Teen convicted of murder gets life

Andre Watford, 18, was sentenced to life in prison Sept. 14 by Judge Marshall A. Levin, for killing a 15-year-old girl.

Watford, of the 3900 block Oakford Ave., was convicted of first degree murder by a Criminal Court jury. Court records state Watford killed Miss Rowlette Brown, of the 3600 block Garrison Ave., two days after they had an argument.

Watford went to the victim's home after he was told Miss Brown had hired a man to kill him.

Watford shot the victim while she was in her bedroom and was arrested several hours later near the scene.

Del. Douglass wants black representation

(UPI) — Del. John Douglass (D-Baltimore) has criticized Gov. Marvin Mandel and the state insurance industry because the new 11-member board of directors governing the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund includes only one black.

Douglass said that half of MAIF's policyholders are black and blacks should be represented equally on the board.

"It seems inconceivable that the governor and the insurance industry could have such gross disregard for the rights of blacks," Douglass said.

Mandel plans to release prisoners to ease jail jam

(UPI) — More than 100 inmates will be freed from Maryland prisons Oct. 1 under a state program designed to alleviate severe overcrowding.

Alan M. Wilner, Gov. Marvin Mandel's chief legislative aide, announced the program Wednesday.

He said 108 state prisoners who have less than 60 days left to serve and who have served at least half of their original terms will be affected. However, Mandel also offered to commute the sentences of local prisoners.

More than 6,800 inmates are now housed in state facilities and another 1,000 state prisoners are locked in local jails.

Several subdivisions have complained in recent months that state prisoners are overcrowding their jails.

However, Wilner said there is no immediate solution to the problem.

"We've got to stop blaming each other for a problem which no one forsaw three or four years ago," he said.

But he added, "This is not a wholesale cleaning out of the jails and prisons."

The governor also is considering blanket pardons for prisoners who have undergone a screening process that determined they are likely to readjust to society. If they stayed out of trouble, the pardon would expunge their previous criminal record.

"The question is can we give the guy an incentive to stay out of trouble that, is better than already exists," Wilmer said. "We can't lose much because most of those people would be paroled anyway."

Approximately 300 prisoners' files have been screened, according to Wilner, but fewer than 25 are considered good risks.

"We have a very poor quality of prisoners," he said. "But if we can find the right people, we'll do it."

Although Wilner said the state was moving quickly on prison construction and expansion, including additional space at the Hagerstown facility, no new spaces are expected to be ready before next spring.

Lottery agency plans two new games Oct. 6

(UPI) — The State Lottery Agency plans to introduce two new games Oct. 6 because its daily number game is apparently cutting into ticket sales for the weekly games.

The lottery said the familiar 50-cent and $1 weekly games will be eliminated in favor of two "match and win" games that will have a higher percentage of winners.

Officials said the lottery will guarantee a $125,000 winner each week beginning Nov. 10.

Currently, the top weekly prize is $50,000 in the 50-cent game and $100,000 in the $1 game.

* * *

Aside from the promised big prize, the revamped lotteries will offer much better odds on the $1 game with 13,445 winners in each one million tickets, officials said. The adds on the 50-cent game will be about the same as the present game.

Since the daily lottery began, ticket sales for the weekly games have diminished to the point they gross only about 25 per cent of what the daily lottery sweeps in.

Tickets for the new 50-cent game, called "super 50 cents," will contain eight numbers. Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. beginning Oct. 6, the lottery will draw one six-digit, five-digit, four-digit, three-digit, two-digit number. Each will be the winning number.

* * *

Tickets for the new $1 game, called "17 for $1," will have 17 numbers, meaning 17 chances to win.

People eligible for the $125,000 top prize will be ticket buyers in the new 50-cent game.

High risk' youths should be vaccinated against Swine Flu

ATLANTA (UPI) — The Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) said today that children three years of age and older who are considered to be high-risk if infected with influenza virus should be given Swine Flu vaccinations.

CDC officials said recommendations approved by the Committee on Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics were that such children be given two inoculations four weeks apart to protect them against both Swine Flu and the A-Victoria Strain.

Children considered to be high-risk were those with: chronic bronchopulmonary disease. Such as Asthma and Cystic Fibrosis; heart afflictions; chronic Renal Disease; Diabetes and other chronic metabolic diseases; chronic neuromuscular disorders, and malignancies and immunodeficit states.

"It is recommended that these high-risk children be immunized against influenza," officials stated.

The announcement said children and adolescents aged 3-18 years should be given two injections each of split-virus vaccine containing units of both the A-New Jersey, or Swine Flu, and A-Victoria Antigens four weeks apart.

A single dose of the split-virus vaccine would be "far less satisfactory," federal health officials said. "Therefore, it is important that parents of children at high risk be informed of the inadequacy of a single dose and be urged to see that their children receive a second dose."

The Pediatrics Academy recommended that current studies be extended to include immunization of infants and young children due to the lack of sufficient data from field trails on inoculating those under three years of age.

CDC officials said that side effects from use of split-virus vaccines in trials this year were "mild and infrequent" with low grade fevers in only 2 per cent of vaccinated children. There were no seizures.

They also cautioned against doses of whole-virus vaccine in place of the split-virus type because "side effects would be greatly accentuated." Other vaccines should be given at the same time either because it would "make classification and interpretation of the side effects difficult."

Those children highly sensitive to egg protein should only be given flu vaccine under close supervision of a doctor and vaccination of children with "acute febrile illnessen should be postponed," health officials said.

Hypertension checkup urged

"With the nation returning to heavier fall and winter schedules this month, American workers would do well to ask their company nurse for a hypertension (high blood pressure) checkup," Sue A. Bill, president of the American Association of Industrial Nurses, advised.

Known as the "silent killer" — half its victims are unaware of having the disease — hypertension is a leading cause of stroke, heart disease and kidney damage and can lead to death and disability, Mrs. Bill warned. "With treatment, however, the disease can be controlled," she added.

"All occupational health nurses are trained and qualified to screen for hypertension and to make referrals as needed.

"And because these nurses are in day-to-day, on-the-job contact with employees, they are in a strategic position to provide convenient follow-up."

Occupational health nurses are employed by government, business and industry to help protect the health and safety of the U.S. work force.

UB student wins Bicen lottery

(UPI) — A 30-year-old Glen Burnie man hopes to finish his education and buy a house with the $177,600 grand prize money he won in the Maryland Lottery's "1776" game Wednesday night.

Frank E. Simmons Jr., a senior majoring in political science at the University of Baltimore, said the prize is a windfall because he was fired from his student job at the university after winning a prize of $7,760 in the qualifying round of the game in August.

"It was a job I desperately needed while I went to school," said Simmons, who is married and father of three. "I was supposed to go back to it on Aug. 15. I won the lottery Aug.11 and they called me Aug. 12 and told me not to bother to come back."

The second prize of $17,766 in the drawing went to Ervin J. Madigan, 55, Hyattsville, and third prize winner, Marie Allison, 54, Bryans Road, took home $9,776.

Nine other competitors won prizes ranging from $1,776 to $8,776.

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NAACP plans dinner to start member drive

Cong. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., now serving his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives country's outstanding and considered one of the statesman and speakers will address the annual Thanksgiving Freedom Festival Dinner of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP.

The event to be held Sunday, Sept. 26 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel will officially kick off the area's annual membership drive.

The social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m.

Subscriptions are $15 per person and can be purchased at the NAACP office, 1390 W. North Ave. or any membership campaign driver worker. Further information can be obtained from Mrs. Ida Russell, freedom fund committee chairperson at 523-8503.

* * *

According to NAACP officials, new to the annual drive this year is a city wide campaign effort headed by David L. Gleen and assisted by Ms. Michele Bland.

Ms. Bland, a 1975 graduate of Morgan State, told the AFRO "I am greatly pleased by the work people in the community have already started."

She stated that approximately nine committees began working a month and a half ago and she hopes that there will be an outstanding first report of membership and pledges at the freedom banquet.

* * *

Ms. Blan reminds Baltimore citizens that memberships in the NAACP range from $6 to $25 for individuals and are tax deductible. Shes aid included in the memberships subscription to the Crisis magazine.

She also said persons can purchase life memberships for $500 and golden heritage memberships for $1,000. Life membership for juveniles up to age 13 are $100. William D. Watts is the chairman of the Life membership committee.

Ms. Bland also pointed out there are regular memberships for $1 for youths under 17 and $2 for those between 17-21.

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