

**CASH INFUX**

## Banks eyeing big crowds for opportunities

By Aaron Cahall  
Examiner Staff Writer

Washington, D.C., area banks will see anything but a regular day back at work today after a federal holiday, with inaugural festivities expected to draw hundreds of thousands of potential customers and automated teller machine patrons.

U.S. markets were closed Monday in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

But banks with branches near the National Mall, especially those at the handful of pedestrian entry and exit points to the area, are likely planning for a busy Tuesday re-opening, said Kathleen Murphy, president and chief executive officer of the Maryland Bankers Association.

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— Kathleen Murphy, president and CEO of the Maryland Bankers Association

"Banks are in the business of planning for contingencies, so if a bank was in a place for increased business or ATM use, they would try to take advantage of that," Murphy said.

"They've got all these limitations about how people can enter and exit parade routes; if an ATM was strategically placed, I'd have to think [banks] would be planning for demand and opportunities."

Baltimore-based Provident

Bank will close its lone D.C. branch, located in Georgetown, on expectations of "strict restrictions on travel and light business," spokeswoman Vicki Cox said.

M&T Bank spokesman Phil Hosmer declined to discuss specific Inauguration Day plans for its branches and ATMs, citing security concerns.

The bank has 31 branches in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, eight in Washington and

17 in Northern Virginia.

"Banks continually monitor cash usage and anticipated demand and make adjustments accordingly," Hosmer said. "We've certainly taken into consideration the inauguration and surrounding events."

When President Obama steps from the stage Tuesday, he will inherit a troubled banking sector. Bank of America took another \$20 billion from the federal government Friday to help cover its purchase of Merrill Lynch, on top of \$25 million it previously received.

Numerous financial institutions are also set to report their fourth-quarter and year-end results this week.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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### JOB MARKET

#### Report: Baltimore employment to slip 1.4 percent in '09

Employment in the Baltimore-Towson metropolitan area will slide 1.4 percent this year, according to a forecast released Saturday by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. As many as 18,700 jobs will be lost in the metro area, and the fourth-quarter unemployment rate will climb to 5.9 percent from 4.9 percent in 2008, according to the report. The New York metro area will lose the most jobs, 180,800, while Las Vegas will see the largest percentage drop at 3.9 percent. For the full report, view this story at [baltimoreexaminer.com](http://baltimoreexaminer.com). — Aaron Cahall

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Hard Rock partners with developer for slots bid

Hard Rock International Inc. and Baltimore-based developer Banks Contracting Co. have formed a partnership to bid for one of five Maryland gambling licenses, the companies said Monday.

Prospective developers have until Feb. 2 to submit bids for one of five locations that will host video lottery machines. The partnership did not disclose which site they are interested in. Hard Rock has developed casinos in Las Vegas, Florida, Mississippi and in China. The company worked with Baltimore-based Cordish Co. on its two Florida locations.

"Maryland presents an excellent opportunity for the expansion of Hard Rock gaming due to the tremendous density of population in the state and its ranking among states with high levels of personal income," Hard Rock Chairman James Allen said in a statement. "The new Hard Rock Casino will bring an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in Maryland and the creation of more than 1,000 construction and permanent jobs." — Aaron Cahall

#### FTI acquires Canadian consulting firm

Baltimore-based FTI Consulting, through its communications arm, FD, acquired the Element Agency, a leading Canadian strategic communications consultancy specializing in sustainability, issue advocacy and corporate social responsibility initiatives. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Established in 2003, Element serves businesses, governments, universities, nongovernmental organizations and political candidates across North America.

FD Element (as the company will be known) advises a diverse client base that includes global and Canadian brands such as AIG, EPCOR, Labatt and MGM MIRAGE.

"This acquisition aligns with our dedication to helping our clients solve mission critical business challenges at a time when the game of business is constantly changing," Jack Dunn, president and chief executive of FTI Consulting, said in a statement. — Andrew Cannarsa

### NEWSMAKERS

#### KELLOGG

Kellogg Co. said Monday federal authorities have confirmed that salmonella was found in a single package of its peanut butter crackers, as a Midwestern grocer recalled some of its products because of the scare. Kellogg recalled 16 products last week because of the possibility of salmonella contamination. On Monday, the company based in Battle Creek, Mich., said contamination was confirmed by the Food and Drug Administration in a single package of Austin Quality Foods Toasty Crackers with Peanut Butter.

#### CHRYSLER

Fiat SpA is holding discussions with Chrysler LLC about taking a stake in the U.S. carmaker and creating a partnership that would allow the Italian automaker to build and sell its small cars in the United States, two publications reported Monday. Unnamed officials familiar with the discussions told the Wall Street Journal and Automotive News that Chrysler would have access to the Turin-based automaker's engine and transmission technology as part of a potential deal. Chrysler spokeswoman Lori McTavish said in a statement Monday that "in today's economic environment, talks are going on between companies in all industries — ours is no different." McTavish said Chrysler as a policy "does not confirm or disclose the nature of its private business meetings."

#### OIL PRICES

Oil prices fell to below \$35 a barrel Monday as investors eyed a slew of U.S. corporate earnings this week for signs of weakening consumer demand amid the worst recession in decades. Light, sweet crude for February delivery was down \$1.88 to \$34.63 a barrel by mid-afternoon in Europe in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract, which expires today, rose \$1.11 on Friday to settle at \$36.51. The March contract was trading at \$40.90 a barrel, down \$1.67. — AP

## Baltimore photographer remembers inaugurations past

*Perskie family took photos of Kennedy, Johnson, Carter*

By Andrew Cannarsa  
Examiner Staff Writer

Today's presidential inauguration of Barack Obama brings back years of memories for Baltimore resident Jay Perskie.

Perskie, owner of Perskie Photographics in Baltimore, his father, Leon, and his grandfather, Jacob, were part of past inaugurations as the official presidential photographers of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Jimmy Carter.

Perskie, 63, helped with the inaugural photos of Kennedy and Johnson and led the team that photographed Carter. The Perskies' presidential albums can be found in presidential libraries.

"We were really making a wedding album for a president," Perskie said as he held Truman's inaugural album, dated Jan. 20, 1949.

Since working on Carter's photos, Perskie has stuck with photographing weddings and other events.

"After doing Carter's photos, it was enough. It's a lot of months and a lot of work," Perskie said. "I was leading a staff of 75 people. You worked for months after the event. It was a lot of work and a tremendous amount of planning."

Perskie's grandfather started the photo business in 1889 in Atlantic City, N.J., making film and mixing chemicals to develop the photos himself. Perskie's father moved the business to Baltimore in 1934 before he got involved with Roosevelt's photos.

About 40 years ago, Perskie, who said he had no intention of joining his father's business, was asked to



Jay Perskie, of Perskie Photographics of Baltimore, holds the inaugural photo album for President Harry S. Truman, dated Jan. 20, 1949.

**Inset:** Perskie Photographics was the official presidential photographer for five U.S. presidents, including John F. Kennedy.

help out "for a couple of weeks" while his father's co-worker was sick. Perskie has been taking photos ever since.

"Almost everything of a material nature can be replaced," Perskie said. "But you can't replace a photograph, especially ones of these historic value."

Perskie, who first visited the White House when he was 15, said he most enjoyed meeting U.S. leaders and seeing they were no different from him or his father.

"A lot of what I remember is some of the opportunities to work closely and personally with different people," Perskie said.

"You understood the humanity of government and how human these people were, how fragile they were and, at times, how clueless they were," Perskie said, laughing.

Perskie's daughters, Hannah and Julia, are beginning to work with the business as the fourth generation of Perskie photographers.

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