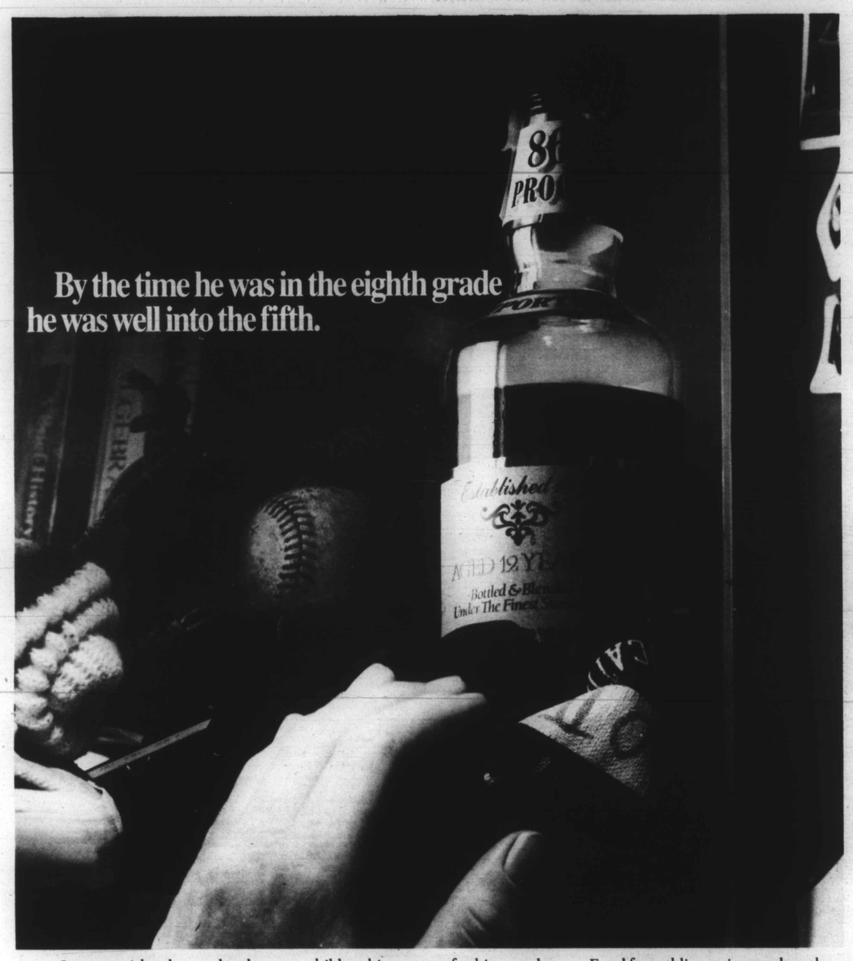

It starts with a dare and ends up in an alcohol detox unit. Last year, by the time he was fourteen, Johnny was a chronic alcoholic. His parents placed him in a treatment center that specialized in alcohol rehabilitation.

The saddest part of all was the fact that Johnny was far from the youngest, and there were plenty of children his own age for him to relate to. Some from the inner city, some from middle-class suburbia and others from extremely wealthy families.

Alcoholism is a disease that affects every race and every rung on the socioeconomic ladder. The Maryland State Lottery has provided over $2.0 billion dollars to the General Fund for public services such as the Drug Abuse Administration. We can't provide the cure, but we can help provide the care.

The Maryland State Lottery pays off in ways you may not even know about.

This Message Has Been Sponsored By The Maryland State Lottery Which Has A Commitment To Community Services.

Season's Greetings

Copyright by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co.

LATE CITY EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

95th Year No. 38 BALTIMORE, MD DECEMBER 20, 1986 50 CENTS

Just a reminder

JUST FIVE DAYS TO GO — This was the scene Thursday at the Lexington Mall downtown, where, despite the sopping wet weather conditions, Christmas shoppers were still making the rounds. Most stores in the city and county will be open Sunday, which gives you just five more shopping days before the big day.

PROVIDENT HOSPITAL FALLOUT:

Will any creditors get paid?

Claims have been filed for over a half-million dollars

By R.B. Jones

Although Provident Hospital seems dead and gone, the financial fallout is still being felt as the torturous process of paying creditors through the liquidation of Provident's few remaining assets takes place.

An examination of federal court documents reveals that over 400 creditors have debt claims filed against Provident Hospital.

The three largest, aside from government agencies, are Venable, Baetjer and Howard law firm for $380,841.14 for legal services to Provident Trustee George Russell.

Trustee Russell's claim for $128,177.31 for services rendered and expenses incurred as Chapter 11 Trustee, and a claim by former Provident President Howard T. Jessamy for $150,000 he claims is owed him on his employment contract with the hospital.

Each claim on the assets of the hospital will be reviewed by the trustee and if he objects, the judge will make the final determination of the justifiability of the claims.

Acording to Richard L. Wasserman, the attorney handling the bankruptcy case for Venable, Baetjer and Howard, there is no timetable yet for the payment of creditors and no solid idea of how much money if any at all that each creditor will receive.

"The distribution date for funds is not known right now. The largest category of assets the hospital has is accounts receiveable. Those are unpaid bills owed to the hospital.

"There are some miscellaneous properties, but the bulk of the assets the hospital has remaining are in accounts

Continued on page 18

Tragic fires claim 3 lives this week

600 BLOCK FULTON AVE. — Debris is piled up as firefighters mop up at the fire scene.

BODY REMOVED — Fire fights lower the body of a 44-year-old resident who died in the fire on N. Fulton Ave.

Haskins named head at the Harbor Bank

Joseph Haskins, Jr. has been elected President of The Harbor Bank of Maryland, announces its Board Chairman George L. Russell, Jr.

Immediately following the resignation of Joseph Aston, the board unanimously elected Haskins, who has served as one of its members since its founding, thus adding his knowledge of its operations and steady growth to his broad banking and financial experience.

Joseph Haskins Jr.

Haskins will be assuming his new full-time duties early in January, following his resignation from Prudential-Bache Securities, where he has served as investment broker through the past five years.

For the prior six years, he was Vice President of Business and Finance at Coppin State College, after working as loan officer at banks in New Jersey and New York.

In addition to being Secretary of the Board of The Harbor Bank of Maryland, his other board memberships include the Health and Welfare Council of Maryland, Baltimore Marketing Association and Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority of which he is Vice Chairman.

Continued on page 2

Fire danger season

By Roz Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

Tragedy and death do not observe the holidays. For many, caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season, now is a good time to heed a word of warning, says one fire official.

Already this week, two fatal fires have claimed three lives including one four-year-old child. James Bethea, 44 was found dead in his second floor bedroom in the 600 block of N. Fulton Ave., after he collapsed from heat and smoke while trying to flee the blaze.

An electrical fire swept through the home of Ms. Pauline Davis, 37, and her daughter, Christine Barnes, 4; in their basement apartment in the 800 block of North Madeira St.

When firefighters managed to reach the two, both mother and daughter were dead on a basement stairway where they apparently had been trying to escape.

Funeral services for Ms. Davis and her daughter will be Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in the March Funeral Chapel at 1101 E. North Ave. Fulton's body has not yet beenclaimed at the state medical examiner's office.

All too often, a familiar holiday scene is of a dry Christmas tree dropping pine needles on the floor with one extension cord and too many sets of lights plugged in that create a perfect setting for an early morning blaze, which

Continued on page 18

Park Hgts. Academy to name headmaster

By Paula J. Wagner
AFRO Staff Writer

By Jan. 1, the Park Heights Street Academy is expected to have a new headmaster, replacing Dr. Irving Hamer and in time to enter the battle surrounding the troubled 8-year-old institution.

Sources say the institution is in a serious financial crisis, and board members are currently trying to recruit 10 of the top reputed local fundraisers to boost the school's revenue.

According to an Academy official, the board has narrowed its choices for headmaster to two candidates, and the new leader should be named in a couple of weeks. The official also said that the new headmaster must

Continued on page 2

One wounded, one dead in cross-county chase

By Roz Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

What began as an armed robbery at a grocery store in a Howard County shopping center, ended Wednesday night, when one holdup suspect was fatally shot following a high-speed chase across county lines.

Two gunmen allegedly took money from an employee at the Super Fresh Supermarket in the Golden Triangle Shopping Center and fled the store in a blue Buick LeSabre, when a Howard County police officer who was passing by was alerted that a robbery had taken place by several bystanders.

During the high speed chase, the officer pursued the car which was involved in minor collisions with two cars, from Howard to Baltimore County, while the two suspects repeatedly exchanged fire with the officers.

However, failing to properly negotiate a curve, the getaway car slammed head-on into a light pole on Frederick Ave. at North Bend Rd. The two men then jumped out the car and attempted to escape on foot. According to police, they fired shots at three police officers.

Bernard Brown

Meanwhile, police returned the volley of fire and killed one unidentified suspect and wounded another, who was later taken by ambulance to University Hospital Shock Trauma, where he is listed in stable condition.

The wounded man was identified by police as Bernard Brown, 39, whose last known addresses were 283 N.W. V St. in Washington, D.C.; 244 N. Hilton St. and 788 Grant St. in

Continued on page 18

Protest shanty burned at UMBC

By Paula J. Wagner
AFRO Staff Writer

Students stroll by, to and from the Albin O. Kuhn Library and glare at the rickety shanty as a strange object in the center of the chilled UMBC's campus.

The shanty still stands erect in spite of the early Tuesday morning attempt to destroy it. The back is soft and black with burnt debris but the red, black and green letters on the outside walls are clear and striking: *Free Nelson Mandela, Stop Apartheid, Free South Africa.*

Continued on page 18

POLITICS '87

Black Republicams speak

Larry Gray

Victor Clark

By P. A. Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

They are conservative and fiscally responsible and are proud of it. They are but two of about 16,000 black registered Republicans in Baltimore City.

Continued on page 2

C-O-M-I-N-G

Beginning in the 5-Star edition of the AFRO, January 6, an eight-part series addressing the Black Needs Assessment Project and its recommendations for Baltimore City will run in its entirety.

To Subscribe Call: (301) 728-8200

DEC 1986