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No Confirmed Measles Cases in PG County

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD — As of today, we have no confirmed cases of measles in Prince George's County or the state of Maryland, but we want our residents to take precautionary measures. Immunizing against the measles is vital to protecting not only our children, but our community as a whole. Vaccination is highly effective at preventing measles and is required for all Prince George's County school children who are not exempt due to religious beliefs.

"Measles is a serious respiratory disease caused by a virus and is highly contagious," said Pamela B. Creekmur, Health Officer. "All persons who are susceptible to measles need to be vaccinated now."

A susceptible individual is a person who has not received two doses of the measles vaccine and/or Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) either on or after his or her first birthday, or who does not have documented history of disease. In general, a person can be considered immune to measles if they:

- Have received two measles containing vaccines;
- Have had a past measles infection, diagnosed by a physician;
- Were born before 1957; or,
- Have laboratory evidence of measles immunity

See MEASLES Page A3



Amanda Lay (left), of Rockville, hangs out with her friend and caregiver Portia Acheompong in the Loews Hotel in Annapolis Thursday morning, for the second lobbying day for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their advocates. Lay is hoping the state will restore the money promised for support services to people with developmental disabilities. She has cerebral palsy.

Hundreds of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Advocates Urged Legislators to Fund Needed Services

By GRACE TOOHEY
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS -- Hundreds of Marylanders with developmental disabilities, their families and advocates flocked to Annapolis Wednesday and Thursday asking legislators to provide adequate funds for direct support staff wages, services for thousands on the state's

waiting list and youth transitional support services.

Despite funding gains for disability services in the past few years -- including a 3.5 percent increase mandated last year to The Developmental Disabilities Administration's funding for community-based developmental disability services -- Executive Director of the Arc of Maryland Cristy Marchand said

this year's budget has taken a backward step.

The 3.5 percent increase would have ensured wages for individuals with developmental disabilities' support staff would receive above minimum wage beginning this June, but Gov. Larry Hogan's budget cut that increase in half, Marchand said on behalf of the Arc, a statewide advocacy group for people with

intellectual and developmental disabilities. Restoring \$9 million for those wages is a top priority, she said.

Marchand also said providing services for the more than 8,000 people waiting to receive state services from the Developmental Disabilities Adminis-

See DISABILITIES Page A7

Lady Hawks Storm to Top Tier in Day 2

Team Scores 29 Points to Earn Third-place Tie

By PRESS OFFICER
UMES

LANDOVER, MD — The halfway point in the MEAC championships is complete, and both the men's and women's track teams from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore are within reach of a conference championship. While the men's team set themselves up with their efforts on Thursday, the Lady Hawks earned 29 points as a team, moving them from sixth to third.

It all started with the women's indoor pentathlon and Hawks sophomore Shelsia Leitch (Newark, N.J.). Through five events, Leitch racked up 3,123 points, good for seventh place and two points for the Hawks. This would prove to be just the beginning for the Lady Hawks.

The 800 meter run would serve as the backbone for the Lady Hawks' comeback, much like the 5000 meter run served as the men's surge to the top. Junior Jheniel Kelly (Edge-wood, Md.) finished second overall and first among UMES competitors, with a time of 2:13.80 that earned eight points. Sophomore Rachel Halmon (Waldorf, Md.) took home fourth place and five points with her time of 2:14.50, and junior

See LADY HAWKS Page A3

Ronald Leizear Sr. Celebrates 50 Years of Active Service and Patriarch of Leizear Legacy

By MARK BRADY
Branchville Volunteer Fire Co.

COLLEGE PARK, MD — It has been a really long time since the Leizear family has not had a family member as a part of the Branchville Volunteer Fire Company. Their presence in the all-volunteer department located in north College Park has never been stronger. A Leizear currently holds the position of Chief, President and Board Member.

Ronald Leizear, Sr., a Branchville Life Member, is the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors and is in his 50th active year of service. His sons, also both Branchville Life Members, Richard Leizear is the Department Chief and Ron Jr. is a member on the Board of Directors. Both sons remain active in response on emergency incidents and keeping the department running on a daily basis. Ron Sr. niece Dawn Daily is also a member of the Department. These Leizears are just part of a long legacy of family in the fire service. Ron Sr. has



PHOTO COURTESY BRANCHVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
Ricky Leizear, Ron Leizear Sr and Ron Leizear Jr.

had his father, Uncle James Melton (Branchville's only Line of Duty Death), Cousin Richard Melton (Past Chief), Uncle Lownes Leizear (Past Chief and President), Brother Charles Leizear (member and retired Prince George's County

Career Firefighter). Additionally his two brothers, James Collins and John Leizear, are members at the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department.

Leizear Sr., soon to be 67 years of age, was bestowed with many accolades and

awards for his landmark 50 years of active service at the Local and State level. In addition to running the business

See LEGACY Page A5

Maryland Retains Triple AAA Bond Rating

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Treasurer

ANNAPOLIS (February 19, 2015) – Maryland State Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp announced today that all three major national bond rating agencies have re-affirmed the State's strong AAA bond rating, all with stable outlooks, in preparation for the upcoming competitive sale of State General Obligation Bonds on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Maryland is one of ten states* to hold the coveted AAA rating, the highest possible rating, from all three major bond rating agencies. Standard and Poor's has rated the bonds AAA since 1961. Moody's Investors has assigned the bonds a rating of Aaa since 1973, and Fitch Ratings has rated the bonds AAA since 1993.

Treasurer Kopp said, "Today's news of Maryland receiving AAA ratings from the three major bond rating agencies is an acknowledgement of Maryland's prudent financial management and overall fiscal strength. We are pleased the rating analysts recognize the

contribution of Maryland's diverse economy, our well-educated workforce, and above-average wealth and income levels to the overall quality of an investment in Maryland."

"Retention of the AAA ratings affirms the strength and stability of Maryland bonds during difficult and volatile times. This achievement allows us to continue to invest in our communities' schools, libraries, and hospitals while saving taxpayers millions of dollars thanks to the lower interest rates that follow from these ratings," Treasurer Kopp said.

Fitch, in assigning its AAA rating and stable outlook, said: "Debt oversight is strong and centralized, and the debt burden is moderate. The state has policies to maintain debt affordability, and the constitution requires GO [General Obligation] and transportation bonds to amortize within 15 years."

Fitch Ratings further noted: "Financial operations are conservatively maintained, with the state consistently demon-

See AAA RATING Page A3

INSIDE

HUD Awards Nearly \$27 Million To Improve, Preserve Maryland's Public Housing

These grants are provided through HUD's Capital Fund Program, which offers annual funding to approximately 3,100 public housing authorities to build, repair, renovate and/or modernize public housing in their communities.

Community, Page A3

Girls in Justice

We must combat systemic problems that contribute to family and community dysfunction and wreak havoc on developing children including girls; we must dig beneath the surface and examine the root cause of girls' "offenses" and why injustice saps the hopes of so many young lives on our watch.

Commentary, Page A4

Poor Communities Surrounding Baltimore Casino Getting Less Revenue Than Anticipated

The casino, plopped right in the middle of impoverished South Baltimore, was supposed to inject new life into "historically ignored" communities mired with high crime and unemployment rates, poor health and lackluster housing.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Jupiter Ascending

It's the story of a Russian immigrant named Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis) who works as a maid with her mother and aunt in Chicago. You can ignore most of what we're told about Jupiter in the first 20 minutes (she wants to sell her eggs; her sleazy cousin is acting as egg pimp; her dad was an astronomer) because it doesn't matter.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I am in the market for a new flat screen TV. Are some models greener than others?

— Michael Kavanaugh,
Rome, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Jack D'Ambrosio, Gang Leader, Decorated Cop and Author, Dies

"I have to announce the passing of probably the most famous past resident of District Heights. Our 'Honorary Mayor,' Jack D'Ambrosio, passed Feb. 21 as a result of his recent fight with cancer.

"Jack was the leader of the infamous Apollo gang of District Heights during his youth and attended Suitland High School. Later Jack became the most decorated police officer in the history of Brevard County, Florida.

"In retirement, he took to becoming an author. He wrote of his life growing up in Northeast Washington in his book 'Family Sins.'

Two other books he authored, 'Angels with Dirty Faces' and 'The Apollos' were about growing up in District Heights and the escapades of him and his gang members.

You can take a walk through Jack's life and pay a beautiful tribute to him by purchasing his books, available on Amazon.com."

This Facebook obituary (slightly edited) was written by one of his District Heights/Suitland High friends. Here's a little more about him:

Jack Anthony D'Ambrosio was born July 14, 1943 in Washington to the late Anthony D'Ambrosio and Mary Katherine Heflin. His book "Family Sins," is loosely based on his family history.

He went on to become a decorated police officer with the Oakland Park Police Department and an investigator for the State of Florida in West Palm Beach. He received a Presidential Commendation for the Federal D.A.L.E. Drug Enforcement Program and had the highest arrest record for the Drug Enforcement Agency Office in the U.S.

In addition to his parents, Jack was preceded in death by his first wife Myna Hamilton, his brother Michael D'Ambrosio, and his sister June Fernen.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah Abdo-D'Ambrosio; children, Jack D'Ambrosio Jr. and Christine D'Ambrosio; siblings, Albert and Philip D'Ambrosio, Jeanette Pedone

and Judy Calloway; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His funeral was at St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Annapolis with burial at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton.

Jack's last book was his autobiography, "Ain't Life Been Grand," published in 2011. As one reviewer said, "Loved it. All of Mr. D'Ambrosio's books are wonderful. He takes you from roaring laughter and through all your feelings of life."

Changing Landscape

Following the incident of concrete landing on a car traveling Suitland Road as it passed under the Beltway bridge, Acting Maryland Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn offered his apologies. He announced that more rehab will be done on that bridge. Work is expected to take 18 months to two years.

National Harbor continues to get attention: Conservatives met there Feb. 26 for their annual meeting. It featured a tribute to President Ronald Reagan. And I imagine some discussion on who'll run in the next Presidential election.

Dave & Buster's restaurant is coming to the Ritchie Station Marketplace shopping center.

Save A Lot grocery store has opened in the revitalized Forestville Plaza.

Coming up: Lincoln Assassination 150th Anniversary

John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Bus Tours are scheduled for April 11, 18, 25, and May 2. These are excellent all-day trips—I've made the tour three times over the past years. Contact the Surratt House Museum for availability, at 301-868-1121.

The Light is On, on Wednesday nights

St. Philip's and all the other Catholic churches throughout the Archdiocese of Washington have The Light On For You on the Wednesdays of Lent, for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, maybe better known as Confession. St. Philip's will open at 6 p.m., other parishes may have different hours.

Vera Met Her Future Husband at the Candy Stand

Elvera Rita "Vera" Dwyer Pope, 94, a longtime resident of Auth Village, died Jan. 28. She was born in New Orleans, the daughter of William and Viola Dwyer.

She attended school at Ella Dalonde in Metairie, La., where she won awards for spelling and memorization skills. Because her memory was so sharp she often played the lead role in school plays. But she had to leave school after 9th grade to help her mother take care of her sister Audrey, who was born with spina bifida, and eight other siblings.

While working at her father's candy stand, she met her future husband, Kermit Eugene Pope. In 1962 they moved to Maryland and Kermit went into business, building homes with his brother Byron. Pope Homes became well known in the Camp Springs area.

Vera was an active member of St. Philip's Church where she was in the Sodality and one of St. Philip's first women ushers.

Vera's husband Kermit preceded her in death. She is survived by five children, Dr. William Pope, Dr. Pamela Merritt, Kermit Jr., Cynthia Mariast, and Timothy Pope; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and four siblings. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's.

Vera was happiest when she was taking care of her family. When they visited, she loved to cook her "down home" southern recipes, such as Red Beans & Rice, New Orleans style Gumbo, and Shrimp Stew.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Roy Derrick, March 6; Anna Buck, Jon McKlveen, Shirley Dodgson and my grandson Richard Shearer, March 9; John F. Latimer, Karl Kaufman Jr., Angelo Meoli, Alberta M. Smith and my son-in-law John Mudd, March 10; Karen Cordero, Blake James Shipman and Father Scott Hahn, March 11; Harold Wilson, Rebecca Turner and Marcy Richardson, March 12.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all you Irish!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BADEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to all the students at Baden Elementary School who received Honor Roll Awards for high academic achievement, perfect attendance awards and Principal Awards. The community is very proud of all the students for their achievements.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Charlie Canada, Jr., William Farmer, Myrtle Jones, Charles Lewis, Jr., Vanessa Pinkney, Gregory Pinkney, Myrtle Jones, Gill Michelle Pinkney and, Kristen Wilkerson who are celebrating their birthdays in March.

SUNDAY CASINO SLOTS

It's time for a 2015 Extravaganza Sunday Casino Slots Fun to Midway-Harrington Raceway and Casino Slots Harrington, Delaware Sunday, March 15, 2015. Bus leaves Park-N-Ride in Clinton Maryland at 10:30 AM, and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 AM. The bus returns from the trip at approximately 7:30 PM.

Fun Package includes a \$10.00 Slot play rebate with a full buffet meal, Oldies but Goodies 50/50 Raffle. The cost is \$40.00. There will be absolutely no refunds. Pay early so you won't be left out. Purchase your tickets by March 8, 2015. Point of contacts is Ruby E. Hinnant (301) 943-2816, Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260 and Doretha A. Savoy (301) 233-3136.

CANCER CARE MINISTRY

New Hope Fellowship Cancer Ministry will be hosting their first Cancer Testimony Service at our Life Center. There will be testimony giving thru dance, song and poem.. This ministry is to inspire those that are battling with this disease and to remember those that lost the battle to Cancer.

There will be light hor'derves served following the service. It's an absolutely FREE EVENT on March 21, 2015 at the Life Center. The address is 561 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 AM. POC: Shonnita McCall nhcancercareministry@gmail.com .

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

St. Philip's family and friend's line dance social night dates are Fridays March 6, March 20, April 3 and April 17, 2015 from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. The cost is \$2.00. Point of contact are Ruby E. Hinnant (301) 943-2816, Shirley A Cleaves (302) 690-4260 and Michele Chase (240) 882 3369). The church is located on Baden Naylor Road Brandywine, Maryland.

HIDEAWAY HORSE CENTER

Hideaway Horse Center is a full service equestrian facility that offers lessons in Jumpers, Hunt Seat, and events for children and adults, beginner through advanced. They offer camps, horse sales, boarding, a horse lease program, and an after school program in addition to their Lesson Program. The address is 12301 Cross Road Trail Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Visit the website at www.hideawayhorsecenter.com.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Applauds President Obama Signing Bipartisan Law to Prevent Veteran Suicides

WASHINGTON, DC — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) applauded President Obama signing H.R. 203, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act, into law. This bipartisan legislation — which unanimously passed both the House and Senate — addresses the epidemic of suicide among our nation's veterans. Named in honor of a late Iraq and Afghanistan War veteran and noted suicide prevention advocate who committed suicide on March 31, 2011, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act is another step toward ensuring our nation's veterans have the support they need.

"Suicide among our nation's veterans is staggering, with twenty-two veterans on average committing suicide daily," said Congresswoman Edwards. "The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act will help many of the 55,000 veterans in the 4th Congressional District and across the country struggling with mental health challenges to receive better resources, care, and benefits. I was proud to support this bipartisan legislation in the House and see it signed into law today by President Obama to ensure our nation stands behind our veterans with the compassion and dedication they deserve."

Of the more than 2 million Americans who have served in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is estimated that one-third, roughly 600,000 women and men, have traumatic brain injury, PTSD, or depression. In 2014, over 1.4 million veterans with a mental health diagnosis enrolled in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) services—an increase of 64% from 2005. This bill will support those veterans, expanding access to and improving the effectiveness of mental health services to help respond to their specific needs.

The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act takes a multi-faceted approach to improve mental health services for our veterans. The law:

- Establishes a peer support and community outreach pilot program to assist transitioning servicemembers with accessing VHA mental health care services.

- Requires the VA to create a one-stop, interactive website to serve as a centralized source of information regarding all mental health services for veterans.

- Establishes a student loan repayment pilot program aimed at recruiting and retaining psychiatrists to help address the shortage of mental health care professionals.

- Requires an annual, third-party evaluation of all mental health care and suicide prevention practices and programs at the VA to find out what's working and what's not.

FY15 Grant Applications are now available

The 2015 PGAHC grant applications have been posted and are available for download at www.pgahc.org. Please download the 2015 Guide to Grants along with the grant application.

Deadline for all grant applications is March 6, 2015, 5:00PM. All applications must be received in the PGAHC of-



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

ice no later than 5:00 PM on the deadline date. There will be no exceptions.

County Arts Program

The County Arts Program grants are designed to support artists and organizations that provide high-quality arts and cultural activities that enhance the quality of life in Prince George's County and reflect the collective creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of the County's arts, humanities and cultural sectors. Established in 1981, PGAHC is an independent non-profit organization designated by the Prince George's County government to coordinate financial support and advocacy for the arts.

FY15 County Arts Program Grants is distributed in five categories: Artist Fellowship Programs, County Arts Projects, Cultural Anchor Projects, Emerging Arts Programs, Public Art Building Communities, Cultural Bridge Projects.

Arts In Education Program

The Arts In Education Program (AIEP) grants are designed to support artists, arts educators and organizations that provide high-quality arts and cultural activities to youth in public educational settings from early childhood through high school. These programs or projects may include, but are not limited to; arts instruction, arts integration, artist in residencies, inschool performances and/or public performances, field trip experiences, arts integration curriculum development, creative placemaking, as well as professional development. An emphasis should be placed on providing sequential instruction to deepen each student's learning about the subject and experience.

Teachers and Parent Teacher Associations are eligible to apply for a specific school

program. Funding may not be attributed to school personnel, faculty and/or general art supplies or equipment. The Arts in Education Program will not offset the responsibilities of each school in providing its students an excellent education, but will support projects that enhance the learning that is already occurring.

Funding is distributed in four categories: School-Based Projects, Artist in Residency Projects, Community-Based Projects, Public Art Partnership Projects and Professional

Development to artists, arts educators and nonprofits that demonstrate a significant and positive impact on student academic achievement through increased arts and cultural access.

Doctors Community Hospital Foundation

Lanham, MD — Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the non-profit Doctors Com-

munity Hospital is raising funds to support the renovation of its surgical services suite. People can contribute to advancing community health by making tax-deductible donations while having an inscribed commemorative stone placed within the suite's new architecture.

Whether they are the lessons of kindness, generosity and compassion that were passed down from parents or current deeds that enrich the quality of the lives of others, the culmination of one's actions help develop a legacy. Community members can leave lasting memories that communicate their dedication to providing hope and good health to residents through Doctors Community Hospital's Legacy Campaign.

This fundraising campaign supports the renovation of the hospital's surgical services suite. Once completed, it will help more residents receive accessible and advanced treatments to address the high rates of various complex medical conditions that impact the community. As part of the surgical services suite's modern design, the new addition and walkway architecture will include various types of inscribed pavers or stones. By making a tax-deductible donation that includes multiple giving options, people can choose to have these pavers or stones:

- Recognize a loved one
- Express gratitude for the quality of care they or a loved one received at Doctors Community Hospital

For more information, contact Doctors Community Hospital Foundation at 301-552-8670, foundation@DCHweb.org or DCHweb.org/Legacy.

Technology Company Local Motors Looking to Open a Location at National Harbor

Upper Marlboro, MD — Today, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement following the announcement that Local Motors, a technology company that designs, builds and sells vehicles, will open a new location at National Harbor in late 2015. Local Motors is known for revolutionizing the industry by combining co-creation, technology and micro-manufacturing to locally build innovative vehicles at unprecedented speeds.

"I have often said that Prince George's County is the "economic engine" of the State of Maryland and with today's announcement that Local Motors has expressed interest in leasing 45,000 square feet of space at National Harbor to debut the first fleet of 3-D printed cars, we have a company that could literally start a trend that will attract more innovative companies to Prince George's County. We are very excited about this opportunity.

The Peterson Company has proven once again that they can bring cutting-edge companies and attractions to National Harbor that are helping to change the landscape of this great County. This announcement is yet another example that we are getting closer and closer to fulfilling our destiny as a County and I want to thank the Peterson Company for showing the region and nation that Prince George's County is the place to be."

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

How to Avoid an Online Vacation Rental Scam

Imagine renting a home on a beautiful beachfront from a trusted website, arriving to start your vacation and finding out you've been scammed?

This scenario reflects thousands of complaints placed with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) last year involving local vacation rentals. The FTC reports some victims lost money by wiring cash to thieves posing as property owners. Others lost money through fake websites replicating legitimate sites.

In today's economy in which home sharing has become more popular, how do travelers protect themselves from a range of potential online scams? Here are some suggestions:

Review rental contracts carefully. Check the address of the property you're interested in with on-the-ground resources like the local tourism office or the leading real estate brokerage in the community. While you're speaking with the tourism office, ask if there have been any specific complaints against the rental service you have consulted or if there might be more reliable and possibly more affordable rental resources in town.

Be wary of your source. Legitimate property owners may use free print or web classified ads to save money, but it's important to vet any free listing very carefully. Also, confirm with a live representative to ensure the site is legitimate.

Compare rental rates in the immediate area. A good deal might be tempting to seize immediately, but the FTC notes that severely below-market pricing for rentals and other vacation services in a community might indicate a scam. Crosscheck the pricing of home rentals and related services in the community before you make a reservation. Given the example above, don't rely on the Internet alone. Pick up the phone and talk directly to a representative.

Check transient license law in your destination city. Transient licenses regulate properties rented to guests for time periods generally 30 days or less. Call your destination city to get details on their transient license law and whether you can confirm the registration of the property you're considering. Ask the property owner for a copy of his or her transient license and see if the city will share the same license for your inspection to make sure they match. Also ask the city whether any specific complaints are available for the property you are considering.

Be wary of phishing scams. Be on the lookout for email and phone scammers who masquerade as employees of businesses you trust — they're after your bank or credit information. If you receive emails or phone calls demanding advance payments, contact the original website to confirm your reservation and payment policy. Recently, travel site Booking.com had to pay out compensation to more than 10,000 customers from the U.S., UK, France, Italy, Portugal and the UAE who were victims of a phishing scam.

Follow recommendations. Personal recommendations from friends and family can ensure a safe transaction. If you know someone who has visited a destination or rented property recently, ask which companies or individuals they would recommend.

Report fraud. Inform the local police at your vacation destination, the local Better Business Bureau and the FTC. When you get home, notify your local police or your state attorney general's consumer protection office to alert them to this particular cybercrime if you made the money transfer from your home state.

Bottom line: As online vacation rentals grow, so does cybercrime. Be cautious when booking arrangements online to protect your payments data.

Lady Hawks from A1

Shantol Hemley (St. Catherine's, Jamaica) finished fifth with a time of 2:16.20, good for four points. This race alone made up 17 of the team's 29 total points.

With Leitch's two points in the pentathlon and 17 points in the 800 meter, the Lady Hawks earned their final ten points by winning the distance medley. The team of Kelly, Hemley, Halmon and sophomore Barbora Blahutova (Slavkov, Czech Republic) finished with a time of 12:10.36, edging Florida A&M for the victory.

The surge places the UMES women in a tie for third with Morgan State at 35 points, 12 ½ points behind Bethune-Cookman.

On the men's side the Hawks claimed two victories to secure a two-day total of 50 points. Their first win came in



HUD Awards Nearly \$27 Million To Improve, Preserve Maryland's Public Housing

By PRESS OFFICER
HUD

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded today \$26.9 million to public housing authorities in Maryland. The funding will allow agencies to make major large-scale improvements to their public housing units. See funding by housing authority at <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=FY2015CapFundAlloca.pdf>.

These grants are provided through HUD's Capital Fund Program, which offers annual funding to approximately 3,100 public housing authorities to build, repair, renovate and/or modernize public housing in their communities.

"Every American deserves a place to call home where they can successfully raise their kids, enhance their financial security and build a better life," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "Through this funding,

HUD is committed to strengthening our nation's affordable housing units and to providing folks with the springboard they need to succeed."

"Public housing authorities in the Mid-Atlantic will receive \$197 million in funding to address significant repairs, ranging from roof replacements to energy-efficient upgrades of old plumbing and electrical systems," said Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator of HUD's Mid-Atlantic region.

For more than 75 years, the federal government has been working and investing billions of dollars in developing and maintaining public and multi-family housing — including providing critical support through the Capital Fund grants. Still, the nation continues to lose approximately 10,000 public housing units each year, primarily due to disrepair.

In 2011, HUD released Capital Needs in the Public Housing Program, a study that esti-

mated the capital needs in the public housing stock in the U.S. The study found the nation's 1.1 million public housing units are facing an estimated \$25.6 billion in large-scale repairs. Unlike routine maintenance, capital needs are extensive improvements required to make the housing decent and economically sustainable.

To help protect the considerable federal investment in public housing and respond to the growing demand for affordable rental housing, the Obama Administration proposed the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), a comprehensive strategy that complements the Capital Fund Program and offers a long-term solution to preserve and enhance the country's affordable housing stock, including leveraging public and private funding to make critically needed improvements.

Since Congress approved the RAD demonstration in November 2011, early results

show it is generating significant additional capital for public and assisted housing. HUD has made awards to 60,000 public and assisted housing units in more than 340 different projects across the country. Through these awards, housing authorities have proposed to generate approximately \$3 billion in capital repairs by leveraging private debt and equity, which will preserve or replace distressed units and support local jobs in their communities — all without additional federal resources.

The Department has received applications from housing authorities for an additional 116,000 units under RAD. To support the growing demand, the President's FY 2016 budget proposal requests to eliminate the RAD cap and provide \$50 million to help local public housing agencies to finance the recapitalization of more than 185,000 units of public housing and stimulate private investment.

AAA Rating from A1

strating a strong commitment to budgetary balance through the downturn and the slow recovery that has followed. The state has maintained flexibility in the form of its rainy day fund (RDF), which remained funded at or near 5% of general fund revenues through the downturn, as well as its practice of responding quickly to changing budgetary circumstances through repeated spending cuts, fund balance transfers and revenue increases."

Moody's, in explaining its Aaa rating and stable outlook said "The highest quality rating reflects Maryland's strong financial management policies and stable economy with high personal income levels." While Moody's acknowledged "...the state's economic exposure to constrained federal spending, its above average debt burden and large unfunded pension liabilities relative to the size of its economy," they also noted "[c]onsistent with its history of strong financial management, the state has been appropriately addressing its structural budget gap and pension funding concerns even under pressure from federal budget reductions."

In assigning its AAA long-term rating and stable outlook, Standard & Poor's said: "The rating reflects what we view as the state's: Broad and diverse economy, which has experienced tepid overall growth in 2013 and 2014 due to sequestration and federal budget uncertainty; Strong wealth and income levels; Long history of proactive financial and budget management, including implementation of frequent and timely budget adjustments to

align revenues and expenditures; Well-developed financial and debt management policies including long-term financial planning that should be helpful in addressing future budget challenges; and Still-moderate debt burden across all measures, despite increasing issuance. Although some growth in debt levels is likely based on planned issuance and the potential for public-private partnership (P3) projects, we expect the debt burden will remain moderate for most measures due to a clearly defined debt affordability process that limits annual issuance, coupled with a rapid 15-year debt maturity schedule as required by the Maryland Constitution."

Standard and Poor's further stated: "The stable outlook on Maryland reflects our view of the state's proactive midyear adjustments to align the budget with slower-than-anticipated revenue growth and a proposed fiscal 2016 budget that maintains current reserve levels and limits reliance on one-time measures for budgetary balance."

All three rating agencies praised Maryland's history of strong, sound financial management. Moody's recognized "Maryland's financial practices and flexibility are very strong. For example, the state has a binding consensus revenue forecast, multi-year financial planning, and the Board of Public Works is able to respond swiftly to mid-year budget challenges. The state also has no tax and spending limitations or supermajority requirements limiting its flexibility." Standard & Poor's assigned a rating of "strong" to Maryland's management practices, noting that "...Maryland

has made continuing efforts to institute sound financial management practices. The state's use of a five-year financial plan, which is updated annually with the adopted budget, provides the basis for future fiscal decisions and recognizes future fiscal year gaps. Monthly monitoring and reporting of key revenues allows the state to make midyear financial adjustments, if necessary, to maintain balance. Maryland has consistently maintained its statutory RSA (Revenue Stabilization Account) [at] or above its legal minimum of 5% of revenues."

Each rating agency recognized the impact of federal budget cuts on Maryland's economy. S&P noted "Although federal fiscal policy remains a challenge to the state's budget and long-term financial plan, we believe that Maryland has demonstrated strong revenue and budget monitoring practices with a track record of making expenditure adjustments midyear when required." Fitch indicated "Sound fiscal management practices and the consistent maintenance of fiscal flexibility (including budgetary reserves) provide the state with significant ability to respond to near-term economic or fiscal conditions, such as federal budget reductions, in a manner consistent with the 'AAA' rating."

Each of the rating agencies recognized significant pension funding challenges as well as reforms enacted over the past three years. Moody's indicated "[l]ow retirement system funded levels" represent a credit challenge for the state and "[f]ailure to adhere to plans to address low pension funded ratios" could make the

rating go down. Fitch Ratings noted "Despite pensions being a comparative credit weakness, the state has taken multiple steps to reduce their burden and improve sustainability over time." While acknowledging "implementation of various reforms and some improvements in funded ratios," S&P indicated "the state's below-average pension funded ratios and annual contributions that do not meet the full ARC also continue to represent downside risk to the rating."

The bond sale will include two competitive bids which are expected to be sold to institutions. The sale will include \$518 million of tax-exempt bonds and up to \$750 million of tax-exempt refunding bonds.

As has always been the case with the issuance of Maryland's tax-exempt General Obligation Bonds, the State uses the proceeds to finance necessary capital projects, such as schools, community colleges, university projects and hospitals.

The Maryland Board of Public Works, composed of Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Comptroller Peter Franchoy and Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp, will preside over the competitive bond sale on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 in the Assembly Room in the Goldstein Treasury Building in Annapolis.

The Maryland State Treasurer's Office expects to conduct another bond sale in July or August 2015.

* The other nine states with AAA ratings from all three rating agencies are Alaska, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

Measles from A1

A measles infection typically begins with a high fever, cough, runny nose, red/watery eyes and a rash that usually starts behind the ears or on the face and spreads to the neck, trunk, arms and legs 2-7 days later. Measles can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis and death. Measles is transmitted

by contact with an infected person through coughing or sneezing and can remain in the air for up to 2 hours. Infected people are contagious from four days before their rash begins through four days after the rash appears.

If you suspect that you may have measles, please notify your primary care physician and let them know you think you or your child may have measles. If you must go to an

emergency room or urgent care center, let them know immediately that you have measles. It is important that you do not sit in the waiting room and expose others.

Contact the Prince George's County Health Department as soon as possible at 301-583-3750, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or 240-508-5774 during after hours, holidays, and weekends, to report the illness

and to ask any questions regarding measles.

For more information, contact:
Dellia Hawthorne-Williams, Public Information Officer, Prince George's County Health Department 301-883-7835 / 240-417-8443

For more information visit <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Health/Services/DiseaseControlServices/measles/Pages/default.aspx>

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Responds to New Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against ISIL

"We must make it clear that there is no authorization for the use of combat ground troops."

"By leaving in place the 2001 AUMF, Congress could be authorizing a state of perpetual war."

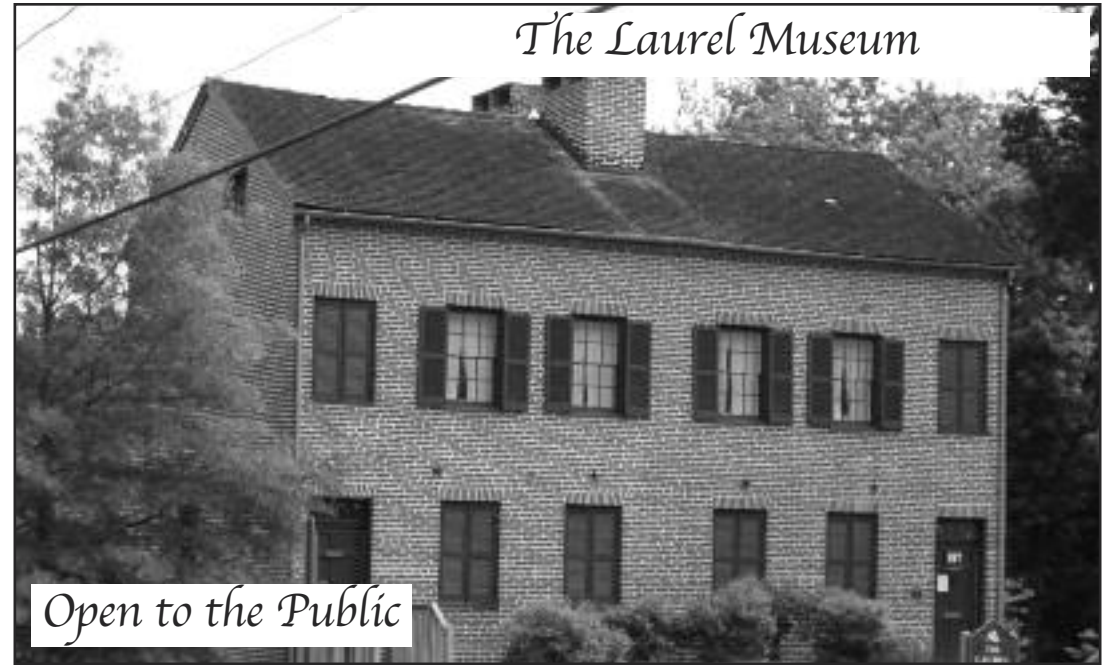
WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, responded to President Barack Obama's request for a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) with the following statement:

"There is no question that ISIL is a barbaric and terrorist organization. These extremists are a threat to the United States, our interests, and our allies in the region. I support President Obama's goal of degrading and destroying ISIL, but this can be done by supporting Iraqi and Kurdish forces, as well as our partners in the Arab world. We should also be providing direct support to their efforts to degrade ISIL's political backing. I support expanded training in Syria, along with targeted air strikes in both countries.

"Authorizing the use of military force is not a decision I take lightly. I believe President

Obama when he says that he does not intend to commit ground troops in this fight against ISIL, but Congress needs to do our part to uphold this promise to the American people. We must make it clear that there is no authorization for the use of combat ground troops.

"While the AUMF outlined by the President is limited to three years that sunset means little if the 9/11 AUMF, approved in 2001, is still in effect as a potentially boundless, all-encompassing authorization. By leaving in place the 2001 AUMF, Congress could be authorizing a state of perpetual war, and giving this President and future presidents a blank check to keep America at war. That is why I authored a provision in the AUMF resolution approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last December to sunset the 2001 AUMF in three years. A three-year sunset of the 2001 AUMF would guarantee that Congress has an opportunity to review what is being accomplished, and it allows the new president to review the situation, consult with Congress and decide on a forward course of action. After more than 13 years, it is time we close this chapter of unending war and modernize our approach to these threats in a thoughtful and concise way."



The Laurel Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA

THE LAUREL MUSEUM

The Museum's main floor is the site of exhibits devoted to the history of Laurel, Maryland. - Maintained by the Laurel Historical Society. Discover the rich history of Laurel, Maryland, an historic town located on the Patuxent River half way between Baltimore and Washington. The museum houses collections of books, photographs, tools, personal artifacts, textiles and oral histories. Explore the history of its schools, fire department, shops, banks, Main Street. Meet the people who helped it grow into a thriving and diverse community. Learn about its mill town roots, railroad connections, African-American community and early suburban experiences. The Laurel Museum is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel, Maryland, in a former 1840's mill workers' home.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Girls in Justice

I'm grateful for a powerful new book, *Girls In Justice* by artist Richard Ross, a follow up to his moving earlier *Juvenile In Justice*, which combines Ross's photographs of girls in the juvenile justice system with interviews he gathered from over 250 detention facilities across the United States. If a picture is worth a thousand words, the deeply disturbing photographs speak volumes. Ross uses the power of photography to make visible the hidden and harsh world of girls in detention. These heartwrenching images coupled with the girls' ages and life stories should move us to confront the cruel and unjust juvenile justice system in our nation. These girls are ours: our neighbors, our children's classmates, our daughters and granddaughters, sisters, cousins, and nieces — and, for some young children, our mothers. *Girls In Justice* begs the questions—why are so many girls, especially girls of color, confined in our nation's detention facilities, and what are we as a society going to do about it?

We must all work tirelessly to give hope and a fair chance to these girls and all children by promoting policies, programs, and supports that help them and their families, especially those most at risk. We must combat systemic problems that contribute to family and community dysfunction and wreak havoc on developing children including girls; we must dig beneath the surface and examine the root cause of girls' "offenses" and why injustice saps the hopes of so many young lives on our watch.

In 2013, one in five girls in the United States was poor, and girls of color were disproportionately poor. From birth to young adulthood, children — especially poor children and children of color — encounter multiple and cumulative risk factors that often result in their being funneled into the prison pipeline through the juvenile and criminal justice systems and locked up behind bars. Such massive incarceration is sentencing millions of children to social and economic death. The pipeline to prison is lodged at the intersection of poverty and race and is intolerable in a professed society of opportunity. In 2007, the Children's Defense Fund

launched the Cradle to Prison Pipeline® crusade to confront youth incarceration and the factors driving it and propose solutions to replace it with a pipeline to college and career. While twice as many boys as girls are arrested, girls are the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice system. As girls rock the cradle they rock the future, and we must pay attention to both girls and boys to ensure the development of healthy families.

Girls of color and poor girls face special challenges before they enter the juvenile justice system, during their confinement, and when they return to their communities after release. At the front end, racial disparities and the lack of appropriate treatment and support that run through every major child-serving system negatively impact their life chances by pushing more children into juvenile detention and adult prison. These include limited health and mental health care; lack of quality early childhood support experiences (including home visiting, Early Head Start and Head Start, child care, preschool, and kindergarten); children languishing in foster care waiting for permanent families and shunted through multiple placements;

and failing schools with harsh zero tolerance discipline policies, mostly for nonviolent offenses, that suspend, expel, and discourage children who then too often drop out and do not graduate. Too little effort is made to divert girls from the juvenile justice system despite the existence of successful evidence-based programs.

Girls in the system often encounter a unique set of challenges. Almost three quarters of them have been sexually or physically abused. Most are arrested for nonviolent offenses such as truancy, running away, or alcohol and substance use which can often be linked to severe abuse or neglect. These nonviolent offenses, or status offenses, would not be considered offenses for an adult. Poverty has an impact: although the trauma of sexual violence and abuse affects many girls, poor girls often lack adequate supports to keep them from juvenile detention.

Victimized girls often face more trauma and stigmatization by being held in juvenile detention facilities instead of diverted to appropriate community-based alternatives. Whether confine-

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Giuliani's Words Do More than Hurt - They Divide

"A new expression has entered the Westminster lexicon: dog-whistle politics. It means putting out a message that, like a high-pitched dog-whistle, is only fully audible to those at whom it is directly aimed. The intention is to make potential supporters sit up and take notice while avoiding offending those to whom the message will not appeal.

— "The Economist," March 2005

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City, I brought a delegation of mayors to meet with the city's then-mayor, Rudolph Giuliani. The delegation's goal was to help restore confidence in the still-traumatized city and help rebuild what had been so inhumanly destroyed. At the time, I was mayor of New Orleans and President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and Giuliani — widely acknowledged and praised for his leadership after the attacks — catapulted onto the national stage to become "America's Mayor."

How times have changed.

During a private New York fundraising dinner for Republican presidential candidate Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker last week, Giuliani popped onto the national stage yet again — not for the qualities he displayed as "America's Mayor," but for the unfounded accusation that President Obama does not love America.

"I do not believe, and I know this is a horrible thing to say, but I do not believe that the president loves America," Giuliani said in response to a question about the president's foreign policy and counter-terrorism strategies. He added, "He doesn't love you. And he doesn't love me. He wasn't brought up the way you were brought up and I was brought up, through love of this country."

Speaking in front of a 2016 Republican presidential contender and a mixed crowd of conservatives and business executives, Giuliani — who failed to win the 2008 GOP presidential nomination — attacked the patriotism of our nation's president, a man whose grandfather served in World War II, whose grand-uncle helped liberate the Nazi death camp at Buchenwald and who was the chief executive behind the operation to kill 9/11's mastermind, Osama Bin Laden. Questioning the president's patriotism isn't just inappropriate; it demonstrates a

complete lack of respect. It begs the question that as Giuliani continues to seek a prominent role on the national political stage, will he choose to rehearse only in the Theater of the Absurd?

Giuliani's response was neither an honest critique of the president's foreign policy, nor was it a considered analysis of our nation's ongoing discussion on how to combat terrorism.

It was, however, a veiled attack on the character of our president. It was a better-left-buried relic from 2008 when candidates — including Giuliani — purposely appealed to a particular strain of the GOP base who viewed Obama, the Harvard-educated Black man raised by his white family in Hawaii, as "the other" and "not like us." It was a rehearsal of the kind of divisive rhetoric that has no place in the 2016 race for the White House.

I am the first to assert that honest critiques of any president, administration and its policies are critical in a functioning democracy. But in this case, there is nothing constructive or relevant in maligning a man because of the way he was raised. Further, Giuliani has yet to explain how the president's upbringing jeopardizes the national security of our nation. How can personal attacks ever have a constructive place in our conversations about degrading and ultimately destroying ISIL or creating jobs or energy independence?

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said, "It is sad to see when somebody who has attained a certain level of public stature and even admiration tarnishes that legacy so thoroughly."

Without hesitation, I can say that the Giuliani I met with that mayors' delegation in the smoldering aftermath of the terror attacks — a bridge-builder, a reconciler and a healer — was not the Giuliani I heard last week. It is quite unfortunate that his reappearance on the national stage recasts and squanders that legacy for a new one that limits him to catering to groups animated by the rhetoric of division at best, and veiled hatemongering at worst.

If I agreed with anything in Giuliani's statement, it is that, yes, it was a horrible thing to say on many levels. I would add, in a word of advice to the former mayor of New York, that whenever you feel compelled to preface a comment with "I know this is a horrible thing to say," it is likely a comment better left unsaid.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Tips For Handling Sibling Rivalry

If there is more than one child in your family, then it's almost a guarantee that there are disagreements, arguments and competition. Yes, your children may love one another, but siblings will still disagree and fight and drive most parents crazy.

It's called "sibling rivalry," a competition to be number one in the parents' eyes. This probably can be traced back to prehistoric ancestors when being number one could be a matter of survival. Today, it's more about simply having parental approval.

Young children will naturally feel threatened when a sibling is born. They see parental love as limited and finite, but suddenly there's someone new to love, meaning less love for the older child.

It's not an irrational fear. A new baby is usually the center of attention and, out of necessity, takes up more of the parents' time. The older child probably feels he or she is suddenly less important and starts to misbehave to win back more attention.

The cure for that problem is to demonstrate to your children that you love them all. Simply saying it has no real affect, but when you set aside "special time" for the older child, offer your focused attention, and give plenty of hugs and reassurances, you're demonstrating your love and overcoming his or her sense of feeling threatened.

For an older child, it's not jealousy over parental love, but about winning parental attention. Siblings may compete to have better grades, be better in sports, or demonstrate better musical or artistic skills.

This can be good, if kept under control, leading to higher levels of accomplishment. But praising a higher-achieving child shouldn't be at the expense of the other children. If one child is always "winning," you may want to tip the scales slightly and give the other children extra attention and time.

But competition can get out of hand, threatening family peace and harmony, and possibly doing physical or emotional harm to one or the other children. That's when help is needed.

School counselors are often excellent sources of advice on excessive levels of sibling rivalry. A professional counselor specializing in family issues could also help.

While a little friendly sibling competition can sometimes be a good motivator, don't let it destroy family peace and happiness. If you work to be fair with your love and attention, you may find sibling rivalry will lessen and disappear.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACACorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org

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Legacy from A1

operations of the Department he remains active in operations and will drive the engine whenever needed. He has held every position within the Department with the exception of Treasurer and Secretary. When asked which position he enjoyed the most, he responded, "Serving as President and Chief are and were exciting positions." Ron Sr. finds the time to work a full time job for transportation and trucking company while not volunteering his time at Branchville.

When asked about the Leizear legacy at Branchville, Sr., said, "I am very proud following in my dad's footsteps," which is that exact answer sons Richard and Ron Jr. responded to the same question. Chief Ricky Leizear added, "Not many sons get to work side by side with their father and their brother as we have. I relish in the fact we have had a long line of Leizears that are a part of the Departments history." Richard Leizear is a career firefighter with the District of Columbia.

Ron Jr., has been a fixture around the firehouse since he was very young. He also is very proud of the Leizear legacy and following in his dad's footsteps. Ron serves as an Emergency Medical Technician for a private ambulance service.

In addition to operating the business end of the Branchville Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad, Inc. Ron Sr. enjoys activities outside of the Department as well. He is President of the Red Knights Maryland Chapter #1 in addition to being Treasurer for the Red Knights State Association. The Red Knights are a motorcycle club for members of the fire service. Ron is also Past President of Hogs and Heroes Foundations Maryland Chapter 1 and a member of the Son's of AMVETS Post #2 in Frederick, Maryland.

"I really have had a great life," stated Leizear Sr., "being a volunteer firefighter and member of a Department that is rich in tradition of helping others and a mainstay of our community is rewarding." He concluded, "Being a part of a family legacy has made my journey even more enjoyable and rewarding."

When asked about his future plans Ronnie Leizear stated, "I hope to be part of Branchville for many more years and do whatever I can to help."

The Branchville Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad, Inc. and Ladies Auxiliary will hold their 91st Annual Award Banquet and Installation of Officers on Saturday, February 21, 2015, 6:00 pm at the Firehouse Heroes Hall.

Poor Communities Surrounding Baltimore Casino Getting Less Revenue Than Anticipated

By ANNKA MCGINNIS
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — Maryland's fifth casino, Horseshoe, debuted in Baltimore in August under a flurry of bells, whistles, and high expectations that it would create jobs, raise education funds and revitalize the state's struggling economy.

But as initial revenues on the low end of projections are spurring debate about the casino's financial potential, disputes are also brewing in impoverished Baltimore neighborhoods over who should pay for the infrastructure improvements and police and fire needs that have spiked with the casino's opening.

The casino, plopped right in the middle of impoverished South Baltimore, was supposed to inject new life into "historically ignored" communities mired with high crime and unemployment rates, poor health and lackluster housing.

The 5.5 percent of casino slots funds designated for "local impact" were expected to go toward boosting lagging communities — building local businesses and career centers, empowering youth, beautifying parks and bringing in healthy, fresh food to areas overrun with corner stores.

But 78 percent of this year's "impact" funding from Horseshoe — \$5.5 million out of \$7 million — will most likely go to mitigating casino needs, including increased police and emergency medical services, traffic enforcement, sanitation, security cameras and road work, according to the mayor's proposed budget.

The other \$1.5 million is going mostly to studies and needs assessments for future community projects, as well as an employment connection center and small grants for immediate neighborhood projects.

Horseshoe's lower-than-expected earnings this fall also mean most proposed community projects for this fiscal year will be pushed to the next, including creating youth job and internship programs in a city where 9 percent of residents were unemployed on average this year.

Some local leaders of the six neighborhoods in the "impact zone" said initial hopes were too good to be true.

"I work in the Cherry Hill community. There are a lot of issues; there are a lot of issues that the casino could address," said Baltimore neighborhood leader Michael Middleton. "We need to see some different signs of something good that's coming from the casino to those communities."

Casinos' local impact has long sowed contention among state governments touting the benefits of gambling revenue, and some economists, sociologists and local leaders who say the gambling centers leech wealth out of communities and foster expensive and unhealthy gambling addictions in often-impoverished groups.

Over the next two years, relocating a steam pipe that some consider a public safety problem from beneath the casino will take \$3 million out of impact grants. Both the pipe's contractor, Veolia Transportation, and Caesars Entertainment Corp., which owns Horseshoe, refused to pay for the upgrade, state Sen. Bill Ferguson, chair of the Baltimore local development council that monitors impact funds, wrote in an August statement on his blog.

The casino will pay the city about \$30 million over three years, which the mayor will use for reducing property taxes and constructing schools, Ferguson wrote. Caesars believed these payments required the city to construct "a site on which the facility could be built and operated safely," he wrote.

Ferguson responded to resident concerns at the Oct. 30 meeting by insisting the spending plan balanced mitigating casino impacts with revitalizing communities.

The legislation that laid out casino funds' distribution states the money can be used for "infrastructure improvements, facilities, public safety, sanitation, economic and community development ... and other public services and improvements."

Many initial costs "modernizing" the area will go

away after the first few years, said Ethan Cohen, a project coordinator in Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's office.

But city agencies' needs have skyrocketed since the casino's opening — and the community-intended fund has absorbed the costs.

Fire Services Expand Due to Spike in EMS Calls

Between the casino's opening on Aug. 26 and Oct. 5, the Baltimore City Fire Department saw medical calls in the area increase more than 450 percent compared to same period last year, department statistics show.

Medic teams responded to 83 emergency medical service calls in those first 40 days versus 18 in the same period in 2013 and 23 in 2012. Seventy-seven calls within this year's period were emergencies, including three suicides and three people struck by vehicles.

The spike in calls is consistent with more people in the area, said Mark Wagner, the fire department's assistant chief of operations. The casino expects more than 5 million visitors a year, casino spokesman Dave Curley said.

The department will spend \$300,000 of this fiscal year's \$7 million in impact funds on a new emergency medical services unit. The new engine cannot fit inside the firehouse, so part of the department's \$2.7 million request next year is for two firehouse renovations. It is also requesting another unit.

Eighteen police officers are also assigned to a new casino "mini-district," and the city's police department will receive at least \$1.5 million by July for additional coverage in the area.

The spending trend is similar at the Maryland Live! casino in Hanover, where 54 percent of the \$55.6 million in impact funds since fiscal year 2012 have gone to fire and police.

About 1 percent, or \$600,000, also funded community projects ranging from elementary school field trips

to a grief support program, homeless "grooming" services, and hats and mittens for newborns.

Seventeen-year Baltimore resident Bill Marker said he understood people might "win \$100,000 and have a heart attack," but communities shouldn't be tacked with the bill.

"If you decided to start a business that had major impact on things, you would be expected to bail the costs," he said.

Horseshoe responded to concerns that the casino should be absorbing the extra costs by expressing their pride for "every penny" they contributed to "local impact funds, employee wages and city and state coffers."

As of Dec. 5, Horseshoe had raised \$2.4 million in impact grants, according to the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency.

"While the casino does not dictate how money is allocated within the community, we are pleased that in just 100 days of operation our business is making a major contribution to the local economy through the creation of new jobs, new tax revenues and new funding for neighborhood projects," Chad Barnhill, Horseshoe Casino senior vice president and general manager, said in a statement.

Falling Casino Revenue Means Less Money For Locals

Voters statewide approved building the Baltimore casino — the state's second-largest, with 2,500 slot machines and 145 table games — in a 2008 constitutional referendum that also approved four other casinos.

Perryville's Hollywood Casino opened in September 2010, then Berlin's Ocean Downs in 2011, Hanover's Maryland Live! in 2012, and Allegany's Rocky Gap Casino Resort in 2013. The sixth, which got the green light in 2012, will open in 2016 in Prince George's County's National Harbor.

See REVENUE Page A6

Maryland Casinos Generate \$85 Million in Revenue During January

By PRESS OFFICER
MLGCA

(Baltimore) — The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency today announced January 2015 revenue numbers for the state's five casinos — Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City, Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, Maryland Live Casino in Anne Arundel County, and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County. January 2015's combined statewide revenue totaled \$84,966,720.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$6,003,204 from both slot machines and table games in January. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$154.80 for slot machines, \$2,296.40 for banking table games and \$324.56 for non-banking table games. Hollywood Casino's January 2015 revenue decreased by \$306,286, or 4.9%, from January 2014.

Hollywood Casino Perryville operates 1,052 slot machines and 22 (12 banking and 10 non-banking) table games.

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore generated \$23,157,788 from both slot machines and table games in January. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$162.53 for slot machines, \$2,580.85 for banking table games and \$1,033.74 for non-banking table games. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore operates 2,500 slot machines and 147 (122 banking and 25 non-banking) table games. The casino opened to the public in August 2014.

Maryland Live Casino generated \$49,452,221 from both slot machines and table games in January. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$239.46 for slot machines, \$3,775.16 for banking table games and \$1,335.56 for non-banking table games. Maryland Live's January 2015 revenue decreased by \$4,261,123, or 8%, from January 2014. Maryland Live Casino operates

4,212 slot machines and 189 (137 banking and 52 non-banking) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$3,379,632 from slot machines in January, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$136.28. Casino at Ocean Downs' January 2015 revenue increased by \$209,414, or 6.6%, from January 2014. The Casino at Ocean Downs operates 800 slot machines.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$2,973,875 from both slot machines and table games in January. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$142.99 for slot machines, \$845.68 for banking table games, and \$371.66 for non-banking table games. Rocky Gap Casino Resort's January 2015 revenue decreased by \$55,436, or 1.8%, from January 2014. Rocky Gap Casino Resort operates 577 slot machines and 17 table games (15 banking and 2 non-banking).

In a year-to-year comparison, January 2015 casino revenue in-

creased from January 2014 by \$18,744,357, or 28.3%. In a comparison excluding Horseshoe Casino Baltimore, which opened in August 2014, year-to-year revenue decreased from January 2014 by \$4,413,430, or 6.7%. See attached document (or click HERE) for a detailed breakdown of January 2015's fund disbursement, fiscal year-to-date totals for the individual casinos and combined state total.

The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA) is responsible for all matters relating to regulation of the state's casinos. In this regulatory role, the agency oversees all internal controls, auditing, security, surveillance, background investigation, licensing and accounting procedures for the facilities. To keep Marylanders informed and maintain integrity and transparency in its regulation of the state's casinos, the MLGCA posts monthly financial reports on casino revenue on its website, gaming.mdlottery.com.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Jupiter Ascending”

Jupiter Ascending
Grade: B
Rated PG-13, a little profanity, a naked butt, moderate sci-fi action and violence
2 hrs., 7 min

According to interviews, Andy and Lana Wachowski's screenplay for *Jupiter Ascending* was originally more than 200 pages long. Assuming the usual metric of one page in the script being about one minute on the screen, that means they chopped 40% from it. And boy, does it show. Many expositional details — heck, even a few entire scenes — are included despite being ultimately irrelevant, while other elements go unexplained. It's a muddled, confusing hodge-podge of a sci-fi spectacle that presumably made more sense in the original screenplay ... and which I almost thoroughly enjoyed in spite of itself.

They swung for the fences on this one, that's for sure. It's the story of a Russian immigrant named Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis) who works as a maid with her mother and aunt in Chicago. You can ignore most of what we're told about Jupiter in the first 20 minutes (she wants to sell her eggs; her sleazy cousin is acting as egg pimp; her dad was an astronomer) because it doesn't matter. What matters is that she is the genetic reincarnation of a dead alien queen whose three children — whispery fey camp villain Balem (Eddie Redmayne), princely conniver Titus (Douglas Booth), and nondescript because I think her whole subplot got cut out Kalique (Tuppence Middleton) — are squabbling over their inheritance. Specifically, the Earth, which belonged to Mom and now belongs to Jupiter (the girl, not the planet) because she's the reincarnation of Mom and that's just how it works, OK?

Explaining it won't help. The important thing is that these three highly advanced aliens who look like humans (well, except Redmayne) all have strategic reasons to want Jupiter either dead or captured. A bounty



hunter named Caine (Channing Tatum) is dispatched to Earth to collect her, but he becomes her friend and protector instead. (Jupiter is the protagonist, but she's also a girl, so she needs to be rescued a lot.) Caine mentions that he's genetically part wolf and part albino, to name just two more details that could have been omitted because they're never mentioned again. He skates around, sometimes shirtless, on nifty gravity boots. He has a friend named Stinger (Sean Bean) who's part bee. Did you know bees can recognize royalty? That's a “thing” with them.

I should stop telling you details. It will make you think the movie is more flat-out bonkers than it really is. Only Redmayne's performance approaches the level of trash masterpiece; everyone else is more or less on the mark, giving it their all without tipping over into cheesiness.

The impressive variety of alien creatures scattered throughout the film, from skittering little gremlins to hulking winged di-

nosaur-men, along with the “gee whiz!” sense of adventure that permeates the story — along with, sure, Michael Giacchino's bombastic score that features vocal choruses — puts a person in the mind of Star Wars. Other elements suggest *Dune* and *Brazil*, including an amusing sequence of surreal intergalactic bureaucracy that's a direct homage to the latter. A chase scene in the skies over Chicago is thrillingly realized. There are imaginative touches in the sets and costumes, and in the peculiar details of alien society.

The bureaucracy sequence is entertaining but adds nothing to the story. That's because there's nothing to add to. For as big, bold, and fun as the film is, it has very little depth, no weighty things on its mind. That's quite a change from the *Big Themes of The Matrix* and *Cloud Atlas*, and I'd be curious to know whether the fuller version of *Jupiter Ascending* had more meat on its bones. It lacks a fearsome villain, too, which is a critical miscalculation. If your

story is ultimately no more complicated than “good versus evil,” well, your evil ought to be well represented, don't you think?

Say what you will about the Wachowski siblings — for example, *Speed Racer* is unwatchable even on second try — but one thing is beyond dispute: they're fully committed to their nerdy, insanely detailed sci-fi stories. That enthusiasm is infectious. *Jupiter Ascending* is bold, silly, and messy, but it's sincere. Watching it, you get the feeling (even though you know this isn't the case) that Andy and Lana don't care if it makes money, that they'll happily spin their adventure yarns for whoever will listen. For me, that separates this from something prefabricated like, say, *Seventh Son*, where you can tell the primary motivator was that someone wanted to launch a lucrative franchise and didn't care if it was any good. You might not think *Jupiter Ascending* is good, but you have to see that the Wachowskis at least wanted it to be.

Revenue from A5

This fiscal year, which will end July 1, the casinos have raised \$278.9 million, including \$14.9 million in local impact grants, Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency statistics show. But with overall drops in year-to-year casino revenue (excluding Horseshoe) this September, October and November compared to the same months last year, some question whether there's still enough demand for gambling venues.

The Baltimore mayor's office and neighborhood council had planned for lower and higher revenue levels by creating two “tiers” of possible impact grant spending.

But this fall's lower-than-expected receipts at Horseshoe, about \$22 million to \$23 million each month, mean that yearly, the city will most likely only reach the lower “tier” — which prioritizes city agencies,

putting community projects at the bottom.

In Baltimore, a fourth of people in 2012 already lived below the poverty line. A 2013 report by civil society think tank the Institute for American Values showed casinos typically weakened local businesses and slashed property values, and people living close by were more likely to become the “problem gamblers” casinos depend upon.

Around Horseshoe, traffic jams will likely increase, as will bankruptcies, divorce rates, drunken driving and people addicted to gambling, said economist Richard McGowan of the Harvard-affiliated Cambridge Health Alliance.

The casino responded by pointing to studies conducted by U.S. government agencies and universities in the late 1990s and early 2000s that showed casinos did not increase bankruptcy rates, street crime or social problems in surrounding neighborhoods.

Community-Intended Funds Reallocated to City-Led Projects

One of the few planned community projects for the first year was a \$500,000 fund to create a “community benefits district” that would give neighborhoods leeway in spending the money.

But lack of time to craft the district meant \$300,000 of that pot was reallocated in October to jumpstarting small-scale projects the city can complete by July 1.

The city will decide on options including tree planting, re-striping crosswalks, painting a mural and installing streetlights, Cohen said. Each of the six neighborhoods will get \$50,000.

Residents were concerned the city was “making decisions for every dime that's spent.”

Stark wealth cleavages exist among the neighborhoods. Local development council member Keisha Allen was worried priorities of poorer areas,

such as her Baltimore Westport neighborhood — including workforce development, GED programs and fixing vacant lots — would get pushed behind areas such as the Federal Hill neighborhood just blocks away, “where everyone has a decent job or a high school diploma.”

But mayor's office representative Cohen said securing non-city-led services — including giving the neighborhoods control — would slow the process and make costs unpredictable.

As Baltimore leaders plan casino funding for the coming years, residents are hoping for “revival.”

In South Baltimore, “businesses have been boarded up for 40 years,” Allen said.

“We're just kind of off the beaten path: out of sight, out of mind,” she said. “Now, we can get some things quicker. We need to figure it out, because we need to see something. We need to see change.”

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Conspiracy Theory Surrounding The Seahawks' Last Play



Conspiracy theories abound in US history, a way to explain the unexplainable in a nation with massive gaps in wealth and power. How could a lone gunman kill the President of the United States? Who put a drifter like James Earl Ray in position to kill Dr. Martin Luther King? Or the conspiracy theory of our century, one that has been entertained by the person at the heart of this article, Seattle Seahawks Pete Carroll, how did the Towers fall? (Please save the e-mails. I am not passing judgment on any of the above theories. Only pointing out that they all have found purchase.)

Sports, where antitrust exemptions, a compliant media and authoritarian structures don't exactly encourage open discussion, conspiracy theories have always been nourished. Well, one is certainly emerging after last night's shocking end to Super Bowl 49, as the Seahawks gave away a game that looked comfortably in their grasp. With the outcome in their hands in the closing seconds, on second down from the one yard line and trailing by four points against the New England Patriots, Seattle coach Pete Carroll chose to throw a three-foot slant over the middle instead of handing it to their power runner extraordinaire Marshawn Lynch. It was, of course, intercepted, the first time a pass from the one-yard line had been intercepted all season in any game.

In the stunning aftermath, after that unfathomable decision, conspiracy theories sprouted like Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*. I'm not talking about Twitter-theories from deep-thinking eggs, or any crisis de coeur from devastated Seahawks fans. I'm talking about people inside Seattle's own locker room. I'm talking about texts I received from mainstream writers who don't want to deal with the backlash that would come with writing it up.

The theory goes something like this. Russell Wilson is your young clean-cut God-fearing media-perfect quarterback. If one was creating a superstar face to market for the twenty-first century, chances are they would look, sound and basically be Russell Wilson. He's Derek Jeter with a Bible, someone who comes across like he has never spoken out of turn in his entire life. Marshawn Lynch is... Marshawn Lynch, and if you haven't figured out what that means after the past two weeks, then you haven't been paying attention.

The theory goes that there were major financial, public relations and football reasons for Russell Wilson and not Lynch to be the one who ends the game in glory. If he throws that touchdown for the victory, Wilson is almost certainly the Super Bowl MVP. He gets the commercial. He gets to stand with the commissioner. And oh, by the way, he also gets his new contract, one that will fasten his prime, at only 26 years old, to the Seattle franchise. Marshawn Lynch is also due a new contract. Marshawn Lynch, had he punched that ball over the goal line, would probably get to be the one handed the MVP trophy. Marshawn Lynch also maybe gets on the mic to say Lord knows what.

Marshawn Lynch is in addition playing for a new contract and will certainly get one after an awesome, iconic season. But unlike Wilson, Marshawn Lynch turns 29 this off-season, that time when the ability of running backs tends to fall off the cliff. In Seattle's own recent history, they saw their MVP running back Shaun Alexander go seemingly overnight from superstar to someone who could barely run the ball, a football equivalent of milk left on the radiator.

The conspiracy theory lies in the fact that Seahawks coach Pete Carroll believed that the last yard the Seahawks needed for that Super Bowl victory was a gimme and, all things being equal, much better to have the iconic Super Bowl moment go to Russell Wilson than to Marshawn Lynch. Coaches setting certain favored players up for glory is as old as football itself. In addition, the politics of race, respectability, public relations and what's in the best interest of a \$2 billion corporation all played into this. That's the theory.

I contacted someone inside that locker room and they said to me as if on repeat: “Can't believe it. We all saw it. They wanted it to be Russ. They didn't want Marshawn to be the hero.”

Mike Silver for the NFL network reported on these “mutterings” as well, writing that he wanted to “refrain from lending any legitimacy to the conspiracy theory which one anonymous player was willing to broach: That Carroll somehow had a vested interest in making Wilson, rather than Lynch, the hero, and thus insisted on putting the ball in the quarterback's hands with an entire season on the line. ‘That's what

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See SEAHAWKS Page A7

Calendar of Events

March 5 — March 11, 2015

Peter Pan Club

Date and Time: 2nd & 4th Thursday of Every Month, 10:30 am
 Description: Come to the Peter Pan Club for pre-school fun! Ideal for little learners up to five years old, the club includes story-time and hands-on craft activities. To schedule a group larger than 10, please call the museum to make a private group reservation.
 Cost: FREE with museum admission
 Ages: 5 & under
 Location: College Park Aviation Museum
 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park 20740
 Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Senior Days

Date and Time: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8 am-12 noon
 Description: Let's move and get fit. Seniors (Prince George's County residents only) are allowed use of both the fitness center and pool during the above times.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: 60 & up
 Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785
 Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

Xtreme Teens: 3-on-3 Basketball

Date and Time: Friday, March 6, 2015 7-10 pm
 Description: Get your game on with a 3-on-3 basketball tournament! Be sure to sign your team up, and see if your team can reign supreme. This week we're playing Hoop-It-Up style basketball.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: 13-17
 Location: Glenarden Community Center
 8615 McLain Ave Glenarden 20706
 Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-218-6768

Opening Reception & Exhibit: Black Artists of DC

Date and Time: Saturday, February 7, 2015 6:45 pm
 Exhibit is ongoing until March 13, 2015
 Description: Established in 1999, Black Artists of DC is comprised of artists at all stages of development. The work spans all media, subject matter, and style. Membership is inclusive of age, gender and ethnicity. The links between the artists is their African descent, love of art, a commitment to people, and an intuitive understanding that there can be a profoundly nurturing bond between artists of African descent through the Diaspora.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly 20784
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Community Meeting—Primary Healthcare Strategic Plan

Date and Time: Saturday, March 07, 2015, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 Location: 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774
 Come hear about the integrated healthcare system, which will provide access to high-quality healthcare services, and updated information on the New Regional Medical Center.
 Cost: Free
 Location: Prince George's Community College
 Largo Student Center, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774.
 Contact: <http://www.pgplanning.org/Projects/PHCSP.htm>

The Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Date and Time: Sunday, March 8, 2015 2:30 pm
 Description: Riversdale's chamber music series continues with musicians from the University of Maryland. This afternoon, enjoy a performance of Franz Schubert's Octet in F major.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Hidden Treasure: Restoration and Archaeology at Montpelier

Date and Time: Monday, March 9-Thursday, April 30, 2015
 11 am-3 pm (closed Wednesdays)
 Description: Attendees will have the chance to see some of the 4,000 artifacts discovered by archaeologists during Montpelier's year-long restoration in 2013. In addition, they will learn how Montpelier has survived and thrived over the 230 years of its existence. Kids' activities will be featured, as will our Spring History Lecture Series. These lecture series take place monthly (March-May) and will discuss archaeology, preservation and conservation. Fee includes self-guided tour of the the house.
 Cost: Adults (19 & up): \$3; Seniors (60 & up): \$2; Children (6-18): \$1; Children (under 5): Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2455
montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

Nature's Wings

Date and Time: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 7:30pm
 Description: These lectures are presented by Prince George's Audubon Society and Patuxent Bird Club in conjunction with the Biological Flyers exhibition. Learn something new every month about the natural world flying around us. Does Tree Species Matter? The Effects of Native & Non-native Vegetation on Food Resources for Breeding Birds
 Presented by Desiree L. Narango
 Research Associate at Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center
 Over the summers of 2013-14 volunteers studied foraging behavior, nest success, yearly survival and nesting growth of over 100 chickadee nests in the Washington, D.C. area. Preliminary findings of this study will be presented, along with ways you can participate in backyard bird research.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 14 & up
 Location: College Park Aviation Museum
 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park
 Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Televisions Bigger & Greener Than Ever

Dear EarthTalk:

I am in the market for a new flat screen TV. Are some models greener than others?

— Michael Kavanaugh,
 Rome, NY

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, Americans' 275 million TV sets burn through some 65 billion kilowatt hours of energy each year, representing four to five percent of U.S. household electricity consumption. Each U.S. household spends around \$200/year for electricity to power their TVs and related equipment. But while we may not be giving up our TVs anytime soon, there is some light at the end of the tunnel, as the consumer electronics industry has started to prioritize reducing its environmental footprint.

While screen size has continued to increase, the overall mass of televisions is much smaller than back in the days of boxy cathode ray tube (CRT) sets. And many new flat screen models (LCD, OLED or plasma) sport hyper-efficient screens that can be tweaked even further by the user to reduce their power needs.

Some of the energy-saving features that this new generation of greener TVs makes use of include screens back-lit by light emitting diodes (LEDs), automatic brightness controls

that adapt the picture to the light intensity of the room, "local dimming," where sections of backlighting are dimmed or turned off when not needed, and the ability to pre-determine picture settings optimized to save energy. All of the major TV makers—Vizio, LG, Samsung, Panasonic, JVC, Sharp, Toshiba, Sony—now offer power-sipping models.

"Even though televisions are the most widely owned device in the U.S., with a 97 percent household penetration in 2013, their total annual electricity consumption dropped 23 percent from 2010," reports the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), the trade group for electronics manufacturers that puts on the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ENERGY STAR program certifies appliances, electronics and other energy-efficient consumer items to help Americans save money and protect the climate through saving energy. If you're shopping for a new TV, start your search at EnergyStar.gov, where you can find and compare new models that are all at least 25 percent more energy efficient than conventional ones. The easy-to-use site allows you to check-off which brands, screen sizes, technology types, resolutions and other features you're looking for before it serves up a



CREDIT: RODDY SCHEER

Flat screen LCD, OLED and plasma television sets are bigger and greener than ever before. Consumers should look for the ENERGY STAR label when shopping for a new model.

list of matches complete with estimated energy use over a year. The EPA reports that if every TV, DVD player and home entertainment system purchased in the U.S. this year qualified for an ENERGY STAR label, consumers would keep some 2.2 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions out of the atmosphere, the equivalent of taking 200,000 cars off the road.

Of course, buying a new TV introduces another potential environmental hazard: that associated with the disposal of your old set. Throwing your old TV in the garbage where it will end up in a landfill is not only bad for the environment, given the risk of chemical and heavy metal leakage, it is also typically illegal. If you're buying your new

TV from a local store, ask them if they can take back your old set. Also, the CEA's Greener Gadgets website provides an up-to-date list of resources to find out how to responsibly recycle old TV sets and other electronics directly with the manufacturers or through third-party recyclers.

CONTACTS: CEA, www.ce.org; ENERGY STAR, www.energystar.gov; Greener Gadgets, www.grenergadgets.org.

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 Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Seahawks from A6

it looked like,' the unnamed player said, but I'd be willing to bet that he merely muttered it out of frustration, and that it was a fleeting thought."

Appreciate Mike for reporting it, but it's not a fleeting thought. People in the Seattle locker room are saying it. People in the sports media are texting it to me. Only a few people are writing about it. But the fact that people on the inside are even thinking it, in a locker room that

earlier this season, as Mike Freeman reported, was roiled by these very kinds of divisions, makes it story enough.

But does it hold actual weight? Would Pete Carroll risk the Super Bowl for public relations? Who the hell knows? Some mitigating factors in Carroll's corner: Marshawn Lynch is a beast mode of awesomeness, but was actually one for five on the season when rushing from the one-yard line. In other words, it was not an automatic for Lynch to score that touchdown.

If he fails, the Hawks have to burn that last time out and probably then have to pass it anyway. Factor in that Pete Carroll may have been thinking about a somewhat similar scenario when, coaching at USC in 2006 for a national championship, he ran the ball and failed. Given that Carroll himself was basically in a state of post-traumatic stress after the game and didn't really explain much of anything, it may be a long time before we ever know what he was thinking. But in a locker room like Seat-

tle's where they truly do feel like it's them against a world and an NFL power structure that wants to put them down, this is one theory that we can expect to find purchase in the months ahead. Tragically, it all overshadows a terrific comeback by the New England Patriots and a game for the ages, a game that reminds us why, despite every scandal, every NFL corporate crime and all the incompetence that swirls around Roger Goodell's leadership, the sport still reigns supreme.

Disabilities from A1

tration -- and most importantly for the 125 people on the group's Crisis Resolution waitlist -- is another top priority. Marchand and other advocates are proposing a needed \$3 million to support those in crisis, who are defined as homeless, a danger to themselves or others, or living with someone unable to provide care.

"I want them to do something about the waitlist because 8,300 people on the waiting list is just shameful," Laura Carr, board member for Arc of Central Chesapeake Region. "I want them to really take a close look at the wages."

Without money to fairly compensate providers, Carr said, it's impossible to support people with disabilities in the ways they deserve.

Mat Rice, of Towson, specializes in public policy for People on the Go Maryland, a group of advocates with intellectual and developmental challenges. He testified before the state Senate Finance subcommittee on Health and Human Services to show how important his direct support staff is -- and therefore their wages.

"We know that Maryland is in a fiscal crisis, but we also know that if the revenue is not restored...we will be in a major community crisis," said Rice, who has cerebral palsy and is legally blind.

Direct support staff should be paid more than minimum wage, Rice said, because it is a valuable job that requires lots of training and skills. Last year's mandated increase would have raised the wages for direct support staff about 30 percent above the minimum wage -- but that boost has since been cut in half.

Damon Briggs, who also has cerebral palsy, explained the im-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY GRACE TOOHEY

Mat Rice urges members of the state Senate Finance subcommittee on health and human services to restore money in the budget for direct staff support for himself and other Marylanders with developmental disabilities. Rice, who has cerebral palsy and is legally blind, said he believes his service providers deserve to be properly compensated.

portance of his direct support staff, helping him shower, eat, brush teeth, and even acting friend and mentor.

"If you cut their pay, we can't do the things in society and community that we need to do," said Briggs, of Silver Spring. "Such as work, such as going to our friend's house, such as just living a normal life."

But for Fort Washington mother Stephanie Peterson, getting her son off the waitlist to receive services will enhance both their lives. Peterson's 32-year-old son has intellectual and learning disabilities, and has been increasingly difficult to care for.

He originally missed the chance to receive services after high school because he had plans to live with his dad in another state, but when plans changed, Peterson said, he went straight to the waitlist. Each time she asks

for services, she said she is told there is no money.

"Families like mine have been champions most of our lives," Peterson said. "Now we need champions to help us."

The department's program for transitioning youth services, which serves about 600 students each year once they leave the public school system at age 21, could also see cuts.

Mary Ann Kane Breschi, of Baltimore County, has a daughter with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. With transitional services, 23-year-old Maggie is now living and working with support staff, and finding purpose and happiness in her life.

"We recognize that none of this could be possible if not for the transitional youth funding," Breschi said. "While Maggie is fortunate, students graduating in

June this year might not be if the budget is reduced."

Advocates said they also worry about funding for public schools, which provide special programs and specific staff for students with disabilities, as well as the discrimination against people with disabilities when it comes to organ donations.

Chair of the subcommittee, state Senator Richard Madaleno Jr., D-Montgomery, said he appreciated everyone advocating for those with developmental disabilities, but, unfortunately, no one can create money.

"I think there's a strong desire to keep the promise that we made in last year's minimum wage bill," he said. "The governor is seeking to get out of the mandate, (but) we can reject that and keep it in place. We have to find money elsewhere to fund it, but it gives us some options."