

Week in Review

Geppi's still owes

While it agreed in October to pay the approximately \$700,000 it owes to Maryland, **Geppi's Entertainment Museum** has still not paid nearly half that amount according to records obtained this week by **The Daily Record**. The museum had gone 19 months without a payment to its landlord, the **Maryland Stadium Authority**. Despite payments in October, November and January, the museum still has an outstanding balance of \$364,884.

Banks' bad news

The battered banking industry took another hit Tuesday when **Provident Bankshares Corp.** reported a fourth-quarter net loss of \$26.7 million, but **First Mariner Bancorp** left investors hanging by postponing the release of its earnings report until mid-February.

Legg's worst loss in 25 years

Asset manager **Legg Mason Inc.** reported Wednesday its biggest quarterly loss in its 25 years as a publicly traded company. Legg has had four consecutive quarterly losses. The net loss of \$10.55 per share was larger than analysts forecasted; without Legg's intangible-asset impairment charges of \$1.2 billion, the loss came to \$4.52 a share, compared to the average estimated loss of \$4.01 of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. In the corresponding quarter of 2007, the company recorded a net income of \$154.6 million, or \$1.07 a share.

Coventry CEO leaves

Coventry Health Care Inc., a provider of medical health benefit plans, said Monday that CEO Dale Wolf had resigned. Wolf will be replaced by Allen Wise, the former CEO who became the board chairman in 2004.

City, Senator strike a deal

Shortly after the **Senator Theatre's** owner said his landmark venue is again

on the brink of closing, he received an offer from Baltimore City to assume roughly one-third of its \$920,000 in private debt in exchange for turning over control to a nonprofit. The city made the proposal Monday to owner Tom Kiefaber in which it would pay \$320,000 of the Senator's debt to **1st Mariner Bank** on the condition that a nonprofit entity with an acceptable business plan for the theater take over operations.

State buys land

Despite troubling financial times, the state **Board of Public Works** approved buying about 4,400 acres of land for \$57 million on Wednesday, a purchase state officials consider too ecologically and culturally valuable to pass up. The land includes about 20 miles of Potomac River waterfront, wildlife habitat and historic ties to Maryland's first colonial settlement.

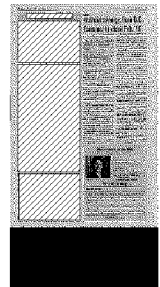
Suburban needs a buyer

Crofton-based Suburban Federal Savings Bank says it has a buyer ready to step in to help the bank avoid what would be the first government takeover of a Maryland bank since 1992. The federal Office of Thrift Supervision told the bank that if it didn't find a buyer by Friday, it would be subject to a takeover by a government conservator or receiver. The 54-year-old bank has seven branches.

Film lobby

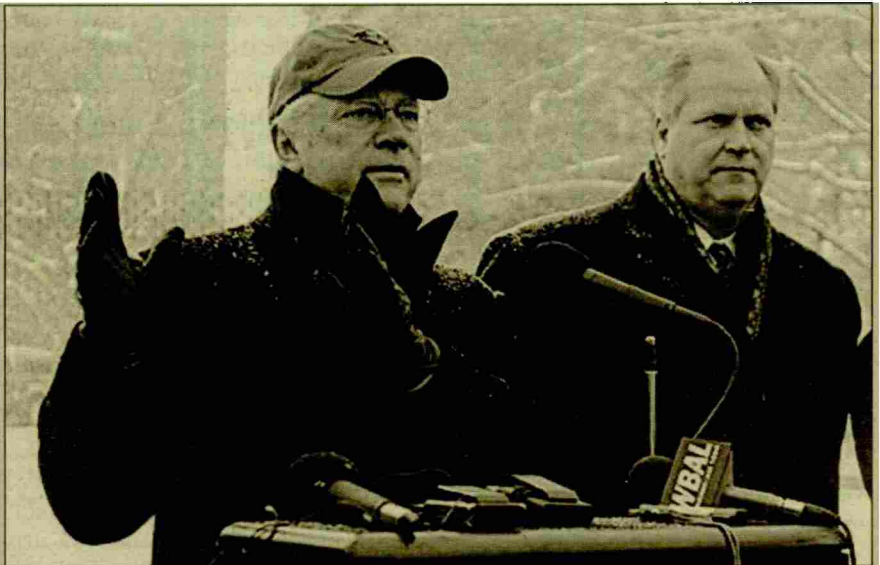
Film industry advocates called on the General Assembly Tuesday to boost state incentives for producing movies and television shows in Maryland, seeking to rework a state program that would see a 50 percent reduction under the proposed budget for next year. The **Maryland Film Industry Coalition** has hired the firm Rifkin, Livingston, Levitan & Silver to lobby on its behalf.

From staff and wire reports





Maryland Stadium Authority Executive Director Michael J. Frenz said he was encouraged by the fact that Geppi's Entertainment Museum had paid off more than half its debt to the state in the last three months, including its last payment of \$350,000.



Hollywood director and Baltimore native Barry Levinson, left, and Greater Baltimore Committee President Donald C. Fry at a Tuesday news conference in Annapolis, where they advocated for film incentives that would make Maryland more competitive with other states.