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BODY:

"I made a commitment not to increase property or income taxes, and this important action helps me keep that commitment."

- County Executive John R. Leopold, said in a written statement to the County Council explaining his veto of a bill that would have restricted casinos to a 2-mile-wide swath south of Route 32, an area that included Laurel Park racetrack but excluded Arundel Mills mall. "They want to try to get a petition together? God bless them, it's America."

- David Cordish, president of Cordish Cos., said of efforts by Stop Slots at Arundel Mills, which has until Feb. 5 to collect the necessary signatures required to overturn the zoning law in a referendum in November 2010. "Everything she did was for helping other people have a better life. She was so selfless and also tenacious."

- Laura Carr, of her mother Lorraine Sheehan, 72, of Edgewater, who championed disability rights and services for more than 30 years. She died Dec. 19 of pneumonia and complications from cystic fibrosis.

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