hospitals took a turn for the better this week after grueling and unfruitful sessions since the strike began Dec. 1.

Under the terms of the new contract, employees at Hopkins received an 8 percent wage increase, retroactive to Dec. 1 of this year, and will receive an additional 8 percent increase Dec.1, 1981.

Hopkins officials also agreed to pay 9 percent of the gross payroll into the National Benefit Fund, which was cited as being the key issue of the strike.

The 9 percent was a reduction from the original 10 percent level requested by the union, and was reportedly more " closely in line with the benefits that are actually received by the hospital employees," a hospital spokesperson said.

At Sinai, the negotiations yielded a similar agreement for an 8 percent wage increase, also providing for another such increase next year.

But Sinai officials did not agree to the 9 percent rate into the National Benefit Fund.

Hospital management at that hospital is apparently convinced that it can convince union trustees that 8 percent payment into the fund is adequate to provide union members with the "B" type benefits they now receive.

If the trustees of the union, however, a group which is comprised of 10 hospital management representatives and 10 union representatives, cannot be convinced that the 8 percent is adequate, an arbitrator will be assigned to determine just what rate is necessary for the retention of "B" benefits.

Under the terms of the new contract, Sinai will be required to abide by any figure the arbitrator assigns as an adequate sum.

"It's really an open-ended

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Woman seeks permission to bury abandoned child

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

A 56-year-old mother of three, upset that the body of the young unidentified girl found 41 days ago hanging on a fence has not yet been claimed, wants to do something about it.

Mrs. Carol Smith (not her real name) told the AFRO, "As a mother I could not enjoy Christmas knowing that this unloved child remains in the morgue. This child was abused and not even a neighbor has been to the morgue to identify her.

"I am a Christian and if you do something from your heart, God knows that you do it and you don't need to mention your name."

Despite the concerns of the mother, it appears it will be difficult for her to claim the body.

According to the law, no individual has the right to claim the body of an unidentified person unless he is a relative.

The girl, who is between 9 and 13-years-old, was found by two hunters around 10:45 a.m. Nov. 8. According to police she was suspended on the fence by her clothing and had been a victim of periodic child abuse.

Thy mysterious case has not been solved. Randolph W. Roby, a spokesman for the Howard County Police Department told the AFRO, "The chances of her being from Baltimore City are getting slim."

Mrs. Smith stated she would be willing to pay for funeral expenses. However, there seems to be a problem. Dr. Ann Dixon, an assistant state medical examiner

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Dear Mrs. Santa

'I'm in jail; family needs everything'

Dear Mrs. Santa:

I am presently incarcerated in the Maryland Penitentiary and I am writing concerning my wife and two children. I try to do the best I can for them from my job here, but I only make $1.00 a day as a clerk typist and I send them the best part of this.

My wife lives with her mother now and will probably be in this state until I am released. Her mother has another child of her own to take care of. My wife is unable to work because of past illnesses and receives very little income.

Whatever you are able to do for them for the coming holiday will be greatly appreciated. Our children are 5 and 6 and we need just about anything you can get or

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The Mondawmin Merchants Association presented $2,000 to help AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Above from (L) John H. Murphy III, AFRO Board Chairman; Carl Stokes, Everyman's Son, president, Mondawmin Merchants and Neil Garland of Modern Music Stores with Mrs. Santa, Ida Peters.

Booker T. Washington school to be revived

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

After months of stalling, the city has finally been given authorization to accept bids for the renovation project at Booker T. Washington Junior High.

Parents and community leaders who organized to expedite the long-planned renovations, breathed a sigh of relief at a meeting this week where they were informed by Leo J. Ritter, executive director of the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) that he would recommend the city take estimates.

Students and faculty members, who moved out of the McCulloh Street school, have been housed on two floors of the Calvert Education Center on West North Avenue for nearly two years.

Renovations for the more than 50-year-old school were approved in 1976 but after feasibility studies and schematic designs were prepared the project was estimated at nearly $1.4 million and was deferred until it was revised at a lower cost.

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