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Arundel Report

Commission hears tales of gambling woes

By SARA MARSH
Staff Writer

Kimberly Roman still remembers the seemingly endless hours she spent alone as a child, waiting outside various Las Vegas casinos as her father gambled inside.

This week, as members of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission listened, the Glen Burnie woman recounted how her father's gambling addiction cost

her family everything, including their home.

"I downplay the story of my life because it's not uncommon," she said yesterday. "I'm not the only story. I'm one of thousands, perhaps millions."

Mrs. Roman was the first of about 40 people — including 16 Marylanders — to parade before the commission, testifying

during a public hearing Wednesday in Washington about the social and economic impact of gambling.

Along with Mrs. Roman, three other Anne Arundel County residents — Del. John R. Leopold, R-Pasadena; Barbara Knickelbein, state coordinator of the grassroots group NOcasINO; and Glen Burnie resident Linda Smith — testified. All oppose legalized gambling.

The national commission, created by an act of Congress, has been given two years to examine the social and economic effects of gambling in America and report its findings to Congress.

"All of the Maryland people were strong in their statements," Mrs. Knickelbein said. "We all had something different to say."

Mrs. Knickelbein testified before the commission that cities that have legalized casino gambling reportedly have had problems with increased crime and economic damage.

Mrs. Roman encouraged commission members not to ignore anecdotal evidence from those affected by gambling.

"Each true anecdote is a statistic and must hear about and must take into account," she said.

Mr. Leopold, one of two Maryland legislators to testify, warned of the connection between casino gambling and political corruption. The other state legislator to testify was Sen. Christopher J. McCabe, R-Howard, co-founder of Marylanders Against Casinos.

Mr. Leopold also asked commission members to support laws that would ban advertising by gambling interests in neighboring states where gambling is illegal. Mr. Leopold is considering proposing such legislation in Maryland during the 1998 General Assembly session.

Mrs. Smith told commission members the gaming industry uses sophisticated residents, promising jobs and economic benefits that don't always materialize.

A representative of the Maryland Attorney General's Office also testified before the commission during the group's two-day meeting at the Watergate hotel.

Gov. Parris N. Glendening had a four-page statement hand-delivered to the commission, expressing his concerns about the

increasing number of casinos and their impact on families.

"Any gains made from expanding legalized gambling come at a tremendous cost," Mr. Glendening said in his statement. "Crime increases, businesses close, lives are ruined."

But others who testified before the commission, arguing that casino gambling ventures provided them with jobs and livelihoods that allowed them to put their children through college.

Gambling interests also have said Maryland race tracks need slot machines to survive and compete against slot operations in neighboring states such as Delaware.

Crofton man in Internet sex plan Thought detective was underage girl

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENBELT — A married 30-year-old Crofton man used his computer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center to set up a meeting for sex with what he thought was a 13-year-old girl, law enforcement officials said.

Brant Paige Brockdorff, of 2032 Putnam Lane, was actually communicating with Howard County Detective Diana Peters, officials said. She signed on as "Britneyluv" in her work for an FBI task force targeting child exploiters.

Mr. Brockdorff pleaded innocent Wednesday in U.S. District Court to a felony charge of interstate travel with intent to engage in a sexual act with a juvenile.

He was freed on his own recognizance. Mr. Brockdorff's pre-

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TIME TO BAIL

Epping Forest resident Brian Vetter, 12, uses a sponge to clear rain from his boat at the community beach yesterday. Although there's a chance of a shower this afternoon, it'll be perfect weather for boating — and just about anything else — this weekend.

Highs will be around 80 and skies will be clear. Nighttime lows will be in the upper 50s, according to the National Weather Service in Sterling, Va.



By David W. Trozzo — The Capital

Some area schools opening late

By LESLIE GROSS
Staff Writer

Almost 8,000 county students won't be starting school on Monday so teachers and students will have extra time to move into new buildings and handle grade reshuffling.

And in most middle and high schools, openings are staggered for different grades.

Though it may be a logistical nightmare for parents, the goal is to give sixth-graders time to adjust to middle school and ninth-graders to high school, or for students moving into newly renovated buildings.

"It's to make the transition between middle and high school, to come in together as a group so they're not so intimidated on their first day," said Michael Walsh, school spokesman.

Unless listed below, all sixth-graders start middle school Monday, and all seventh- and eighth-graders will start Tuesday. In the high schools, the first day for ninth-graders is Monday and the rest of the school returns Tuesday.

Following is a list of all exceptions and the school's first day for students:

- Jones Elementary — Wednesday.
- Oak Hill Elementary — Wednesday.
- South Shore Elementary — Wednesday.
- Chesapeake Bay Middle — Wednesday for sixth-graders only, Thursday all students attend.
- Lindale/Brooklyn Park — Monday for seventh-graders only, Tuesday all students attend.
- MacArthur Middle — Monday for seventh-graders only, Tuesday all students attend.
- Magothy River Middle — Thursday for sixth-graders only, Friday for seventh- and eighth-graders only, Sept. 2 all students attend.
- Meade Middle — Monday for seventh-graders only, Tuesday all students attend.
- Severn River Middle School — Thursday for sixth-graders only, Friday for seventh- and eighth-graders only, Sept. 2 all students attend.
- Southern Middle School — Wednesday for sixth-graders only, Thursday all students attend.
- Broadneck High School — Wednesday ninth- and 10th-graders only, Thursday all students attend.
- Southern High School — Monday eighth-graders only, Tuesday ninth-graders only, Wednesday all students attend.

nant wife attended the arraignment.

In July, Mr. Brockdorff allegedly sent the undercover officer a photograph of himself via e-mail. It showed him in baggy shorts and shirtless, posing with his arms crossed in front of him.

In an affidavit, Detective Peters said Mr. Brockdorff sent a message that he wanted to meet Britneyluv for the purpose of having sex with her.

The next day, Detective Peters said, she communicated with "LivininMD" and reminded him that Britneyluv was 13. She said he responded, "I would still like to meet if it doesn't bother you."

During a July 30 conversation via computer, Mr. Brockdorff allegedly told her that he would use a condom to have intercourse with her.

Less than a week later, Mr. Brockdorff allegedly asked her to call him at his office.

During that telephone conversation, he allegedly asked Detective Peters to meet him at a Washington mall on Aug. 6 to have sex with him.

When Mr. Brockdorff showed up at the mall, he was arrested.

10-mile race set for Sunday

By CHRISTOPHER MUNSEY
Staff Writer

Sunday's 22nd annual Annapolis 10-Mile Run will bring some 4,000 runners through the city and county — and road closures throughout the morning for motorists in Annapolis and across the Severn River on the Broadneck Peninsula.

Now a regional event for competitive running enthusiasts, the road race is sponsored by the Annapolis Striders, a local running club.

It takes runners over a course that starts at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium and continues through the city, the county and the Naval Academy before finishing back at the stadium.

The race starts at 7:30 a.m., and all roads should be fully reopened to traffic by 10 a.m., police said.

Race Director Ron Bowman said organizers try to minimize the problems for local motorists.

"After some rough bumps in the early years, it's pretty much settled down," Mr. Bowman said.

Besides the closed streets, the event might cause congestion on the Route 50 exits to Rowe Boulevard, as runners, relatives and volunteers head to the stadium Sunday morning, he said.

Motorists headed to downtown Annapolis that morning are advised

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to take West Street instead of Rowe Boulevard.

Church-goers headed to St. Paul Lutheran Church and Calvary United Methodist Church on Rowe Boulevard and other churches downtown should give themselves extra time, city police said.

In Annapolis, two major traffic arteries, Rowe Boulevard and King George Street, will be affected throughout the morning.

A segment of Rowe Boulevard — from Melvin Avenue to Herbert Sachs Drive at the Tawes Office Building complex — will be closed from 7:30 to 10 a.m.

In downtown Annapolis, King George Street will be closed from College Avenue to Route 450 and Annapolis Street from 7:30 until about 10 a.m.

Another section of King George Street, from Gate 1 of the Naval Academy to College Avenue, will be closed from 8 to 10 a.m.

Motorists will be allowed to cross King George Street on cross streets

throughout the race when gaps open up in the stream of runners.

As the runners head out at 7:30 a.m., a network of streets near the stadium — Taylor Avenue, Cedar Park Road, Farragut Road, Melvin Avenue, Annapolis Street and Route 450 — will be closed for about 10 or 15 minutes.

All except Taylor Avenue will reopen after the last runner passes. Taylor Avenue will remain closed until the race is finished.

County police will also be closing off a network of streets to motorists.

"Patience is the word of the day," said Officer John Brothers of the county police Traffic Safety Section.

Naval Academy Bridge will be closed to traffic from 7:30 to 10 a.m. County police will set up a turnaround for Route 450 traffic at the Scenic Overlook.

Segments of Route 450, Severn Ridge Road East, Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Elmwood Road, Ferry Farms Road and Homewood Road will be closed to traffic from 7:30 to 10 a.m., Officer Brothers said.

22nd Annapolis Run course

