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Shortage of IT and Cyber Security Industry Talent Linked to Cost and Availability of Training

By Press Officer
Weiss PR

Greenbelt, MD – When it comes to how companies are approaching IT training for their employees, most have significant training requirements, and many predict the demand for available IT training will grow over the next year, while the bulk of them want employees with security compliance and governance skills. The costs associated with IT training, however, present a considerable barrier to meeting these needs, according to survey published today by Cybrary.

When Cybrary, the world's first and only tuition-free massive open online course (MOOC) for IT and cyber security, asked 405 senior-level technology professionals about their companies' plans for IT training in 2015, 61 percent said employees in their company need it, while 55 percent predicted an increased need this year and beyond for available IT training for employees. Security compliance and governance, followed by programming and app development and business intelligence and analytics, ranked as the top IT skills desired by hiring managers in 2015.

About 42 percent of companies plan to hire more IT staff over the next year, 40 percent weren't sure about hiring needs, and the remainder said they had no plans to hire. Most companies plan to spend the same amount of

money on IT training for 2015 as they did in 2014, which accounts for as much as 10 percent of overall IT budgets. Less than a quarter allocate 10 to 20 percent of their IT budgets to training, while 11 percent said they don't provide any money for IT training because it's too expensive.

"The data we've compiled suggests that companies do not provide enough means for IT training, despite a lack of IT talent and ever-increasing technology and cyber security challenges," said Ryan Corey, co-founder, Cybrary. "Additionally, the current state of IT training makes it very difficult for employees to advance in their careers and for people to break into the IT industry, thereby eliminating a lot of talent from the start."

The greatest impediment to IT training is cost, according to respondents, while 35 percent cited a lack of other resources, including time and staff. Another obstacle was lack of management buy-in. When companies do invest in IT training for employees, it's predominantly for those who need it (41 percent), and often just for those in IT. More than 50 percent believe the cost of quality IT training will climb in 2015. The most important and/or popular areas for training are in security, Microsoft, and Cisco, followed by CompTIA and VMware.

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PHOTO COURTESY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Governor Larry Hogan Meets Maryland Congressional Delegation to Discusses Federal Priorities

Bringing FBI Headquarters To Prince George's County A Key Goal

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) and the entire Maryland Congressional delegation met with Governor Larry Hogan to discuss the state's federal priorities, and to develop strategies to ensure the delegation and administration are jointly focused and working as a team to do what is best for the state.

A main emphasis of the meeting was the relocation of FBI headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Prince George's County—a move that would bring an estimated 11,500 jobs to Maryland. Currently, the largest proportion of the FBI's workforce resides in Maryland.

They were joined by Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker at a press conference after the meeting to

highlight that officials are united at the federal, state, and local levels in making sure the FBI headquarters relocates to Prince George's County. Strategic assets like Joint Base Andrews and the National Security Agency, as well as access to mass transit, make Prince George's County an ideal location.

Other key topics discussed included business and economic development, infrastructure, la-

bor, licensing and regulation, housing and community development, the Maryland National Guard, and transportation.

"I'm proud that our federal, state, and local officials are fully committed to Prince George's County as the next home of the new FBI headquarters," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "This project

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MD Awarded Grant to Continue Foreclosure Prevention Efforts

By PRESS OFFICER
MDDHCD

Crownsville, MD – The National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program has announced grant awards totaling more than \$44.8 million, including \$747,000 for foreclosure prevention counseling in Maryland.

More than 1,100 nonprofit counseling agencies and local NeighborWorks organizations across the country are expected to be engaged in the NFMC Program as a result of this, the ninth round of funding awards.

To date, more than 1.89 million families in all 50 states, including the District of Columbia and the U.S. Territories have received foreclosure counseling through the NFMC program since it began in 2007. An additional 129,600 families facing the threat of foreclosure will be directly assisted with these awards. Many more will be helped by the training of foreclosure counselors, provided through the NFMC program. NeighborWorks expects to train 1,600 counselors with the ninth round of NFMC funding.



PHOTO COURTESY

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Maryland's outreach and foreclosure prevention counseling efforts rank among the most effective in the country.

Maryland, under the leadership of Governor Larry Hogan and Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, consistently ranks near the top in putting its funds to work. HOPE NOW ranks Maryland second in the nation in the percentage of homeowners who have received proprietary bank modifications between 2009 to September 2014, with almost 84,000 homeowners. The state ranks fifth in the utilization of

the federal Home Affordable Modification Program, benefiting 119,000 homeowners and 11th in utilization of the federal Home Affordable Refinance Program, with nearly 92,000 homeowners.

Maryland also has been a national leader in using funds from the National Attorney General Mortgage Settlement to benefit financially beleaguered homeowners directly.

Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School Students Win Local Competition

By Press Officer
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Two teams of students from the Academy of Health and Biosciences at Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School recently took top honors at the Patriots' 6th Annual Biomedical Competition, held at Greenbelt Marriott on February 19, 2015.

The team who calls themselves the "Wise Dr's," is comprised of students Golden Daka, Kailah Fields, Ariyana Larkins,

Xavier Parker and Ayanna Powell. They presented their research on meningitis, while the "Lady Pumas" team of Victoria Taylor, Mariam Sannoh, Covir Maju, Raven Stewart and Taylor Green presented on Parkinson's disease. The teams placed first and second respectively, winning the competition based on their research paper, website, brochure, display board and presentation.

"Winning the competition made me feel like I had succeeded," said Xavier Parker, a junior on Wise Dr's team. "You spend months learning and be-

coming experts on a specific disease, knowing that you will have to present it in front of other experts."

"It was intimidating, but when they announced our team as the winner, I felt like I met the challenge and it made me more confident in my capabilities to maybe one day pursue a career in the medical field," he added.

The biomedical competition provides students with the op-

See STUDENTS Page A3

Hospital Offers New Wheelchair Seating and Positioning Clinic

By Press Officer
Doctors Community Hospital

Lanham, MD – Doctors Community Hospital now offers a Wheelchair Seating and Positioning Clinic that helps people reduce their risks of wheelchair-related injuries (e.g. ulcerations and pressure sores) and enhance postural alignment. The only such pro-

gram in the area, the clinic's rehabilitation therapists provide personalized wheelchair assessments, recommendations and fittings using advanced pressure mapping technology. It helps therapists identify more effective wheelchair cushions based on resistance and pressure measurements taken when users are sitting or moving.

On a Roll: Specialized Support for Wheelchair Users

Approximately 2.2 million people in the United States depend on a wheelchair for day-to-day tasks and mobility[1]. Each of those wheelchair users has unique needs that may cause different injuries

See HOSPITAL Page A3

INSIDE

The Best Line of Defense Against Pothole Damage

In many jurisdictions across the nation, most claims for reimbursement are rejected, and some cities cite "sovereign immunity" as a fig-leaf. Yet area motorists have a legal right to submit a claim against the state or local government for the damages sustained while hitting a pothole.

Community, Page A3

Staying on the March—Right Now

Each American must remember and help America remember that the fellowship of human beings is more important than the fellowship of race and class and gender in a democratic society. Each of us has a personal responsibility to be decent and fair and insist that others be so in our presence.

Commentary, Page A4

HUD to Connect Low-Income Workers With Job Opportunities

The initiative would increase opportunities for businesses that hire local public housing residents for HUD-funded projects. In addition to changes to Section 3 requirements, Secretary Castro also announced the launch of a National Section 3 Business Registry.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: The Lazarus Effect

The story follows a group of researchers led by Frank and his fiancée Zoe who've achieved the unimaginable—bringing the dead back to life. After a successful, yet unsanctioned, trial on a newly deceased animal, the team is ready to unveil their breakthrough to the world. When the dean of their university shuts them down.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

The cold winter we're having here in the Northeast has convinced me to finally beef up my home's insulation, but I've heard that spray foam can off-gas noxious chemicals and pollute the indoor environment. Are there safer options?

— Rose Donahue, Framingham, MA
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

You are invited to Walk for Life 2015

The Forestville Pregnancy Center at Marlow Heights is hosting a Walk for Life on April 18 in the parking lot of the Center, 3611 Branch Avenue. Register at fpc@forestvillepregnancycenter.org or by calling 301-423-0042.

The Forestville Pregnancy Center was founded 32 years ago, in Forestville. But several years ago a gas explosion destroyed the shop and several others nearby, necessitating a move to Marlow Heights.

Over the years the Pregnancy Center has had 22,623 clients, with 395 volunteers (who've served 153,772 hours). Of the babies they've saved, 3270 have reached 18 years of age.

From the Morningside VFD Facebook, March 19

"Shortly after 2045 hours a Rescue Local was sounded for a Motor Vehicle Accident with people trapped on Branch Avenue in the area of the Naylor Road Metro Station. Company 27 [that's Morningside] responded with the balance of the assignment, consisting of the Rescue Squad, Engine Company and Ambulance and were updated while responding. The incident also involved a Police Officer.

"Crews arrived to find a critically injured patient trapped in a vehicle and went to work freeing them. The victim was quickly freed but not before the roof had to be removed from the vehicle. This incident was a result of a hit and run. Fortunately the police later apprehended a suspect after a foot chase and with the assistance of a police helicopter.

However, when the dust settled a police officer was injured, another victim succumbed to their injuries and numerous vehicles were involved. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by this tragedy."

Neighbors

My grandson Conor McHale, his wife Heather, and their children Mary and Wesley, of Clinton, participated in the (Re)Generation Who convention last weekend at the Hunt

Valley Inn in Hunt Valley, Md. The Sixth Doctor Colin Baker, the Seventh Doctor Sylvester McCoy, the Fourth Doctor Tom Baker (via Skype), and Second Doctor Companion Deborah Watling were among those expected to appear.

"I love Steak in a Sack," emails Jan Stocklinski, daughter of Morningside's first mayor, "I have been going there for many years. My husband Don loved it too. Our favorite waitress Shirley is still working there. Although I live in NC now, I try to stop in to eat there and see Shirley at least once a year. Best breakfast anywhere!!! Tell Shirley that Jan says hello, from NC."

Morningside holds its monthly Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

SPCA/Humane Society needs volunteers

Photographers, social media outreach, adoption-show assistance, and pet foster families are needed by the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County, an all-volunteer organization. If you love animals and are interested in helping, call 301-780-7200 or visit www.pgspca.org/get-involved/volunteer.

Changing landscape

Upper Marlboro has been granted \$35,000 from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to improve building facades, including painting, new awnings or signs, masonry repair, new doors and windows, and landscaping. Property owners must submit applications for some of the grant money by April 15.

A building permit application has been submitted for a warehouse at 4333 Forestville Rd. (Just what Prince George's needs—another warehouse.)

Kirkland Memorial Church's preliminary plan has been approved for a 12,000-square-foot church on 1.2 acres at 5225 Manchester Drive in Camp Springs.

Morningside Memories

Thirty years ago this month Morningside's favorite vega-

bond, Edna Lucas, was back in town after a South American voyage of more than two months aboard the freighter Salvador of the Ivaran Lines. She was one of only 12 passengers. That's all the passengers freighters could take.

Longtime Morningsider Jack McHahan dies

Harold Lloyd "Jack" Mahan Jr., 92, a longtime resident of Morningside, died March 25. He had lived on Larkspur Road since at least 1952 and might have been here in 1949 when Morningside became a municipality.

He arrived in the Washington area during WWII to work for the Defense Department at the Torpedo Factory. After the war he worked as an auto mechanic, servicing some faithful clients for decades. He had a lifelong hobby of building and displaying "hit and miss" engines, which he exhibited at the regional Farm and Steam Engine shows.

His first wife Ann Crossley Mahan and daughter Carol Verdi preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife Marge, daughter Patricia Leone, three brothers, a sister, grandchildren and great-grands.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Melissa Lytton, Sophia Cordero and Bernie Saylor, April 3; Motoko Howard, April 4; Earlene Erhardt Righter, Jimmy Shipman and Kaitlin Woods, April 5; Jonathan Charters, April 6; and Debbie Callison, April 8.

*A
Blessed Easter*



to all my Readers!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

EAGLES ATHLETICS

The Winter Athletic Awards Banquet was held at Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland March 9, 2015. There were 146 students recognized for their Academic Excellence and Athletic Dominance. Presentations were made to students in Bocee, Swimming, Cheerleading, Girl's Basketball, Indoor Track & Field and Boys Basketball. Thirty five Athletes were awarded Minds In Motion Certificates for attaining a 3.2 Grade point average or above.

CAMP SPRING FLING

Camp Spring Fling for girls in Grades K-5 April 7-10, 2015 at Brandywine Elementary School from 9 AM- 4:00 PM. The cost is \$40 which includes T-Shirt, transportation and snack. Financial Assistance is available. Camp fees are non-refundable. Campers should bring a healthy lunch and water bottle to camp each day. Snack is provided daily.

Camp Spring Fling is a community outreach camp designed as an introductory program for girls who are not currently Girl Scouts. Visit: <http://www.gscnc.org/springflingcap.html> to register for

Camp Spring Fling .

AVON 39 THE WALK TO END CANCER

Please join us at St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Brandywine, Maryland to raise money for the cause. Party yourself into shape with Team Pretty in Pink at a Zumba Fitness Party Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 1:00 PM -3:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Instructors are Nay Crawley and Honey.

Fellowship with Team Pretty in Pink at a BBQ Fundraiser Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM. There will be a 50/50 Raffle Drawing at 3:00 PM. Rib Dinner \$15.00, BBQ Chicken Dinner \$12.00 (Dinners include corn on the cob, green beans, baked beans, potato salad, slice of cake and a soda or water). Rib Sandwich Combo \$12.00, BBQ Chicken Sandwich Combo \$10.00, Hot Dog Combo \$5.00 (Combos include: one side, cookie and soda or water.) Rib Sandwich only \$10.00, Chicken Sandwich only \$8.00, Hot Dog only \$3.00, side order \$2.00, Can Soda (Pepsi or Sierra Mist) \$0.75, bottle of water \$1.00. *Delivery

available to local businesses for \$25.00 minimum order. Orders for delivery must be placed in advance by calling 240-438-2121*.

Team Pretty in Pink has committed to participating in the Avon 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer. Money raised will be managed and disbursed by the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade to provide access to care for those who need help the most. The money will also be used to fund educational programs, and accelerate research into new treatments and potential cures.

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Wednesday with Mrs. Bowles Grade K-6th April 29 and May 20, 2015 for Roller Skating, music, fun and snack from 3:40 PM - 6:00 PM. Permission slip is required to stay after school. Please pick up by 6:00 PM. The cost is \$5.00 per child /per date (includes skates and snacks).

Baden Community Center is located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-888-1500 and TTY 301-203-6030.

Neighborhood Events

Maryland Names Poetry Out Loud State Champion

Fellowships awarded to 87 Maryland artists

(Baltimore) — The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) today announced that Kyle Shreve, a freshman at Tuscarora High School in Frederick County, placed first at the 2015 Maryland Poetry Out Loud (POL) state final competition on Saturday, March 7 at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Radio personality Aaron Henkin of WYPR hosted the event, which featured three scored rounds of poetry recitation from the eight Maryland students who advanced through classroom, school, county and regional contests among more than 16,000 competitors to arrive at Saturday's state final.

"I was very impressed with the poise of the contestants," said Theresa Colvin, Executive Director of the MSAC. "Their ability to convey the emotional depth of each poem was truly remarkable and a reflection of their deep understanding of the written word."

Kyle Shreve recited "Possible Answers to Prayer" by Scot Cairns, "Dover Beach" by Matthew Arnold, and "Song of the Powers" by David Mason.

"I was genuinely surprised that I came out the champion," says the 15-year-old Shreve. "The other seven contestants were so incredibly talented, and I was grateful to have even made it to the top three."

Shreve says he lost the jitters as the competition moved along. "By the time I performed my third poem, I had gotten comfortable with the stage and the audience, and many of my nerves had vanished. I had a lot of fun reciting my third poem especially, and it was such a great feeling to see members of the audience grin at some of my gestures in my performance," he adds.

As champion, Shreve receives \$200 and a trip to Washington, D.C. to represent Maryland in the POL National Finals, April 28-29 at the George Washington University, Lisner Auditorium. Tuscarora High School will receive a \$500 stipend toward the purchase of poetry books.

Blessed Sheriff of Richard Montgomery High School (Montgomery County), the 2013 Maryland POL Champion who finished second at the National POL Finals that year, placed second at this year's state finals. Paige Hilton of Boonsboro High School (Washington County) placed third.

"I thought that both Blessed and Paige gave stunning performances in the final round," said Shreve. "In fact, the performances from Rachel, Amy, Taraea, Spencer, and Caleb were all amazing. When Blessed was announced second, I was surprised. I was very honored to have competed with students that talented, let alone win."

"This has been a such an amazing journey and experience for me, and I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to continue it into Nationals," Shreve said, who credits his English teacher Linda Henry's encouragement to participate in the POL.

More than 16,000 Maryland students in 16 counties and 51 schools participated in POL this year. A panel of judges

scored students' performances in categories such as level of difficulty, dramatic appropriateness, voice and articulation and overall performance.

Among the judges was Jonathan Katz, former CEO of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, who helped create the partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation to establish Poetry Out Loud.

This is the 10th anniversary of the POL program. In Maryland, 98,000 students have participated in that time, 2.6 million nationwide, learning about their literary heritage and building confidence and public speaking skills. The Maryland POL program, which encourages high school students to learn poetry through memorization and recitation, is supported by the MSAC in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. The statewide competition is open to all Maryland high schools, grades 9-12.

YouTube clips from the POL Maryland Finals are available online. To learn more about Poetry Out Loud visit the website at www.poetryoutloud.org. For information about the Maryland competition visit www.msac.org/poetryoutloud, or contact Program Director, Chris Stewart at christine.stewart1@maryland.gov.

About the Maryland State Arts Council

An agency of the Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts, the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Maryland State Arts Council grantees generate \$1 billion in economic activity and support more than 12,000 jobs and \$45 million in state and local tax revenue. Source: Source: Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland: FY2013. For information call (410) 767-6555 or TTY (410) 333-4519.

Doctors Community Hospital Recognized for Its Top Performance During the 2014 Diabetes Campaign

Lanham, MD — Doctors Community Hospital's Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine is one of Healogics, Inc., top performers for the 2014 Diabetes Campaign.

The Diabetes Campaign encouraged each Healogics Wound Care Center to utilize community outreach to educate healthcare providers about chronic wounds caused by diabetes. Doctors Community Hospital's Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine was honored as one of the top five centers in its area. The center celebrated this accomplishment with an all-staff gathering and will have a plaque placed to showcase its dedication to the community.

According to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Vital Statistics Administration report, about 12 percent of Prince George's County residents have diabetes. Additionally, there are significant disparities in the

county regarding diabetes-related deaths. To further help community members manage this complex disease, the hospital's Joslin Diabetes Center also provides support groups and free educational materials. Also, it provides free diabetes screenings in partnership with the Prince George's County Health Department through an On the Road Diabetes program that travels throughout the area.

For a free diabetes or wound care brochure, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

Dorothy Morrison Chosen for Leadership Maryland Class of 2015

Maryland Department of Transportation employee and Bowie resident one of 50 to join program

Annapolis, Md.— Leadership Maryland announced today that Dorothy H. Morrison, Director of the Office of Environment for the Maryland Department of Transportation, has been chosen to participate in the professional development program dedicated to building a stronger Maryland by educating, cultivating and connecting our state's brightest leaders. Morrison is one of 50 Maryland leaders chosen for Leadership Maryland's 23rd class — the Class of 2015 — who will complete the eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues.

Following a two-day opening retreat in April, the class will attend five two-day intense sessions focusing on Maryland's economic development, education, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multi-culturalism/diversity. These sessions will be followed by a one-day closing retreat in November and a graduation celebration in December. More than 100 experts representing business, government, education, and the non-profit community will serve as panelists and guest speakers.

"The selection process for the Class of 2015 was very competitive this year, as we had an extraordinary pool of diverse and experienced applicants to choose from," said Renée M. Winsky '05, president and Chief Executive Officer, Leadership Maryland. "The 50 selected participants represent a broad spectrum of highly-qualified executives from across the state, and we are confident that their Leadership Maryland experience will help them to play an even greater role in our unified effort to shape the future of our state."

Leadership Maryland is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state. For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit www.LeadershipMD.org, call 410-841-2101 or email Info@LeadershipMD.org.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Inequity in Education Funding Shortchanges America's Future

"That all citizens will be given an equal start through a sound education is one of the most basic, promised rights of our democracy. Our chronic refusal as a nation to guarantee that right for all children, including poor children, is a national disgrace...It is a failure which threatens our future as a nation of citizens called to a common purpose, allied with one another in a common enterprise, tied to one another by a common bond."



— Senator Paul Wellstone, Teachers College, Columbia University, March 2000

Sitting beside his first teacher, "Miss Katie" Deadrich, in front of the one-room Texas schoolhouse he once attended, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act into law on April 11, 1965. ESEA—commonly known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB)—was a cornerstone in the president's "War on Poverty" initiative. Its intent was to close the education achievement gap between children from lower- and higher-income families. Fifty years later, with Congress currently considering a reauthorization of the law, the gap in educational opportunity, achievement and funding is growing.

For the first time in our nation's history, students of color are the majority of the U.S. student body. According to a recent survey by the Southern Education Foundation, a majority of all public school students are low-income. In another troubling milestone, The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that during the 2013-2014 school year, a majority—51 percent—of public school students were deemed eligible for free- and reduced-price meals, a common indicator of poverty. This is even more alarming when we consider a finding that our 2015 State of Black America® revealed and that we shared at the launch this week: On average, larger academic achievement gaps are in states with large urban areas home to large populations of people of color who live in highly segregated neighborhoods with high rates of concentrated high poverty.

During a press call with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan last week, we mapped out the landscape of education in America and warned against the dangerous course our nation would chart if we do not spend our education dollars where the need is the greatest. Right now in more than 20 states, school districts serving the highest percentage of low-income households spend fewer state and local dollars per student than in districts that have fewer students in poverty. The same shortchanging trend is the norm in 20 states that have a high percentage of students of color, where school districts are spending fewer dollars in those schools than in schools with a lower percentage of students of color.

The National Urban League has been—and will remain—at the forefront of this issue, having advocated for equal economic and educational opportunity for 105 years with the clear understanding that neither is mutually exclusive. This week, the National Urban League releases our annual State of Black America® report, this year titled "Save Our Cities: Education, Jobs + Justice." For the first time in the report's history, we have also included a state-by-state Education Equality Index™ and ranking. The index examines state-level racial and ethnic disparities in K-12 education, documenting the extent of Black and Hispanic achievement gaps, when compared to whites, in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The State Education Index also includes supporting data on some of the factors that contribute to narrowing or widening these gaps.

The National Urban League adds its advocacy and voice to the chorus of education and civil rights groups, government officials and families demanding that Congress revisit and recommit to the original vision and mission of ESEA. When signing the bill, President Johnson declared that our nation would "bridge the gap between helplessness and hope for...educationally deprived children."

How can we begin to bridge the gap President Johnson spoke of 50 years ago, when all-too-often the greatest percentage of education dollars is allocated to already resource-rich schools? How can we begin to make the promise of equality in education a reality when we refuse to admit that equality in education does not always translate to equitable funding?

The 1954 groundbreaking Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education made it clear that "education must be made available to all on equal terms." But as long as Congress passes laws that continue to embolden state school districts to exacerbate inequities by providing less money to those with the greatest need, we do neither honor nor justice to the spirit of the law—or our nation's children and future.

ADVERTISE! WITH US
Call Brenda Boice
301 627 0900

The Best Line of Defense Against Pothole Damage

Motorists Have A Legal Right To File Claims For Pothole Damage To Their Vehicles

By PRESS OFFICER
 AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Each year, millions of motorists sustain billions of dollars in damages to their vehicles from potholes (nearly \$6.4 billion), some as big as lunar craters. Although nearly fifty percent of all American motorists have experienced damage to their vehicles as a result of potholes over the last five years, fewer than five percent of drivers even bother to file a claim for pothole damage against the local or state government, advises AAA Mid-Atlantic.

In many jurisdictions across the nation, most claims for reimbursement are rejected, and some cities cite "sovereign immunity" as a fig-leaf. Yet area motorists have a legal right to submit a claim against the state or local government for the damages sustained while hitting a pothole, explains AAA Insurance. Although South Carolina paid more than \$5 million in damages from state roads, including pothole damages, in 2014, many pothole claims are handled at the local level by area transportation or highway departments. For example, last March, "Richmond paid more than \$14,000 for repairs to 38 vehicles damaged by potholes," according to media reports. Even in warmer climates like Tucson, Arizona, the city has reimbursed motorists more than \$30,000 in pothole damage claims the past two winters. In 2013, New York City shelled out \$5.5 million to motorists in pothole damage claims, while Chicago only paid out \$187,217.

"The damages cost motorists billions yearly. It all could be an uphill battle, but it is worth filing a claim," counsels John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "To prove your claim and your case, get a photo of the pothole and get a photo of the damage to your ve-

hicle in proximity to the pothole. Also save proper documentation, including repair shop receipts and invoices."

Cities across the country, including Honolulu, Oakland, and Atlanta, are paying millions in damages in lawsuits over potholes big enough to cause fatal crashes and injuries to motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and motorcyclists, according to the auto club. Oakland's payout to an injured cyclist was \$3.25 million. In 2012, the city of Columbus, Ohio paid \$1.25 million to settle a lawsuit claiming a large pothole on the city streets contributed to a crash that left a cyclist paralyzed.

Driving on roads in need of repair and chock full of potholes will cost the average Washington, D.C. motorist \$1,060.84 per year in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs, according to estimates from the American Society of Civil Engineers. That equates to a total cost of \$425 million for District motorists annually. It's \$1.9 billion a year for Maryland motorists and \$1.8 billion a year for Virginia drivers. Motorists in the District can file a pothole damage claim with the District Office of Risk Management.

Likewise, Maryland motorists can file a written claim with the Maryland Treasury Department for damage to the vehicle's alignment, tires, hubcaps, and struts, advises AAA Insurance. In Virginia, the go-to-agency is the venerable Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for reimbursement for the bent rims, blown tires and misaligned steering systems. VDOT informs motorists: "If drivers hit a pothole and experience damage to their vehicle, they have a legal right to submit a damage claim. Claims are investigated on a case-by-case basis. Investigators review the circumstances, the type and location of the pothole, if VDOT had been previously notified of the issue, and if crews had been given a reasonable amount of time to repair the pothole."

Surprisingly, in the past five years only three percent of motorists have filed a damage claim with a government agency, a third of motorists (31 percent) filed a claim with their own insurance company, and more than six out of ten (65 percent) paid for the repairs out of their own pockets. That's according to a survey by Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIBA) and Trusted Choice®. Drivers who hit a pothole and sustain damage to their vehicles can file a "claim for damages" in certain situations in some area jurisdictions. AAA makes it easy to report potholes in the DMV (The District, Maryland and Virginia) and get them fixed. Wishing to file a claim for pothole damage? Here's how.

- Call the Virginia Department of Transportation's Customer Service Center at 1-800-367-7623.

- In Maryland you can file a written claim by going to the Maryland Treasury Department. You can also call (410) 260-7684 or 1-800-942-0162 to speak with someone in the insurance division.

- In the District, motorists can file a claim with the D.C. Office of Risk Management or at 202-727-8600.

Also visit the AAA Mid-Atlantic News page on Facebook to post your photos of potholes or pothole-caused car damage. However, please doesn't text, take photos, or use social media while driving. To aid motorists in protecting their vehicles from pothole damage, AAA recommends:

- **Inspect Tires** — The tire is the most important cushion between a car and a pothole. Make sure tires have enough tread and are properly inflated. To check the tread depth, insert a quarter into the tread groove with Washington's head upside down. The tread should cover part of Washington's head. If it doesn't, then it's time to start shopping for new tires. When checking tire pressures, ensure they are in-

flated to the manufacturer's recommended levels, which can be found in the owner's manual or on a sticker on the driver's door jamb. Do not use the pressure levels stamped on the sidewall of the tire.

- **Inspect Suspension** — Make certain struts and shock absorbers are in good condition. Changes in vehicle handling, excessive vibration or uneven tire wear can indicate bad shocks or struts. Have the suspension inspected by a certified technician if you suspect problems.

- **Look Ahead** — Make a point of checking the road ahead for potholes. An alert driver may have time to avoid potholes, so it's important to stay focused on the road and not any distractions inside or outside the vehicle. Before swerving to avoid a pothole, check surrounding traffic to ensure this will not cause a collision or endanger nearby pedestrians or cyclists.

- **Slow Down** — If a pothole cannot be avoided, reduce speed safely being sure to check the rearview mirror before any abrupt braking. Hitting a pothole at higher speeds greatly increases the chance of damage to tires, wheels and suspension components.

- **Beware of Puddles** — A puddle of water can disguise a deep pothole. Use care when driving through puddles and treat them as though they may be hiding potholes.

- **Check Alignment** — Hitting a pothole can knock a car's wheels out of alignment and affect the steering. If a vehicle pulls to the left or right, have the wheel alignment checked by a qualified technician.

- **Recognize Noises/Vibrations** — A hard pothole impact can dislodge wheel weights, damage a tire or wheel, and bend or even break suspension components. Any new or unusual noises or vibrations that appear after hitting a pothole should be inspected immediately by a certified technician.

Hospital from A1

and require individualized equipment strategies. It's not one size fits all.

Maher Kharma, MHS, OTR/L, CEAS, from Doctors Community Hospital's newly opened Wheelchair Seating and Positioning Clinic discussed how proper assessments help both users and their caregivers reduce injuries and optimize function.

What should I expect during my seating and positioning appointment?

The assessment will be completed by a rehabilitation therapist and a wheelchair vendor. They will collaborate to complete the assessment as well as provide optimal seating solutions that are tailored to your individual needs. The appointment takes about an hour and is billed to your insurance company. This team will share recommenda-

tions with you that may include a manual/motorized wheelchair, custom molded seating for your back and/or cushions. A representative will help coordinate all requirements (e.g. doctor's visits, additional paperwork, etc.), and you will be contacted when the recommended product(s) is ready for you.

What services do the Wheelchair Seating and Positioning Clinic provide?

The clinic cares for wheelchair users ages 16 and older who have varying medical conditions:

- Wounds
- Strokes
- Cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Orthopedic ailments
- Spinal cord injuries
- Geriatric concerns

Simultaneously, given the roles of caregivers who assist people get in/out of wheelchairs

and adjust seating to increase comfort, finding the right equipment and accessories is also important to protect these helpers from developing contractures, wounds, muscle sprains and other injuries.

The clinic's services are covered by most insurance companies.

How can the Wheelchair Seating and Positioning Clinic help me?

Each of our clinic's highly trained rehabilitation therapists have ten or more years of experience and specialize in addressing concerns unique to wheelchair users. We offer advanced technology called "pressure mapping," which identifies areas that need adjustment to reduce risks of pressure ulcers and other complications — sometimes even before they begin.

With comprehensive rehabilitation, occupational, physical and speech therapy available on-site at Doctors Community Hos-

pital, we provide assessments and support to address a wide range of eating, communication as well as mobility concerns.

What is most important when being fitted for a wheelchair?

Depending on the injury, illness or condition, people may have different mobility needs, requiring different seats, cushions or fastenings for support. So, well-fitted wheelchairs that will allow people to maintain or improve the quality of their lives are extremely important.

Other specialized equipment (e.g. "reachers," lifts, shower bars, etc.) can help prevent further injuries like stress fractures. Additionally, the right amount of support for the head, back, arms or legs can help further prevent pressure sores while allowing for greater comfort and ease of use.

For more information, visit DCHweb.org/wheelchair or call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

Students from A1

portunity to explore the relationship between common diseases or conditions and environmental exposures.

The organization's Competition Advisory Team assigns the health outcomes for participating teams. Presentations are judged by a panel of healthcare professionals, including members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, MedStar Health, National Institute of Health and Baxter Healthcare.

This year, eight local high schools competed, including five other Prince George's County Public Schools: Bowie, Bladensburg, Charles H. Flowers, Frederick Douglass, and the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's County Community College.

"We are extremely proud of our students and their ability to showcase their research skills and medical comprehension," said Charoscar Coleman, principal of Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School. "Their participation was voluntary,

but they were dedicated and committed to the work required of them from the beginning to the end."

Members of the winning team received a prize for their accomplishment. First place winners received a gift card valued at \$100, while second place winners received a gift card valued at \$50.

This was Wise's first year participating in the competition. Academy Coordinator Pamela Davis, and Academy Instructors Tanya Adkission and Dr. Portia Barnes supervised the teams.

The Academy of Health and Biosciences is a rigorous academic program that prepares students for initial employment or post-secondary training in the health field or biosciences industry.

Students enrolled in the program will explore various health care professions or study the full application of biomedical science using current and future technologies. PGCPs offers the program at four of its high schools: Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr., Bladensburg, Friendly, and Largo.

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Grassley Introduce Bill to Help Older Americans Stay in Their Homes for Care, Avoid Nursing Homes

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) have introduced bipartisan legislation (S. 704) allowing older Americans to receive individualized care that would help them continue to stay in their own homes rather than nursing homes.

"Allowing seniors to age in place, to stay in their homes as long as possible, takes an enormous financial and emotion burden off of families," said Senator Cardin. "This community based approach gives seniors the support and dignity they deserve, and is a commonsense alternative to costly institutionalization."

"I've never met anyone who can't wait to move into a nursing home," Senator Grassley said. "Everybody wants to stay in their own homes as long as they can, with the comforts of home. Unfortunately, our current system doesn't have a bridge for those who are on a fixed income but would have to sell their house to become eligible for Medicaid and get nursing home care. Our bill sets up a demonstration project to build a bridge for those who need care but otherwise would have to go to a nursing home to get it."

Today, the federal government does not pay for long-term services and support, unless an individual is on Medicaid. Seniors on Medicare often are forced to go into a nursing home, spend down their assets and then go on Medicaid for their long-term care.

The Cardin-Grassley bill would establish a new Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan (CBI-SNP) demonstration program.

This program would target home- and community-based services for low-income, Medicare-only beneficiaries who need help with two or more activities of daily living, the usual criteria for nursing home eligibility.

The goal is to prevent these Americans from having to enter an institution and spend down their remaining assets, thereby becoming eligible for Medicaid. It would help them remain in their own homes where studies show they wish to remain.

The demonstration would operate in up to five states initially, building on Medicare Advantage plans that have experience caring for this frail population. The plans would tailor services to beneficiaries, depending on individual needs. For instance, they might provide assistance with bathing or dressing, housekeeping or transportation, or even respite care for their primary caregiver.

The demonstration would generate evidence to support an alternative payment methodology that could produce savings for both states and the federal government. One estimate shows four-year savings of nearly \$60 million for a demonstration of 5,000 Medicare members by postponing or preventing hospitalization and institutionalization.

Cardin and Grassley said S. 704 will give hope to some of the nation's most vulnerable individuals and at the same time offer a path toward state and federal budget savings.

The bill will be assigned to the Finance Committee, with jurisdiction over Medicare and Medicaid, where Cardin and Grassley are members.



National Voting Rights Museum

Open to the Public

NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS MUSEUM
Located at 6 US Highway 80 East, in the Historic District of Selma, Alabama at the foot of the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge, the scene of "Bloody Sunday," the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute is the cornerstone of the contemporary struggle for voting rights and human dignity. The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute is the only such Institution of its kind in the world. Photography and video exhibits, documents, personal notes and artifacts from the struggle are housed in its archives. The Museum and Institute offers the United States of America and the world the unique opportunity to learn from the lessons of the past and to secure our rights for the future. It is a place where past and present struggles and future possibilities can be viewed, studied, felt, remembered and appreciated. Museum Hours are Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Friday, Saturday, Sunday: By Appointment Only

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



Staying on the March—Right Now

Fifty years ago I traveled from Mississippi to Selma, Alabama on March 21st, 1965 to join Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and thousands of fellow citizens marching the 54 miles to the steps of the state's capitol in Montgomery. Millions of Americans now know about this march thanks to the movie Selma and the recent 50th anniversary celebration. Selma was the site of a courageous voting rights campaign by Black citizens which was met by brutal Southern Jim Crow law enforcement and citizen violence. The nation was shocked two weeks earlier when John Lewis and Reverend Hosea Williams set out on a nonviolent march with a group of 600 people toward Montgomery to demand their right to vote and were brutally attacked by lawless state and local law enforcement officials at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The televised images of "Bloody Sunday" and the savage beatings of the marchers—including Congressman Lewis whose skull was fractured—were a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement and in America's struggle to become America. It provoked the thousands of us (ultimately about 25,000) who came together later to finish the march, safer thanks to Federal District Court Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr.'s order that we had a right to peaceful protest and with National Guard protection. And we were buoyed by President Johnson's March 15th, 1965 address calling on Congress to pass what became the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In that speech—"The American Promise"—President Johnson said: "This was the first nation in the history of the world to be founded with a purpose. The great phrases of that purpose still sound in every American heart, North and South: 'All men are created equal'—'government by consent of the governed'—'give me liberty or give me death'... Those words are a promise to every citizen that he shall share in the dignity of man... To apply any other test—to deny a man his hopes because of his color or race, his religion or the place of his birth—is not only to do injustice, it is to deny America and to dishonor the dead who gave their lives for American freedom." President Johnson also said: "Should we defeat every enemy, should we dou-

ble our wealth and conquer the stars, and still be unequal to this issue, then we will have failed as a people and as a nation."

Fifty years later, speaking at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, President Obama echoed the same themes: "[Selma is] the manifestation of a creed written into our founding documents... These are not just words. They're a living thing, a call to action, a roadmap for citizenship and an insistence in the capacity of free men and women to shape our own destiny." He added: "The American instinct that led these young men and women to pick up the torch and cross this bridge, that's the same instinct that moved patriots to choose revolution over tyranny. It's the same instinct that drew immigrants from across oceans and the Rio Grande; the same instinct that led women to reach for the ballot, workers to organize against an unjust status quo; the same instinct that led us to plant a flag at Iwo Jima and on the surface of the Moon. It's the idea held by generations of citizens who believed that America is a constant work in progress; who believed that loving this country requires more than singing its praises or avoiding uncomfortable truths. It requires the occasional disruption, the willingness to speak out for

what is right, to shake up the status quo. That's America. That's what makes us unique."

The first Selma march was planned not only to gain the right to vote but to protest the tragic death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, a 26-year-old Black church deacon and military veteran killed in Marion, Alabama when he, his mother, sister, and 82-year-old grandfather attended another nonviolent voting rights demonstration where marchers were brutally attacked by racist Alabama law enforcement officials who broke it up. Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot and beaten trying to shield his mother from a police nightstick. What a terrible irony that in this year of celebration of the Selma marches we are witnessing the resurgence of overt law enforcement brutality and injustice in Ferguson, Cleveland, New York City, and elsewhere, reminding us how far we still have to go. The continuing protests against unequal justice under the law by those enjoined to protect all of us and all of our children after the deaths of teenager Michael Brown, 12-year-old Tamir Rice, and others are a wake-up call about the deeply embedded systemic racism still alive

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Inequity in Education Funding Shortchanges America's Future

"That all citizens will be given an equal start through a sound education is one of the most basic, promised rights of our democracy. Our chronic refusal as a nation to guarantee that right for all children, including poor children, is a national disgrace...It is a failure which threatens our future as a nation of citizens called to a common purpose, allied with one another in a common enterprise, tied to one another by a common bond."

— Senator Paul Wellstone, *Teachers College, Columbia University, March 2000*

Sitting beside his first teacher, "Miss Katie" Deadrich, in front of the one-room Texas schoolhouse he once attended, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act into law on April 11, 1965. ESEA—commonly known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB)—was a cornerstone in the president's "War on Poverty" initiative. Its intent was to close the education achievement gap between children from lower- and higher-income families. Fifty years later, with Congress currently considering a reauthorization of the law, the gap in educational opportunity, achievement and funding is growing.

For the first time in our nation's history, students of color are the majority of the U.S. student body. According to a recent survey by the Southern Education Foundation, a majority of all public school students are low-income. In another troubling milestone, The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that during the 2013-2014 school year, a majority—51 percent—of public school students were deemed eligible for free- and reduced-price meals, a common indicator of poverty. This is even more alarming when we consider a finding that our 2015 State of Black America® revealed and that we shared at the launch this week: On average, larger academic achievement gaps are in states with large urban areas home to large populations of people of color who live in highly segregated neighborhoods with high rates of concentrated high poverty.

During a press call with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan last week, we mapped out the landscape of education in America and warned against the dangerous course our nation would chart if we do not spend our education dollars where the need is the greatest. Right now in more than 20

states, school districts serving the highest percentage of low-income households spend fewer state and local dollars per student than in districts that have fewer students in poverty. The same shortchanging trend is the norm in 20 states that have a high percentage of students of color, where school districts are spending fewer dollars in those schools than in schools with a lower percentage of students of color.

The National Urban League has been—and will remain—at the forefront of this issue, having advocated for 105 years with the clear understanding that neither is mutually exclusive. This week, the National Urban League releases our annual State of Black America® report, this year titled "Save Our Cities: Education, Jobs + Justice." For the first time in the report's history, we have also included a state-by-state Education Equality Index™ and ranking. The index examines state-level racial and ethnic disparities in K-12 education, documenting the extent of Black and Hispanic achievement gaps, when compared to whites, in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The State Education Index also includes supporting data on some of the factors that contribute to narrowing or widening these gaps.

The National Urban League adds its advocacy and voice to the chorus of education and civil rights groups, government officials and families demanding that Congress revisit and recommit to the original vision and mission of ESEA. When signing the bill, President Johnson declared that our nation would "bridge the gap between helplessness and hope for... educationally deprived children."

How can we begin to bridge the gap President Johnson spoke of 50 years ago, when all-too-often the greatest percentage of education dollars is allocated to already resource-rich schools? How can we begin to make the promise of equality in education a reality when we refuse to admit that equality in education does not always translate to equitable funding?

The 1954 groundbreaking Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education made it clear that "education must be made available to all on equal terms." But as long as Congress passes laws that continue to embolden state school districts to exacerbate inequities by providing less money to those with the greatest need, we do neither honor nor justice to the spirit of the law—or our nation's children and future.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Don't Let Your Age Keep You From Volunteering

Advertisers like to portray gray-haired seniors as smiling couples enjoying beautiful sunsets. Unfortunately, the reality is that getting older may bring numerous issues, problems and, often, lots of stress.

We all face stress, of course. Whether it's a school spelling test or an important business presentation, the result is worry and stress. But those types of stress have deadlines, after which the stress ends. One can also reduce such stress -- studying those spelling words again or rehearsing harder for that presentation.

But stress faced by an older person often has no set ending. Problems for seniors might be deteriorating health, an ill spouse, waning financial resources or fear of losing independence. Such ongoing issues can mean high stress levels in the face of problems usually impossible to make disappear. The result can be serious depression, one of the most common health issues facing America's senior citizens today.

While many of the problems facing the elderly aren't avoidable, it's still possible to manage the stress and negative effects they can produce.

Mental health experts commonly advise seniors facing problems to try and live a more active life. That usually means more physically activity and having a more fulfilling social life.

Getting more exercise isn't difficult, but does require dedication to make it happen. But creating a more active social life can be a challenge for many people. And that's where volunteering can make a real difference.

Regardless of where one lives, there most likely are numerous volunteer opportunities. Some may call on past skills, talents and work experiences, while others might allow you to learn new skills. Often it simply means being a helpful body when assistance is needed. But in all cases, volunteering provides an opportunity to meet new people, help others, and feel more positive about yourself -- all great stress reducers everyone can use.

Compared to taking on a new hobby or job, volunteering is usually quite easy. A call to your local school, hospital, YMCA, Red Cross, animal shelter or other non-profit will usually provide plenty of opportunities or suggestions. And there are online services, such as VolunteerMatch.com, that link volunteers to local non-profit needs.

Volunteering is a great way to stay active, get more involved, and reduce stress, regardless of your age. Find out who needs your help today and see how helping others can also really help you.

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

Business Spotlight

One-Millionth Maryland Tax Return Filed Electronically

-Comptroller Franchot Urges Residents to E-File as Milestone is Reached-

Annapolis, Md. (March 9, 2015) – With the tax filing deadline only five weeks away, Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot today announced that his office has already received more than one million electronically-filed tax returns. The one-millionth electronic return was submitted by an Allegany County tax filer.

To date, the Comptroller's Office has processed 1,100,946 tax returns filed electronically, with more than \$1.4 billion in refund payments issued. The Comptroller urges Marylanders to e-file as it's the most efficient and secure way to file a tax return. Most Marylanders who file electronically receive their refunds within three business days.

"Taxpayers who file electronically may schedule an electronic payment for April 30 and not be considered late," said Comptroller Franchot. "I would like to encourage everyone who owes money to think about taking advantage of this easy way to hold on to hard-earned dollars a bit longer."

Comptroller Franchot reminds taxpayers that they have the option to file their Maryland tax returns electronically through the state's free iFile system which can be accessed online at marylandtaxes.com.

Through expanded public outreach efforts by the Comptroller, the number of electronic returns has steadily increased. Last year, the Comptroller's Office processed more than 2.4 million returns electronically, up from the 2.3 million received the previous tax year. Electronic filers represented more than 81% of all personal income tax returns filed last year.

For more information on electronic filing please visit www.marylandtaxes.com or call 1-800-MD-TAXES (1-800-638-2937) or 410-260-7980 from Central Maryland.

HUD to Connect Low-Income Workers With Job Opportunities Nationwide

New National Registry and Proposed Policy Changes to Stimulate Local Economies by Connecting Low-Income Residents and Qualified Businesses With HUD-Funded Contracting Opportunities

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. HUD

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro today in Miami announced new changes to strengthen a federal program called "Section 3" that directs jobs and training to low-income workers and connects businesses that hire them with HUD-funded contracting opportunities. The initiative would increase opportunities for businesses that hire local public housing residents for HUD-funded projects. In addition to changes to Section 3 requirements, Secretary Castro also announced the launch of a National Section 3 Business Registry. The registry is a searchable online database that local housing authorities, government agencies, and contractors can use to find firms that are self-certified as employing at least 30 percent public housing residents or low-income workers.

"All Americans should have the chance to contribute to the development and growth of their

own communities," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "These Section 3 initiatives will connect more hard-working folks and small businesses to local economic opportunities, giving them new tools to secure a more prosperous future."

Every year, HUD funds create thousands of jobs across the country that range from construction to professional services like accounting or engineering. From 2009-2014, based on data reported by public housing authorities and HUD modeling, approximately 170,000 jobs were created by HUD for eligible low-income workers through this program. More than \$5 billion in HUD-funded contracts has been directed to Section 3 businesses since 2009. While businesses are only required to hire 30 percent low-income workers, that goal has been exceeded nationally. About 50 percent of new hires for HUD-funded contracts are low-income workers or public housing residents.

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 states that, "employment and other economic opportuni-

ties generated by Federal financial assistance for housing and community development programs shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed toward low- and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that employ them." Since 1994, the Section 3 program has been governed by an interim regulation. For the first time in 20 years, HUD is proposing a new rule today that would expand opportunities for public housing residents and low-income workers.

In 2012, HUD launched a five-city pilot Section 3 Business Registry in Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans and Washington, DC to help local public agencies better connect local businesses that hire low-income residents and workers with the contracting and economic development opportunities created by HUD-funded housing and development projects, something that is required under Section 3 guidelines. Nearly 1,000 businesses have signed up for the registry nationally. Today, in Mi-

ami, Secretary Castro applauded the nearly 300 Section 3 businesses that have signed up for the registry statewide. HUD announced that the initiative will now become national.

In addition, the proposed rule announced today would recognize new HUD programs established since 1994 that are required to meet low-income and public housing resident hiring goals. It also clarifies vague language in the interim rule and eases challenges to achieving compliance. HUD is currently accepting feedback on the proposed rule during a 60-day public comment period.

To register a business, search the database of local self-certified Section 3 businesses, or to learn more about HUD's National Section 3 Business Registry, please visit: www.hud.gov/sec3biz. For more information about the Section 3 program, please visit www.hud.gov/Section3. To read more about HUD's proposed rule amendment to Section 3 please visit <http://www.huduser.org/portal/economicOpportunities.html>.

IT from A1

In terms of what makes for a preferred IT training environment, most respondents want a reputable company, variety in content and courses, affordability, and collaboration with other IT learners. According to Corey, IT and cyber security professionals enjoy sharing in-

dustry accomplishments and knowledge, making collaborative learning a critical element in IT training.

Cybrary conducted this survey from November 2014 – January 2015. A complete copy of the results is available at <http://www.cybrary.it/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/Cybrary-Survey-Presentation.pdf>

About Cybrary.IT

Founded in 2015, Cybrary.IT gives aspiring and practicing IT professionals what they have long deserved and been denied: access to free, high-quality, open-source and results-focused IT and cyber security training that will help start and advance their careers. A MOOC provider whose top managers have

nearly 15 years of experience in IT training, Cybrary.IT offers free online training to anyone, anywhere and at every skill level in systems administration, network administration and cyber security. For more information on how Cybrary.IT is liberating IT knowledge by liberating training, visit <http://www.cybrary.it/>.

Priorities from A1

would bring thousands of jobs to Maryland and more economic opportunities to the County and throughout our state. I look forward to continuing to work together with Team Maryland and Governor Hogan to ensure this headquarters is relocated to Prince George's County."

Both members of the delegation and the administration pledged to remain in regular contact and to work together to make lasting improvements to the state.

Comments from the rest of the delegation and governor are as follows:

"I'm so pleased the entire Maryland congressional delegation could join with us today. Supporting essential state programs and infrastructure is something we all agree on and can work together to achieve. If there is one issue on which we are speaking in a unified voice, it is the relocation of the FBI headquarters to Prince George's County. This is something we all want to see happen for the good of our state." – Governor Larry Hogan

"We're working together, standing shoulder to shoulder, to retain, expand, and attract jobs and opportunity to Maryland. Our state is home to leading federal assets that are job magnets packing a one-two punch, supporting federal employee jobs and creating new jobs in Maryland's private sector. We're united in bringing the new FBI headquarters to Maryland and Prince George's County, keeping our country and the American people safe

while working for new jobs in Maryland. The FBI must have 21st-century resources to take on 21st-century threats." – Senator Barbara Mikulski

"Prince George's County has two of the three sites on the short list for the new FBI headquarters for good reasons: We have the best locations, the best infrastructure, the best people, and the best local, state, federal, academic, and private-sector assets to support a full consolidation. Maryland's congressional delegation has worked together tirelessly throughout this process, and it sends a strong message that Governor Hogan chose to make this effort to bring the FBI to Maryland such an early priority." – Senator Ben Cardin

"I hope we can move forward with plans and bring the FBI to Maryland. Aside from the thousands of jobs it will bring to the area, having the FBI headquartered here will be great for both the economy and local communities." – Congressman Andy Harris, M.D. (MD-01)

"Bringing 11,000 high-paying jobs to Maryland by choosing Prince George's County for the new FBI headquarters is a no-brainer. The bulk of FBI employees—more than 40 percent—already call Maryland home. We also have the infrastructure to accommodate an influx of federal workers, and our proximity to other federal agencies will encourage close cooperation." – Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02)

"Relocating the FBI headquarters to Maryland would bring thousands of jobs to our state, resulting in a positive impact on our local economy and on our local communities. I'm

honored to work together with officials at the local, state, and federal levels to make this project a reality." – Congressman John Sarbanes (MD-03)

"Locating the new headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Maryland is a win-win for the FBI and our state. In Prince George's County, the FBI would be in close proximity to Metro stations, our nation's capital, Joint Base Andrews, and first-class educational and research facilities. With the 11,000 jobs the FBI would bring to the area, it would help spur tremendous economic development for the county and the state. I thank our delegation, state and local officials, and all concerned parties for the incredible cooperation, and we will continue with that effort to bring the FBI to Prince George's County, Maryland." – Congresswoman Donna Edwards (MD-04)

"Even though the new FBI headquarters wouldn't be in Maryland's Sixth District, here's the absolute bottom line: Bringing the FBI to Maryland is good for the people of our state, from the mountains to the Bay and points in between. Moreover, with the strengths Maryland has to offer, our state is the best location for the federal government and the FBI. Building the FBI headquarters in Maryland will mean Maryland jobs and a stronger Maryland economy, and Team Maryland is united on this." – Congressman John Delaney (MD-06)

"Bringing the FBI headquarters to Maryland is a win-win proposition. Not only would our state benefit from the economic boon that 11,000 FBI employees would bring, but Prince George's County would also provide a

more convenient location for the many FBI workers who live here. Team Maryland on the federal, state, and local levels will continue to work together with the unified mission of demonstrating to the GSA the numerous benefits of selecting Maryland as the new home of the FBI." – Congressman Elijah Cummings (MD-07)

"An elite institution deserves a top-notch place to call home, so there's no question Prince George's County is the ideal location for the new FBI headquarters. It is convenient for the FBI's existing workforce, close to strategic assets like Joint Base Andrews and leading cybersecurity resources, and has the real estate necessary to build a secure campus tailored toward the Agency's current and future needs. I look forward to working with Governor Hogan, County Executive Baker, and the entire Maryland congressional delegation to ensure our state is the next home of the FBI." – Congressman Chris Van Hollen (MD-08)

"Maryland's leadership is 'all in' to bring the FBI to our state, and we are continuing to work together to ensure that one of our two sites is selected as the new location for FBI headquarters. I am proud to stand united with Governor Hogan and the entire Maryland congressional delegation as we advocate for bringing this once-in-a-generation opportunity to Prince George's County. Today, we welcome Governor Hogan to the team. His support will be a tremendous asset in our quest to bring the FBI to Prince George's County, Maryland." – Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“The Lazarus Effect”

The Lazarus Effect
Grade: C+
Rated PG-13, some
profanity, moderate violence
1 hr., 23 min

The Lazarus Effect begins with some medical students trying to resurrect a pig. This is a great use of everyone's time, you'll agree. If there's one thing we don't have enough of, it's live pigs. Actually, these students have developed a serum that might lengthen the window of time that doctors can revive a person after he or she is clinically dead. What's more, where there's usually brain damage in cases like that, this Lazarus juice keeps the brain sharp. Why, a person brought back to life with this serum might even have extra brain power...

Or at least that's the idea. The pig stays dead. But you know where this dimly lit, competently made but mostly ineffective quasi-thriller is going. As in all B-movies about mad scientists, it's only a matter of time before the serum is tested on a human subject. It's a matter of a LONG time, actually: the movie's half over before we get there. What happens next is half-baked and not particularly scary, but it's agreeably mediocre, the sort of middling entertainment that passes the time when you have time that needs passing.

Hey, look, it's Mark Duplass! You like him! He plays Frank, the leader of this scientific undertaking in a basement laboratory at a California university. His fiancée, Zoe (Olivia Wilde), is part of the team, along with a couple of dudes named Clay (Evan Peters) and Niko (Donald Glover). Plus a new



From masters of horror Blumhouse Productions- producer of THE PURGE, INSIDIOUS and SINISTER franchises- THE LAZARUS EFFECT follows a group of researchers led by Frank (Mark Duplass) and his fiancée Zoe (Olivia Wilde), who've achieved the unimaginable- bringing the dead back to life. After a successful, yet unsanctioned, trial on a newly deceased animal, the team is ready to unveil their breakthrough to the world. When the dean of their university learns of their underground experiments, their project is unexpectedly shut down and their materials confiscated. (C) Relativity

girl, Eva (Sarah Bolger). Zoe wears a crucifix that's shown in close-up twice early in the movie, indicating that 1) she's Catholic and 2) since the movie is about death, the subject of hell is going to come up. Frank kids Zoe good-naturedly about the way her spiritual beliefs weigh on her in light of the work they're doing, what with trying to raise the dead and all. Then the movie basically forgets about religion.

There's actually a long list of things the movie brings up and then either forgets about or doesn't get into: a pharmaceutical company trying to take over the experiment (featuring one — ONE! — scene

with the great Ray Wise); fears about the project's secrets being leaked by a spy or mole; Niko's crush on Zoe and Clay's crush on Eva; the idea of increased brain function manifesting itself through telekinesis and telepathy. The movie's only 83 minutes long; I wouldn't be surprised if the screenplay (credited to Luke Dawson and Jeremy Slater) originally had more details, resolution, and payoff. As it stands, it's scatterbrained and unconvincing.

At any rate, one of these people dies in a lab accident and is hastily reanimated with an injection of hot Lazarus oil. I feel like I shouldn't tell you which person it is, because

like I said, it doesn't happen till halfway in. But whatever, it's Zoe, and she comes back ... different. Wilde seems to have fun playing Zoe's varying degrees of ill-defined creepiness, but the plot becomes disappointingly routine before long.

The whole cast's personal charm and talent are the driving forces behind most of my positive feelings about the movie. It's underwritten pap, directed with straightforward blandness by David Gelb — but at least it has likable people playing non-irritating characters who aren't paralyzingly stupid. As cut-rate PG-13 “horror” movies go, this one is harmless.

USDA Provides Nearly \$100,000 for Maryland Surveys That Protect Agriculture and Plants

Funding Comes Through the 2014 Farm Bill

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will receive nearly \$100,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) via the 2014 Farm Bill to support projects designed to prevent the introduction or spread of plant pests, diseases and pathogens. The economic stakes for stopping invasive species are high, with USDA scientists estimating the total economic cost of all invasive species to be approximately \$120 billion annually.

“We are proud and excited to participate in these important projects to help better understand and address the pressures on honeybees and challenges for beekeepers,” said MDA Assistant Secretary for Plant Industries Carol Holko.

The supported projects are listed below: Vineyard

• **\$35,000 for a Phytophthora ramorum Survey:** The nursery industry is the second largest agricultural commodity in Maryland. Based on a crop cash value of more than \$400 million, it is the number one cash crop in the state. The large nursery industry in the United States allows for the free flow of most nursery stock, increasing the possibility of establishing *Phytophthora ramorum*. Because many large nurseries receive plants from

areas known to have *P. ramorum*, a survey to test these highly susceptible stocks is crucial in marketing Maryland plant stock as free from *P. ramorum*.

• **\$32,000 for a Grape Commodity Survey:** Many Maryland wineries buy grapes from other states for their wine production. The movement of grapes (fruits and vines), both into and out of our state, makes it easier for an invasive pest to be introduced or established in Maryland. Surveys of these vineyards are important in keeping the industry safe from these harmful pests.

• **\$18,300 for Asian Giant Hornet and Other Invasive Vespa Species Detection and Mitigation:** If the Asian Giant Hornet and other invasive vespa species are introduced into the United States, honey bee colonies would be killed at an enormous rate and the effect on crop pollination could be disastrous. Many crops and farmers depend on honey bees to improve both crop yield and quality. These hornets have also killed humans. Monitoring and surveying and having a plan in place if these hornets would be introduced will help mitigate and eradicate these invasive, deadly hornets before they become established.

• **\$12,000 for the National Honey Bee Pests and Disease Survey:** The funding will help

Maryland participate in this USDA-APHIS funded national bee survey to document which bee diseases, parasites and pests of honey bees are and are not present in the United States.

(For a comprehensive description of these surveys, see the appendix at the end of this release.)

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) sought suggestions from states and U.S. territories, universities, federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private companies and tribal organizations for projects that would provide a direct impact in managing pests and diseases, as well as disaster prevention. APHIS is funding 438 suggestions across the United States, as well as in Guam and Puerto Rico. The projects approved for allocation will help states and other partners continue providing and strengthening protections against agricultural threats and could also allow the reallocation of resources to other critical programs. More than \$1.8 million in grants were awarded in Maryland. Other grantees were academic institutions and federal agencies.

Prospective projects were evaluated by teams comprised of USDA experts and industry representatives and were selected based on criteria that supported six goals — enhancing plant pest/disease analysis and survey; targeting do-

mestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the safeguarding continuum; enhancing and strengthening pest identification and technology; safeguarding nursery production; enhancing mitigation capabilities; and conducting outreach and education about these issues. The teams also evaluated submissions based on expected impacts of the project, the technical approach, and how submissions would complement ongoing USDA programs and other previously funded projects.

“Through the Farm Bill we are working with our partners and stakeholders to not only ensure the global competitiveness of our specialty crop producers but to fight back against the destruction caused by invasive pests,” said USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack in announcing the grants. “The projects and centers funded through this effort are helping to develop and put in place the strategies, methods and treatments that safeguard our crops, plants, and our natural resources from invasive threats.”

Section 10007 of the 2014 Farm Bill supports two programs: Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention projects and the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN). The Farm Bill provided \$62.5 million for these programs in fiscal year 2015, though funding was reduced by sequestration.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Passing of Three

Interconnected Icons: Earl Lloyd, Minnie Minoso and Anthony Mason



The awful cliché that tragedy occurs in threes became prophecy over the last week in the world of sports. A trio of towering athletes died, two from age and one decades before his time. These three shared something powerful in common, beyond their field of work. None were ever formally recognized as Hall of Famers for their play, yet all were truly iconic. They were the kinds of players that young sportswriters made pilgrimages to interview; the kind who could either silence a room or cause attendees to spontaneously rise to their feet. They also shared a deeper sociopolitical significance worth remembrance and appreciation. Their names were Earl Lloyd, Orestes “Minnie” Minoso and Anthony Mason.

In 1950, Earl Lloyd became the first black player to take the court in the National Basketball Association, making his debut three and a half years after Jackie Robinson broke the color line in Major League Baseball. Lloyd played nine seasons with a reputation as a gritty and tireless defender. He endured segregated accommodations and racial barbs from fans, but was undeterred, blazing a trail for a new generation of players that would reshape, reform and recreate the beautiful game. From Bill Russell to LeBron James, the black athlete in the NBA begins with the slings and arrows suffered by Earl Lloyd. As kind a person as I have met in sports, Lloyd was quoted in his New York Times obituary from 1992 saying, “...they'd yell stuff like, ‘Go back to Africa.’ My philosophy was: If they weren't calling you names, you weren't doing nothing. If they're calling you names, you were hurting them.” Lloyd always took the time to speak about his experiences with a combination of detail and deep humility. His passing at the age of 86 is a tragedy for anyone in basketball who never had the chance to keep his company, even for a cup of coffee.

The Cuban-born Orestes “Minnie” Minoso was another trailblazer, becoming the first black player to ever suit up for a baseball team in the city of Chicago on May 1, 1951. He is perhaps best remembered for playing in five different decades, pinch-hitting in 1980 for the White Sox at the age of 55. But that gives short shrift to a brilliant Hall of Fame-quality playing career as one of the best hitting outfielders of his generation and pioneer of racial integration. As Adrian Burgos argues brilliantly at Sporting News, his rightful place is in the halls of Cooperstown. Beyond statistics, he should be honored for his role as a beacon, inspiring the great wave of Afro-Caribbean talent that first flowered throughout Major League Baseball in the 1950s and 1960s. As Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda said to Ed Sherman of the Chicago Tribune, “Orestes Minoso was the Jackie Robinson for all Latinos; the first star who opened doors for all Latin American players. He was everybody's hero. I wanted to be Minoso. [Roberto] Clemente wanted to be Minoso.” In a region that has nurtured more baseball talent per capita than anywhere on earth, Minoso broke down the cruelest and most backward of barriers: the one that for decades separated teammates and countrymen from making a joint jump to the Majors because of the different shades of their skin. No one is quite sure how old Minoso was upon his death. Maybe 90. Maybe 92. He always kept that number close to his vest. From Chicago to the Caribbean he will remain immortal.

Then there is Anthony Mason, the barrel-chested NBA point-forward who died from complications from a massive heart attack at age 48. He had a rap sheet and flaws that he wore with a shrug. But by torrents of accounts, he also had a beautiful and giving spirit, provoking people to be overwhelmed with grief upon hearing of his death. The outpouring of affection for “Mase” over the weekend must have been stunning to casual observers, his name trending at the top of Twitter ahead of llamas, dresses, CPAC and other frivolities. This is because an entire generation of established NBA writers became fans in the 1990s and for them Mason was a symbol of their dizzy, irrational young love. That's because the 1990s NBA was largely polarized around what you felt about Michael Jordan's air-borne dynasty in Chicago. If you were not a Jordan guy, you were probably by necessity fiercely attracted to their antithesis, a New York Knicks team that played basketball like it was roller derby played on skates with square-shaped wheels.

In the days before League Pass and the NBA channel, when your pro hoops fandom was somewhat at the mercy of network television, you probably watched an incredible number of 75-72 Knicks victories, eked out with elbows

Calendar of Events

April 2 — April 8, 2015

Learn About Eggs at Old Maryland Farm

Date and Time: Thursday, April 2, 2015 – 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Description: Join us at Old Maryland Farm to learn everything there is about eggs. This science-based, educational course will show participants how eggs are produced, going into detail on the anatomy of the egg. Participants will each receive an egg to analyze, learning about the shell, yolk and egg white, and how the eggs are laid. We'll also give some tips on coloring eggs.
Cost: \$3.00 for residents and \$4.00 for non-residents.
Ages: This course is for participants 18 months old and older.
Location: Old Maryland Farm
 301 Watkins Park Drive,
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.
Contact: To register, please visit our online registration page at <https://smartlink.pgpc.com/smartlink/Start/Start.asp> or register in person at one of our community centers.

Hidden Treasure: Restoration and Archaeology at Montpelier

Date and Time: Thursday, April 2 -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 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@pgpc.com

Puppet Show at Watkins Nature Center

Date and Time: Friday, April 3, 2015 – 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. – Saturday, May 30, 2015 – 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
Description: Come as we transform Watkins Nature Center into a puppeteer's paradise. The stage will be set for a nature-themed puppet performance, followed by a meet-and-greet with the real-life animals that inspired the show.
Cost: This course is for participants 2 to 10 years old, and will cost \$2.00 for residents and \$3.00 for non-residents.
Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: To register, please visit our online registration page at or register in person at one of our community centers.

Xtreme Teens: Trampoline Night

Date and Time: Friday, April 3, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Teens will travel to the trampoline paradise, Sky Zone, for a night of endless fun and games. Departure is at 7 pm, with a return time of 10 pm. To attend, teens must bring their permission signed by a parent or guardian, and the waiver. Please don't forget to bring socks.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Beltsville Community Center
 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

Xtreme Teens: 3-on-3 Basketball

Date and Time: Saturday, April 4, 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

Hands-on History: Spring Break

Date and Time: Tuesday-Friday, April 7-10, 2015, 10 am-3 pm
Description: Spring into history this spring break! Step back in time and experience what life was like 200 years ago with crafts, activities, cooking, and more! Registration required by March 27.
Cost: Resident: \$18/day, \$65/4 days; Non-Resident: \$22/day, \$78/4 days
Ages: Ages 7-12
Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

The Audacious Joshua Barney

Date and Time: Thursday, April 9, 2015 1-2 pm
Description: Joshua Barney was not only a participant in the Revolutionary War, but also a key player in The War of 1812 at the Battle of Bladensburg. Come hear his story! Advanced registration is suggested.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

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

EARTH TALK ... Safe Insulation

Dear EarthTalk:

The cold winter we're having here in the Northeast has convinced me to finally beef up my home's insulation, but I've heard that spray foam can off-gas noxious chemicals and pollute the indoor environment. Are there safer options?

— Rose Donahue, Framingham, MA

Making your home more energy efficient is certainly good for the planet and will cut your heating/cooling bills, but you're right to worry about chemical off-gassing. According to the non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG), most common spray polyurethane foam insulation contains methylene diphenyl diisocyanate, or MDI, a synthetic chemical that has been linked to asthma, lung damage and even death.

"Because of the chemical's risks, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has set the maximum legal limit for MDI exposure among workers who handle it and related chemicals at 0.02 parts per million in workplace air," reports EWG. "However, independent contractors and the general public, including homeowners who take on DIY insulation projects, may not be aware of these federal regula-

tions or the risks associated with MDI exposure."

In 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it was studying whether to regulate, restrict or even ban MDI in consumer products. (MDI is also used in a variety of adhesives and coatings like Gorilla Glue.) "Four years later, the agency has yet to take real action to protect ordinary people who go to their local hardware store and pick up a product that contains MDI," adds EWG.

There is hope from the West, though, as the state of California has made finding safer alternatives to MDI a priority in its Safer Consumer Products program, which requires manufacturers to look for greener, healthier alternatives. Time will tell if this new initiative in California will move manufacturers there and elsewhere away from MDI. Meanwhile, EWG wants the federal government to step up on the issue and restrict or ban MDI insulation across the country.

Homeowners willing to spend a little extra do have some safer alternatives to polyurethane spray foam at their disposal. Soybean-based spray foam doesn't rely on MDI or any other synthetic chemicals but has a similar R-value (measuring the strength of the insulation in blocking air) as conventional spray foam. Leading



CREDIT: DEMILEC

Choosing soy-based spray foam insulation is one way to minimize synthetic chemicals in your indoor environment.

soy-foam manufacturers include Biobased and Demilec. Castor oil-based Icyne is another chemical-free spray foam alternative great for green-minded home renovators.

Cotton denim batting—typically made from recycled scraps from denim factories—is another healthy alternative, but can't be sprayed in and costs almost twice as much in material costs as spray foam. Sheep's wool insulation is another effective choice, but also can't be sprayed in and costs significantly more than foam. These and other greener insulation options are available at mainstream and specialty home improvement stores, and also online via vendors including Green Depot, Green

Home Solutions and Green Building Supply.

CONTACTS: Environmental Working Group, www.ewg.org; Biobased, biobased.rhinolinings.com; Demilec, www.demilecusa.com; Icyne, www.icyne.com; Green Depot, www.greendepot.com; Green Home Solutions, www.ghsproducts.com; Green Building Supply, www.greenbuildingsupply.com.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Passing from A1

and swagger. As Robert Silverman wrote at the Daily Beast, "That the product on the court was ugly is undeniable. It was a glowering, sweaty scum masquerading as basketball, but that too seemed to be a New York response to Michael Jordan's poetry."

Those Knicks were built around center Patrick Ewing and head-butting shooting guard John Starks. But Anthony Mason was their personifica-

tion: built like a bouncer with the handle of a guard, and sweet hair-stylings all his own. He was also, like Earl Lloyd and "Minnie" Minoso, his own kind of trailblazer. Mase was the kind of player who'd show up at neighborhood courts, appear in Diamond D videos, and get shout-outs by the Beastie Boys on the album III Communications with the line, "I get my hair cut correct like Anthony Mason / Then I ride the IRT right up to Penn Station." He also makes an appearance

smacking down a shot in the Beasties "Root Down video. If the Beastie Boys were a special kind of NYC cool that didn't transcend race so much as build bridges to connect people across that great divide, then so was Anthony Mason and the city-wide love he inspired.

This is why more than the timing of their deaths binds Earl Lloyd, Minnie Minoso and Anthony Mason. They are all people who reached outside their respective communities while never forgetting the soil

that nurtured them. With a combination of a wink and a serious eye, they extended a hand to invite those around them to experience their culture, skill and spirit. Whether it was the segregated United States, the disrespected Caribbean or the demoralized NYC Giuliani-era inner city, Earl Lloyd, Minnie Minoso and Anthony Mason broke through and then allowed those of us on the outside to see what we have been missing. Rest in peace. Rest in power. And thank you.

Fish & Hunt Maryland Website Launched;

Research Helps Fish & Hunt Marketing Efforts Hit the Target

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

Baltimore, MD - The Sportsmen & Women's Marketing Initiative (SMI) has launched www.fishandhuntmaryland.com to provide consumers with an in-depth resource for discovering Maryland's outdoor recreational product for fishing, hunting and shooting sports.

Sportspersons of all experience levels will find information tailored to their specific interests from the well-seasoned to first-timers who are interested in outdoor activities. The website includes information on species on land and in water, and where to find them, and on businesses that can provide expert knowledge on hunting, fishing and shooting sports. Additionally, visitors to the site will find useful travel and regulatory information.

"This is an important step in branding Maryland as a premier place for fishing, hunting and shooting sports activities," says Sandy Maruchi-Turner, Vice-Chair, SMI steering committee and Tourism Coordinator, Cecil County Office of Tourism. "Our research showed that once people knew about the wide variety of outdoor opportunities available in Maryland, they were more likely to travel here."

The SMI began the development of the website after it first conducted research to determine awareness of Maryland's outdoor product as it related to fishing, hunting and shooting sports. The research took place from August to September 2014 and was conducted by Responsive Management, Inc., a leading research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation. The research showed that many of those

surveyed were unfamiliar with Maryland as a viable and attractive destination for fishing, hunting and shooting sports. A high point of the research was that those who had been to Maryland to fish and hunt ranked its sporting opportunities higher than their own state.

"The research was designed to guide marketing decisions and investments in order to capture a greater share of the \$90 billion Americans spend annually on hunting and fishing nationwide," said Bill Pencek, acting Assistant Secretary, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts.

About Fish & Hunt Maryland:

The Sportsmen & Women's Marketing Initiative is a private/public partnership comprised of avid outdoor enthusiasts, state legislators, tourism industry members, charter boat captains and

outfitters. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Service, DNR Wildlife & Heritage, and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development act as advisors to the steering committee. The purpose of the coalition is to incubate the promotion of fishing, hunting and shooting sports through sustainable product development and marketing in order to increase the economic impact of tourism in Maryland.

About Responsive Management:

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Over the past twenty-five years Responsive Management has conducted more than 1,000 surveys related to natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.