

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

LIGHT FOR ALL

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## Potent opioid surfaces among Md. drug users

Authorities alarmed as carfentanil kills three in state

BY ANDREA K. MCDANIELS  
The Baltimore Sun

Health and law enforcement officials around the state are bracing for an uptick in drug overdoses as a deadly synthetic opioid only meant for use in large animals has hit Maryland streets.

The drug, carfentanil, already has been linked to two overdose deaths in Anne Arundel County and one in Frederick County. The drug is so potent it was never meant for use in humans and is normally used as a tranquilizer for elephants, hippos and other large animals.

It is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 5,000 times more potent than heroin, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Health and police departments throughout the state have issued special alerts about carfentanil, while clinics and others who work with addicts are taking extra efforts to warn them about the danger of the drug.

"Usually when there's one or two cases, there's going to be several more right behind it," said Steven Bell, a spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Police departments also are warning officers about handling the drug because it



KENNETH K. LAM/BALTIMORE SUN

Because doses are so small, police have needed a specialized instrument called a mass spectrometer to detect carfentanil in blood and other fluid samples, at left.

can be absorbed through the skin. In Anne Arundel County for instance, officers are wearing gloves, as well as eye and mouth protection, when handling suspected drugs.

Carfentanil is so strong that naloxone, See **DRUGS**, page 9

## Killings logged in city top 100

Grim yearly milestone reached earlier than in past two decades

BY COLIN CAMPBELL AND JUSTIN FENTON  
The Baltimore Sun

For the first time in nearly 20 years, Baltimore reached 100 homicides for the year before the end of the April.

Three new cases Monday pushed the number of victims in 2017 to 101.

Among them was a fatal shooting near the Inner Harbor before daybreak Monday. As police discussed that case in the afternoon, a man was gunned down in East Baltimore, in the same block as a new senior center that was rebuilt after it burned while under construction during the rioting of two years ago.

"We have to engage this community or it's going to continue to be a bloodbath," said the Rev. Donte Hickman, whose Southern Baptist Church built the \$16 million center.

Baltimore, which experienced record-high per capita murder rates the past two years, had not seen 100 homicides before the end of April since 1998. Just three years ago, it took until July 4 for the city to record 100 killings.

Homicides are up more than 34 percent compared to the same time last year, and nonfatal shootings are up 27 percent.

"We're continuing to do everything we can to impact that number so it doesn't continue to grow," said T.J. Smith, the chief spokesman for the Baltimore Police Department. See **HOMICIDES**, page 9



JERRY JACKSON/BALTIMORE SUN

## The hands of time

Chris Balzer of Balzer Family Clock Works of Freeport, Maine, attaches a new minute hand to the east-facing clock face on the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower at Eutaw and Lombard streets in downtown Baltimore. Replacing the hands on the four clock faces is part of a \$1.8 million restoration of the cupola and the clocks that began in 2015.

## In Howard, it's board vs. superintendent

Foose at odds with her bosses over a variety of issues

BY TIM PRUDENTE  
The Baltimore Sun

A new majority took over the Howard County school board in December and passed sweeping measures to assert its authority over superintendent Renee Foose.

In response, she sued them. Now the superintendent and school board are

locked in a costly power struggle with dueling accusations and no lack of recrimination. The internal strife threatens to disrupt Maryland's sixth-largest school system, a district with 76 schools and 55,000 students that consistently ranks among the best in the nation.

"I've been very disappointed with the way that we're operating right now," said Kathryn McKinley, principal of River Hill High School. "It just seems to be dysfunctional."

The dispute escalated this month after the board dismantled Foose's scholarship program to send aspiring teachers from low-income families to

McDaniel College. The Teachers for Tomorrow program was heralded as the first of its kind in the nation, an innovative approach to diversify the teaching corps in Howard County schools.

McDaniel President Roger Casey said he is consulting attorneys after the board backed out and abandoned the student finalists for 11 scholarships.

"We thought this was just atrocious. How could you possibly lead your students on?" Casey said. "They're basing these decisions about a battle that they have with the superintendent."

Three new board members were sworn in Dec. 5. See **HOWARD**, page 9



KIM HAIRSTON/SUN  
Renee Foose is superintendent of the Howard County Public School System.

## Trump wants a border wall, but few want to pay

BY LISA MASCARO  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — It's an open secret on Capitol Hill. President Trump wants a "big, beautiful" border wall, but few in Congress are willing to pay for it.

The standoff, between the White House and lawmakers — Republicans and Democrats — has escalated tension toward a possible government shutdown at midnight Friday as Congress races to meet a deadline to fund federal offices and operations.

Cooler heads will probably prevail. Talks are under way for a stopgap measure to keep the government running for another week or so while negotiations continue.

But the stalemate over Trump's signature campaign promise — that he would build a wall along the border to deter illegal immigration and that Mexico would pay for it — remains a political divide.

It's not that Trump's Republican allies in Congress, who are the majority, don't support the notions underpinning a border wall. Most of them do.

They just disagree with Trump's ap- See **WALL**, page 6

## SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

### MARYLAND

**STUN GUNS:** The Baltimore City Council is moving to legalize stun gun possession by city residents in response to a federal court ruling. Some restrictions would apply. **NEWS PG 2**

**SNOWDEN DISCLOSURE:** The National Security Agency tested a spy balloon from a Southern Maryland airfield, according to the recent release of a document that had been leaked by Edward Snowden. **NEWS PG 2**

### WORLD

**FRENCH ELECTION:** France's established parties are rallying around the man who helped shut them out of the presidential runoff, maverick centrist Emmanuel Macron. **NEWS PG 6**

### TODAY'S WEATHER

BREEZY WITH SOME RAIN

59 | 54  
HIGH | LOW

Warmer on Wednesday **SPORTS PG 12**

## RAVENS OFFICIAL TEAM STORE OUTLET SALE

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