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PGCPS Announce Last Day of School

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - Seven days of school have been missed this year by PGCPS students due to inclement weather. The PGCPS school calendar for 2014-2015 includes plans for four inclement weather make-up days on June 18, 19, 22, and 23, 2015.

To address the additional inclement weather closures beyond the build and possible addition of three inclement weather make-up days, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell requested a two-day waiver for PGCPS from the Maryland State Board of Education, which was granted today.

Additionally, PGCPS has decided to convert a non-instructional day on April 2 into a two-hour early release day for students. Spring break otherwise remains April 3-10 for students and teachers.

As a result, June 23 will now be the last day for students, and schools will dismiss two hours early. The last day for teachers will be June 24. June 22 will also have a two-hour early dismissal for students.

PGCPS understands school delays or closures greatly impact students, families, and staff. When making decisions to close or delay schools, the district's key focus is on the safety of students and staff. We appreciate your patience during this time.

To view the revised PGCPS 2014-15 school calendar online, please visit <http://www1.pgcps.org/communications/index.aspx?id=190935>.



Photo of revenue claims examiner Faye Johnson searching for Dundalk resident Joyce Vann's name in the state comptroller's online unclaimed property database on October 23, 2014, at the "Baby Boomer and Senior Expo" at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. Johnson, on the left, is wearing a pink hat, and Vann, on the right, is wearing a light green jacket and black shirt.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ANNIKA MCGINNIS.

Marylanders' Unclaimed Funds on the Rise as State Revenue Source

The state says it's "giving away millions" — but it's raking in even more

By ANNIKA MCGINNIS
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — It was Joyce Vann's lucky day.

The Dundalk resident had been walking by a booth that advertised it was "giving away millions" when she thought she'd try her chances — and af-

ter her name popped up in the online database listing Marylanders' lost or forgotten funds, she got \$400 in the mail.

"I used it for necessities," said Vann, who explained she'd been struggling financially when she received it, several years ago. "They were looking for me, and I was happy to be found."

Vann's story is just one of many under recently re-elected state Comptroller Peter Franchot's increased push to "reunite" Marylanders with their lost funds, turned over to the state from forgotten financial accounts.

But while the state is "giving away millions," it's raking in even more — through what

some see as an increasingly significant revenue source to help pay for state's everyday bills.

About 60 percent of Maryland's unclaimed property funds — about \$90 million in fiscal year 2014 — goes straight to

See REVENUE Page A5

Prince George's County Public Schools Unveils Strategic Plan

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

UPPER MARLBORO, MD — Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), will unveil its Strategic Plan during the Board of Education meeting at Suitland High School, located at 5200 Silver Hill Road in District Heights, on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00pm.

The Strategic Plan represents a bold promise of "outstanding academic achievement for all students." By 2020, PGCPS will meet or exceed state averages for SAT and ACT scores; achieve a 90% graduation rate; and equip 100% of graduates to be ready for college and careers. College readiness is defined as meeting the requirements for entry into a two- or four year college. Career readiness is defined as meeting requirements for acceptance into a technical school or the military, and/or earning a technical license or certification which enables entry into the workforce within six months of graduation.

The Strategic Plan contains aggressive goals and measures that demonstrate how we will hold ourselves accountable and demonstrate our continued, rapid progress as a district. These measures will be displayed in a public "report card"

See PLAN Page A3

Mikulski Continues Jobs tour at NOAA Fighting for Federal Investments in Physical and Human Weather Infrastructure

NOAA supports more than 7,400 Maryland jobs, keeping our nation safer and Maryland's economy stronger

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Barbara Mikulski

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, on Tuesday continued her Maryland Jobs Tour at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Senator Mikulski was joined by NOAA Administrator Kathy Sullivan and NOAA senior leaders in discussing the need for federal investments in our physical and human weather infrastructure, protecting lives and livelihoods and supporting jobs.

"NOAA provides critical weather information to protect lives and livelihoods across Maryland and the nation," Senator Mikulski said. "One-third of U.S. GDP is affected by climate and weather from



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF BARBARA MIKULSKI
On Tuesday, March 31, 2015, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) together with NOAA Administrator Kathy Sullivan meets with NOAA employees and views demonstrations on the importance of the weather work done to keep our nation safer and economy stronger.

farmers trying to protect livestock and crops, to cities relying on energy from wind turbines and solar panels, to air travelers trying to get home safely and on time through storms. I'm fighting to ensure NOAA remains a priority in the federal checkbook with the respect, resources and reform needed to support weather science jobs."

A world class weather service depends on other ocean and atmospheric observations, data and research to understand our planet and predict the weather with greater precision. Forecasters rely on that science to warn us of devastating storms, saving lives and property. Natural disasters caused more than \$125 billion

See NOAA Page A3

Bowie State Softball Sweeps Virginia State 10-5 and 13-0 in CIAA North Clash

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

PETERSBURG, Va. — The Bowie State University softball team picked up CIAA Northern Division victories at Virginia State University on Saturday (3/28) afternoon by scores of 10-5 and 13-0.

Freshman Emily Lewis (Abbeville, Md.) paced the Lady Bulldogs with four hits and five RBI over the two games. Bowie State (7-11, 5-3 CIAA, 2-0 North) pounded out 28 total hits in the twin bill.

Virginia State (4-15, 2-6 CIAA, 0-2 North) had six plays to recorded two hits each in the doubleheader. Jamilia Smith (Halifax, Va.) had the biggest hit, a three-run homer in game one for the Trojans.

Bowie State wasted no time, jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning of the first game. Senior Cassandra Clayborne (Damascus, Md.) started the game with a triple and scored on a sacrifice fly by junior Danielle Watt (St. Leonard, Md.). Freshman pitcher Nicoleen Ochoa (Madison, Ohio) reached on a Virginia

State error followed by Caitlin O'Neill (Elkton, Md.) walk. Lewis stepped up and slapped a single, scoring Ochoa for a 3-0 advantage.

The Trojans took their first and only lead of game one in the bottom of the 3rd inning following a 3-run homer by Smith, giving Virginia State a 3-2 advantage.

The Lady Bulldogs pushed two more across the dish in the top of the 3rd inning to shift the advantage back over to the visitors at 4-3. However, Virginia State tied the game at 4-4 in their half of the third.

Bowie State's Ochoa hit her first collegiate homer of the season, a two-run blast in the top half of the 4th inning. With two outs, Lewis doubled followed by another double, this time by freshman Hannah Lewis (St. Leonard, Md.), scoring Lewis and created a small cushion at 7-4.

Virginia State added one to the scoreboard in the bottom of the 5th inning via Janay Joseph (Eastern Shore, Va.) that scored Smith.

See SWEEP Page A3

INSIDE

HUD Awards \$9.8 Million to Provide Permanent Homes and Services to Extremely Low-Income People With Disabilities in Maryland

"Everyone needs a stable home to call their own, especially persons with disabilities who can live on their own yet are at risk of becoming homeless," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro.

Community, Page A3

Time for Justice for Children in New York

In adult prisons, youths are more likely to suffer physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and to be molded by other prisoners, often hardened career criminals. Studies have found that youths in the adult criminal justice system are 36 times more likely to commit suicide.

Commentary, Page A4

Cardin, Collins Lead Senate Support for the Growing American Craft Beer Industry

Under current federal law, brewers producing fewer than 2 million barrels annually pay \$7 per barrel in federal excise taxes on the first 60,000 barrels they brew, and \$18 per barrel on every additional barrel (one barrel = 31 gallons).

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Get Hard

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart headline this Warner Bros. comedy about a wrongfully convicted investment banker who prepares for prison life with the help of the man who washes his car. Etan Cohen directs, with Ian Roberts and Jay Martel handling screenwriting duties.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the latest on the controversial Cape Wind project off Cape Cod in Massachusetts?

— Mitchell Barstow,
Bern, NC

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Dedicated fireman, Louis Felton Sr., dies on 53rd wedding anniversary

Louis Edward "Eddie" or "Lou" Felton, Sr., named to the Maryland Volunteer Fireman's Hall of Fame, died March 3. He was 75.

Eddie was born in Washington Nov. 6, 1939, and began volunteering at the Silver Hill Fire Department when he was only 16. From there, he went to the Capitol Heights VFD before serving with the Air Force for four years.

Beginning in 1965 he spent 23 years as a professional with the Prince George's County Fire Department, finally retiring on disability. But nothing—not even 5-way heart bypass surgery—could keep him from volunteering. He served with the Ritchie VFD and finally at Morningside where he was President and Chairman of the Board of Directors and helped run bingo. In 2003 he was honored for Dedicated Service and last November Morningside firefighters surprised him with a 75th birthday party at the firehouse.

On March 3, 1962 he married Lena Smith. On their 53rd wedding anniversary, March 3, 2015, he died. For the past 45 years they've lived at Fernwood Mobile Home Park, near Ritchie-Marlboro Road. Eddie enjoyed hunting and fishing and taking his Street Rod to car shows. His 1931 Model A is now in his son's garage in Prince Frederick.

He was a member of the Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics Association and the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.

Eddie is survived by his wife Lena, daughter Tina Maske and son Louis Jr. who has followed in his father's footsteps (he has 30 years as firefighter). Eddie also leaves four grandchildren and a great-grandson. He had a fireman's funeral at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, with Tommy Grooms, Les Hedrick and Air Force buglers doing the honors.

Do you have an old photo of Upper Marlboro?

Darnall's Chance House Museum is sponsoring an Upper Marlboro Photo Contest.

If you have an old photograph taken in Upper Marlboro before 1945, they'd like to see it. It can be of anything or anyone from the town's past—building, special event, tobacco warehouse, fishing boat, farm, family picture. Enter the scanned photo in one of five categories: Agriculture, Art & Architecture, People, Special Event, or Transportation. Can't scan? They'll do it for you.

Five winning photos will receive \$75 each. All the entries will be on display at the museum on Fridays and Sundays in June. Submission deadline is May 15. Prizes will be awarded June 13 at Darnall's Chance Colonial Picnic. For information, call 301-952-8010.

Skyline Flea Market

Come to the Morningside Fire Department for Skyline's annual Flea Market, on Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For your browsing pleasure, there'll be fish & chips, hotdogs, chips, and soda for sale.

Tables are \$15. Call 301-568-4465, 301-967-1320, or 240-838-6412, or email nursekenney06@yahoo.com. Rain date is Saturday, May 2.

Coming up

South Bowie Library invites you to their Book Sale April 23-26. Good prices, starting at 50 cents (or less). The library is at 15301 Hall Road in Bowie. For information, call 301-850-0475.

Spring Clean-up is coming to Morningside May 16 and 17. Time to clean out the closet and basement and work on the garage and yard. There'll be roll-off containers for household and yard waste and free bags of mulch, while supplies last. The Shred Truck will be there on Saturday, May 16, 2 to 4 p.m. A charity drop-off will be available. And there'll be refreshments.

Changing landscape

Royal Farms convenience store, 6210 Allentown Road in Camp Springs, opens soon. Landscaping has been installed, with trees and grass. Looks nice.

Legislation may authorize Sunday liquor sales in Prince George's County, buoyed by support from elected officials who are frustrated at the loss of business and tax revenue to neighboring jurisdictions.

The measure, though, is not without controversy.

William Cavitt, community activist, dies at 74

William H. Cavitt, a federal executive who in retirement became a Prince George's activist, died Jan. 6 in Silver Spring. He actively opposed development that would dramatically alter the character of his neighborhood, including the widening of Oxon Hill Road, development of National Harbor and the casino. Once he lost those battles, however, he tried to influence the best possible development.

He lived in the Riverbend Estates neighborhood of Fort Washington, near the Potomac River, and was president of the Indian Head Highway Area Action Council and the Riverbend Estates Neighborhood Association.

He was born in Wichita, Kans., on April 14, 1940. After serving in the Navy, he graduated from the University of Nebraska. An economist, he spent 34 years with the Commerce Department and retired in 1990 as director of the import policy division.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sarah Toelle Cavitt, two brothers and a sister. We'll greatly miss his activism; we need more of them.

May they rest in peace

I am sad to announce the recent deaths of Steve Dameron, of Morningside, and Jim Holson Jr., of Camp Springs. I will pay tribute to them in future columns.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Eloise Carnes, Ruby Cunningham and Veronica Frostbutter, April 17; Cameron Trexler, April 19; Mary Lou Wise and Devaughn Branham, April 20;

Jill (Gilmartin) Booth and Tiffany Jackson, April 21; Taylor Foster, April 22; and Jim Reilly, David Titus and Barbara Sparks, April 23.

Happy anniversary to Larry and Jody (Bowman) Nyers, their 35th on April 18;

Jim and Pat Conlon, their 41st on April 20; John and Ruth Anthony, Jr., their 37th on April 22; Lewis and Trisha (Pitts) Woods, their 26th on April 22; and Janet and Brian Spivey, April 23.

be glad to listen. Registration is required. Call Baden Library Branch Brandywine, Maryland 20613 at 301-888-1152 for details.

WOMEN'S DAY 2015

The Women at Westphalia United Methodist Church will be celebrating Women of God Sunday, May 31, 2015 at their 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Service. Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor. The church is at 9363 D'Arcy Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Contact information is 703-735-9373 or visit www.westphaliaum.org.

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

The center offers Zumba and Fitness for adults. Zumba is a fusion of Latin music dance themes that create a dynamic and exciting work out. Smartlink #1605724. Learn basic yoga to improve health and flexibility and/or practice skills previously learned Monday April 20, 2015. The Center is located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Brandywine, Maryland. Call 888-1500:TTY: 301-203-6030 if additional information is needed.

CHILDREN'S GLOBAL READINESS ACADEMY

Children's Global Readiness Academy is one Language Acad-

emy with two great programs and locations. Summer Camp will be offered in two sessions. Session I June 22-July 24 (Language & The City, Session II, July 27-August 21 (Language & Stem). Call 301-842-4056 or visit www.cgrkids.org for more information.

4th ANNUAL BULLDOG GOLF CLASSIC

Register now for Bowie State University's 4th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic hosted by the Bowie State University Department of Athletics Thursday, May 7, 2015 at Woodmoore Club. The address is 12320 Pleasant Prospect Mitchellville, Maryland 20721. Registration fees are Per Golfer: \$150 and Per Foursome: \$500. Shotgun start is at 10:AM. **Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information: events@bowiestate.edu, 301-860-4300 or www.bowiestate.edu/bulldog-classic.

UNDER MY WINGS

Come travel with Fly Under My Wings to Niagara Falls, Canada August 7-August 11, 2015 includes: Harriet Tubman 2-Days Underground Railroad Tour and Maid of the Mist. You must have a Passport to travel. For more information contact Phyllis Slater at (301) 653-7345.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement Opposing GOP Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2016

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) spoke today on the House floor in opposition to the GOP Budget Resolution for FY 2016.

"Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Maryland and my friend from Maryland for his leadership on the Budget Committee and the Democrats on the Budget Committee. Because you know, Mr. Speaker, Congress is really tasked this time of year developing a budget that lays out our nation's priorities in spending — but those priorities really should reflect our values. And as hard as it is to imagine, and it is hard, this Price budget resolution is actually worse than the previous Ryan budgets for hard-working American families.

"Once again, we see how little Republicans value protecting critical priorities that actually help Americans live a healthy life and enjoy a secure retirement. And in fact the Republican budget would:

- Force working families to pay more in taxes;
- Make college education less affordable;
- Force seniors to pay more for their health care and prescription drugs;
- End the Medicare guarantee by turning it into a voucher program; and
- Lastly Mr. Speaker, it would block grant both Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

"The fact is this budget would decimate our nation's already crumbling infrastructure by reducing funding by 19% over the next decade; and if you would imagine that that means that every road that needs repair, the bridges that are falling apart, and the mass transit that needs investing in and this budget would actually cut our spending by 19% over the next decade.

"And it would require an additional \$318 billion from federal and postal employees and their retirees, hard-working people who have given all that they can to deficit reduction. In fact, a constituency that already has contributed \$159 billion in deficit reduction.

"Mr. Speaker, Republican priorities are making tax cuts for the wealthy permanent. And they're shrinking the size of government regardless of the damage, great damage, it would cause.

"House Democrats and I believe in investing in hard-working Americans by:

- Saying it's important to improve access to high-quality child and dependent care;
- It's important to invest in quality education for all of our children;
- It's import to end the draconian across-the-board sequester cuts.

"The Democrat's budget would protect seniors' healthcare and retirement, and create jobs here in America through rebuilding our infrastructure and supporting jobs by making sure our nation's manufacturers get to invest in the research and development that they need.

"In short Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote down this draconian Republican budget and support each of the Democratic alternatives. I know I'll be voting for them, because each of them even though they're different,



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

would be way better than the draconian budget that's been proposed by Republicans. And I thank my colleague from Maryland for his leadership. We need to invest in America's future, including our hard working men and women."

Prince George's County Department of Corrections Receives 100% Compliance from State Commission

UPPER MARLBORO, MD — The Prince George's County Department of Corrections achieved 100% compliance in 80 standards for Adult Correctional Facilities. The Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards conducts audits on correctional institutions across the state using 80 standards as a measuring tool. The detention center presented three years of documentation to auditors to show that all standards were successfully accomplished.

Director Mary Lou McDonough received the certificate of compliance and is pleased with the outcome. "This audit shows the hard work that our officers and staff perform daily and the 100% rating shows their continued commitment to service excellence," said Director McDonough. The audit evaluates administrative processes, security processes, support services, medical services, training, inmate programs, and population management procedures. Auditors also select inmates and staff that they interview. Additionally, the audit includes the condition of the facility and the maintenance of the landscaping.

The Department of Corrections has participated in the audit process since 1986.

Christmas in April Prince George's County to Repair 83 Homes, Saturday April 25, 2015

URGENT NEED FOR ALL SKILLED TRADES PEOPLE Christmas in April Prince George's County will be repairing the homes of 83 disadvantaged homeowners with the help of approximately 3,000 volunteers on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

In order to assist our neighbors we are in urgent need of all skilled trades people, such as carpenters, painters, plumbers, roofers, and contractors. If you can help us, please contact Mary Kucharski, Executive Director of Christmas in April Prince George's County at 301-8680937, or email us at cinapg@aol.com.

Maryland Historical Society Appoints Mark Letzer as New Executive Director

BALTIMORE, - The Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Society today named Mark B. Letzer as its new Executive Director. Let-

zer brings to the Society more than 20 years of experience in all aspects of museum operations, including exhibitions, fundraising, community outreach, publications and management. Letzer will begin his new position on July 1, 2015.

"Mark's many years at the Society, during which he has taken on a variety of roles, have given him an in-depth knowledge of the opportunities and challenges that we face in the coming years," says Vice-Chairman Richard Tilghman, "All of us are confident that Mark will be an outstanding leader as the Society moves forward."

"I greatly look forward to working with our excellent staff and building on Burt Kummerow's many achievements at the Society by taking it further into its second century of existence," says Letzer.

Mark B. Letzer has been associated with the Maryland Historical Society for the better part of two decades. In 1995, along with historian Jean B. Russo, he began work on the Diary of William Faris, an Annapolis clockmaker and silversmith, which was published by the Maryland Historical Society Press in 2003. He was also curator of the exhibition *A Gardeners' Tale: The 18th Century World of Annapolis Silversmith William Faris* in 2006. Since that time he has served as Deputy Director of Community Relations followed by his role as Chief Development Officer since 2010. Letzer brings great institutional knowledge of the museum and library's collections to the job and has a holistic vision for the society that he will continue to develop in his new role.

Letzer replaces Burt Kummerow, who is changing roles after more than 5 years of service as President and CEO at the Maryland Historical Society. With over four decades of experience throughout the Maryland history community as a well known and respected public historian, Kummerow was brought in to move the Society ahead. Among the many transformative initiatives he introduced were popular exhibits and programs that reached new audiences and received national attention especially during the 1812 and Civil War anniversaries. Highlights included the "Stitching History" replica of the Star Spangled Banner, the marriage of the Star Spangled Banner Manuscript with the original flag at the Smithsonian and sharing the Francis Scott Key document with President Obama in 2014. Kummerow and his company, Historyworks, Inc., will continue to work with the Society on special projects.

About The Maryland Historical Society

Founded in 1844, The Maryland Historical Society Museum and Library occupies an entire city block in the Mount Vernon district of Baltimore. The society's mission is to "collect, preserve, and interpret the objects and materials that reflect Maryland's diverse cultural heritage." The Society is home to the original manuscript of the Star-Spangled Banner and publishes a quarterly titled "Maryland Historical Magazine." Visit www.mdhs.org.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Kenya Joseph, Glenna Graves, Clifford Massey, Cosmus Samuel, Eric Knight, Barron Neal, Leon Gordon, Lindsey Joiner, Samuel Bell, Roy Sedgwick, Claudette Oghogho, Naida Long, Veronica Thomas, Charmaine Grant, Myles Panda- Massey, Sarita Georges, William Stroman, Gerald Brown, Alexander Stammer, Nathaniel Holmes, and Jameel Hinton who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating their birthdays in April.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Lloyd and Shirley Brown, Trevor and Denise Bourne, Norman and Jean Noel, Clarence and Dorothy Reid, Eddie and Ruth Wilson, Leon and Louise Gordon, George and Karen Taylor, Cosmus and Stephanie Samuel who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries in April.

READ TO ROVER

Read to Rover at Baden Memorial Library Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 4:00 and Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 4:00 PM. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Bring a book. Therapy dog will

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Crowdfunding and Taxes: What You Should Know

Crowdfunding – the online method of raising money from people around the world – is less than a decade old, allowing artists, activists and a growing number of entrepreneurs to connect with financial support far outside the conventional lending system.

Here's how crowdfunding works. Through sites like Kickstarter, Indiegogo or RocketHub, campaigners seeking funding create a pitch that educates potential funders – or “backers,” as they're often called – on their project. Campaigns share their funding goal and the various rewards backers will receive for taking part; backers respond with pledges made via credit card. If the campaign meets its goal and deadline, the crowdfunding site activates all the card-based pledges and the campaign is funded.

While estimates vary widely, research organization Massolution (<http://www.crowdsourcing.org/editorial/2013cf-the-crowdfunding-industry-report/25107>) put 2013 crowdfunding revenue at \$5.1 billion globally. Many crowdfunding efforts today are artistic or cause-based, but that is expected to change in the near future.

Implementing the crowdfunding provisions of the 2012's Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act, (<https://www.sec.gov/spotlight/jobs-act.shtml>) the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is putting final touches on regulations allowing ordinary investors to participate in equity crowdfunding for the first time. This would mean that business owners could raise money via the web in exchange for a piece of ownership in their company.

Because the process of crowdfunding is relatively easy compared to other means of obtaining capital, some might neglect to research potentially unfavorable tax, financial or legal implications from their campaign. Potential crowdfunding campaigners might want to make a preliminary call to a qualified tax adviser, financial planner or an attorney before launching any online fundraising effort. Individuals, companies and nonprofits have different tax issues and financial precedents that could blunt the effectiveness of any fundraising campaign.

Depending on the fundraising goal and how that money will be handled in the aftermath of the campaign, experts say some situations may call for a particular legal entity to be formed in advance. If appropriate, participants could seek guidance to form an actual business (<https://www.sba.gov/writing-business-plan>) or nonprofit (<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/business-planning-nonprofits>) entity. Discussing structural issues in advance will not only help with tax issues, but also lead to better strategies for fundraising and long-term mission.

Beneficiaries should also consider any potential tax issues they could face as recipients of money from crowdfunding campaign. Depending on individual circumstances, crowdfunding a person's unpaid medical bills may have significantly different tax ramifications than crowdfunding one's independent film project. It is not enough to consider the tax issues for the campaign and campaigners. Beneficiaries require their own due diligence to make sure crowdfunding provides the most efficient solution for their needs.

Finally, backers should consider whether they have any tax questions about their support. To date, most crowdfunding supporters give such small amounts tax issues don't really surface. That may change in the future as crowdfunding moves into the commercial arena. No matter what the circumstance, any potential crowdfunding backer who works with a qualified tax, financial or legal professional should consider asking if there are more efficient ways to offer support.

Bottom line: If you are interested in crowdfunding either as a campaigner, a beneficiary or a backer, research a potential project thoroughly and consider getting individualized tax, financial or legal advice before you proceed.

Sweep from A1

The Lady Bulldogs added three insurance runs in the top of the 6th inning to seal the 10-5 victory. Three Virginia State 6th inning errors assisted in Bowie State's scoring opportunities.

Like the first game, the Lady Bulldogs struck first in the top of the 1st inning of game two. Clayborne led off with a double and scored on three straight wild pitches for the early 1-0 lead. Watt and Ochoa followed with back-to-back triples, forcing Virginia State pitcher Rebecca Elder out of the circle.

By this point, it was clear Bowie State was on a mission and ended their share of the 1st inning with a 4-0 lead.

O'Neill began the 3rd inning with a single followed by



HUD Awards \$9.8 Million to Provide Permanent Homes and Services to Extremely Low-Income People With Disabilities in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER HUD

PHILADELPHIA – To help prevent thousands of people with disabilities from being unnecessarily institutionalized or possibly becoming homeless, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today it is awarding \$9.8 million in rental assistance to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In turn, DHCD will provide permanent affordable rental housing and needed supportive services to 150 households who are extremely low-income persons with disabilities, many of whom are transitioning out of institutional settings.

HUD's support of state housing agencies is made possible through the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) program, which enables

persons with disabilities who earn less than 30 percent of their area's median income to live in integrated, affordable housing. State housing agencies and their state Medicaid and Health and Human Service partner agencies identify, refer, and support target populations of persons with disabilities who require community-based, long-term care services to live independently. This is one of several recent collaborative efforts between HUD and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

“Everyone needs a stable home to call their own, especially persons with disabilities who can live on their own yet are at risk of becoming homeless,” said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. “These grants will provide real opportunity by cutting health care costs for states while allowing folks to live as independently as possible.”

“Today is a great day,” said Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator of HUD's Mid-Atlantic region. “The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is receiving the assistance it needs to provide individuals with disabilities increased opportunities to exercise autonomy, independence and self-determination in living arrangements that have the comforts and quality of home.”

Today's announcement reinforces the guiding principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the landmark 1999 Supreme Court ruling in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, helping states and local governments to provide services in the most integrated settings appropriate to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality afford-

able homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and <http://espanol.hud.gov>. You can also follow HUD on Twitter @HUDgov and @HUDMidAtlantic, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HUD, or sign up for news alerts on HUD's News Listserv.

HUD's Mid-Atlantic region includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The regional office is in Philadelphia.

Survey Finds 14 Percent of Households in Maryland Struggle to Afford Food

New Data Underscore Need to Protect and Improve Federal Nutrition Programs

By PRESS OFFICER FRAC

Baltimore, MD – April 7, 2015 – One in seven people – 14 percent of respondents – in Maryland reported in 2014 they struggled to afford enough food for their households, according to a new report released by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC).

How Hungry is America? provides data on food hardship – the inability to afford enough food – for the nation, every state, and 100 of the country's largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), including Baltimore - Towson in Maryland. The report found that nationally the food hardship rate was 17.2 percent in 2014.

The report's Food Hardship Index reveals:

- Maryland was among the states with the lowest levels of food hardship, and ranked 42 out

of 50, with 14 percent in the state in 2014 reporting they were unable to afford enough food.

- Baltimore - Towson ranked 74 out of 100 with a food hardship rate of 16.5 percent for 2013-2014.

“It is unacceptable that so many people across Maryland cannot afford enough food to provide for their families,” said Michael J. Wilson, Director of Maryland Hunger Solutions. “These data are more than just numbers. They are households with children, seniors, veterans, working adults and people with disabilities who are struggling to make ends meet. We urge Congress to do right by their constituents and protect and strengthen federal nutrition programs, such as the Food Supplement Program (FSP) in Maryland, and school meals programs. With political will, we can end hunger in America now.”

The Senate and House both recently passed budgets that would

subject the federal nutrition programs to staggering cuts. Such cuts would cause irreparable harm to the health and well-being of millions of people across the country who struggle to put food on the table. They also ignore the fact that no community or state is free from hunger, as multiple studies and research continue to demonstrate, especially the data released today.

“Food hardship is a problem in every corner of America. People are still struggling,” said Jim Weill, FRAC president, noting that too many Americans bear the brunt of insufficient wages, unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and inadequate safety nets to lift or keep them out of poverty. “Congress and the President must reject cuts to nutrition programs and other programs that benefit low-income people, and build a strong safety net.”

Maryland Hunger Solutions is urging concerned community members to raise their voices and

tell their Members of Congress to strengthen – not weaken – the nation's nutrition safety net. They can do so, for example, by adding their name to a petition in support of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

How Hungry is America? contains data throughout 2014 for every state and 100 of the country's largest metropolitan areas (MSA). The data were gathered as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index project, which has been interviewing hundreds of households daily since January 2008. FRAC has analyzed responses to the question: “Have there been times in the past twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?” A “yes” answer to this question is considered to signal that the household experienced food hardship.

The full report is available at www.frac.org.

Plan from A1

and shared with the PGCPs community each year in an address by the CEO and other public forums. The measures are supported by a set of key indicators and data points that will be used internally by the PGCPs team. These key indicators and data points will demonstrate we are moving toward the goal of high academic achievement for all students.

The Strategic Plan is centered on five core areas: increasing academic excellence,

developing a high performing workforce, creating safe and supportive environments, engaging with families and communities and building organizational effectiveness.

“Guiding the Strategic Plan is the mission and vision that was developed by Board of Education. These important statements heavily influenced the tactics in the Strategic Plan and most importantly the accountability measures. The Strategic Plan is the transformative roadmap to achieve the PGCPs vision that outstanding academic

achievement for all students, said Dr. Segun Eubanks, Chair of the Prince George's County Public Schools Board of Education.”

“This Strategic Plan communicates our commitment to the parents, students, and communities of Prince George's County. We will raise the bar and hold ourselves accountable to be sure students graduate and take advantage of college and careers. PGCPs will develop a well-educated and better-prepared workforce that contributes to thriving communities,” said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Offi-

cer of Prince George's County Public Schools.

The plan is the result of a nearly two-year process, thousands of hours of work involving hundreds of subject matter experts inside and outside of PGCPs. It is based on wants and needs expressed through a rigorous community input process. PGCPs will begin implementing the Strategic Plan in July 2015. A strong emphasis on data, impeccable execution, and measurable results will be applied to ensure that PGCPs is “Great by Choice.”



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF BARBARA MIKULSKI

On Tuesday, March 31, 2015, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) meets with NOAA Administrator Kathy Sullivan to discuss investing in America's physical and human weather infrastructure, keeping our nation safer and our economy stronger.

NOAA from A1

of damage globally in 2013, with weather-related events leading the list. Earlier in 2014, the United States witnessed record breaking snowfall in parts of the Midwest and rare severe winter storms along the Gulf Coast and Southeast States. In contrast, most of California experienced the warmest and driest weather on record earlier this year leading to severe drought conditions.

Chairwoman Mikulski, who has stood sentry over our nation's weather infrastructure, has fought for significant federal investments in research

and technology development that are critical to our understanding and prediction of changes in the Earth's weather, climate and oceans. As Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee, she worked to ensure the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 provided increased funding to monitor and predict changes in our ocean, weather and climate.

NOAA is a major employer in Maryland, supporting 7,400 Maryland jobs.

COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski, Delauro Reintroduce Paycheck Fairness Act to End Wage Discrimination

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) today reintroduced the Paycheck Fairness Act, legislation which would help close the wage gap between women and men working the same jobs. On average, women make just 78 cents for every dollar made by a man.

"Middle class families need a raise and more money in the family checkbook. Five years ago we made a down payment towards equal pay passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to keep the courthouse doors open. I'm fighting to finish the job and stop wage discrimination from happening in the first place," said Senator Mikulski, a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee. "Equal pay is not just for our pocketbooks, it's about family checkbooks and getting it right in the law books. The Paycheck Fairness Act ensures that women will no longer be fighting on their own for equal pay for equal work."

"Equal pay is not just a problem for women, but for families, who are trying to pay their bills, trying to get ahead, trying to achieve the American Dream, and are getting a smaller paycheck than they have earned for their hard work," Congresswoman DeLauro said. "The Paycheck Fairness Act will help the Equal Pay Act fulfill its intended objective, offer real protections to ensure equal pay for equal work, and see that women are paid the same as the other half of our nation's workforce for the same job."

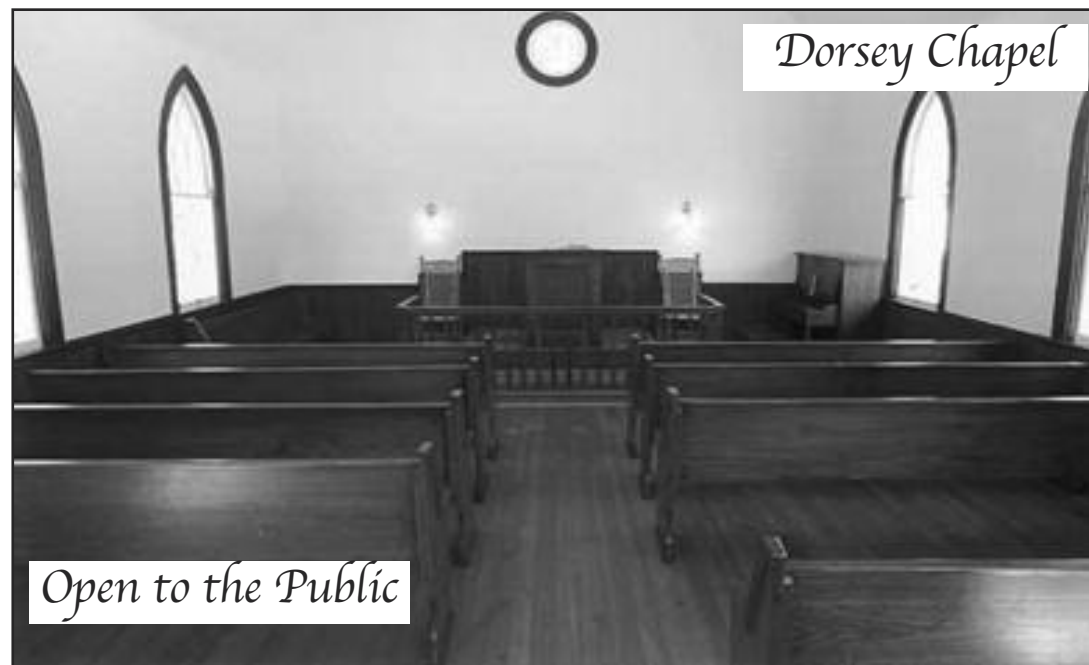
The Paycheck Fairness Act builds upon the landmark Equal Pay Act signed into law in 1963 by closing loopholes that have kept it from achieving its goal of equal pay. The bill would require employers to show pay disparity is truly related to job-performance, not gender.

It also prohibits employer retaliation for sharing salary information with coworkers. Under current law employers can sue and punish employees for sharing such information. In addition, it strengthens remedies for pay discrimination by increasing compensation women can seek, allowing them to seek both back pay and punitive damages for pay discrimination.

The bill empowers women in the workplace through a grant program to strengthen salary negotiation and other workplace skills, and requires the Department of Labor to enhance outreach and training efforts to eliminate pay disparities.

President Obama's first bill, signed into law on January 29, 2009, was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which overturned the 180-day statute of limitations for women to contest pay discrimination. The Paycheck Fairness Act would close the loopholes that allow pay discrimination to continue in the first place and, with Ledbetter, provide employees the rights they need to challenge and eliminate pay discrimination in the workplace.

The bill has been endorsed by President Obama, Lilly Ledbetter and a coalition of over 300 advocacy groups.



Dorsey Chapel

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

DORSEY CHAPEL

10704 Brookland Road, Glenn Dale, MD • 301-464-5291 • TTY 301-699-2577

This small frame meetinghouse-style church is distinguished by its steeply pitched gable roof and late Victorian ornamental treatment of its principal gable front. The upper gable has alternating courses of sawtooth and rectangular shingles, a quatrefoil bulls-eye ornament, and a turned wooden finial at the ridge. Each of the chapel's side walls is lighted by three gothic-arch windows that have delicate tracery in the upper sashes. Initially scheduled for demolition in 1980, the Friends of Dorsey Chapel organized efforts to preserve and restore the church. Dorsey Chapel was ultimately designated a Prince George's County "historic site" by the Historic Preservation Commission. Restoration of the Chapel was undertaken by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1994, and the facility was re-dedicated and opened to the public on September 11, 1996. The Chapel is available for rental for small weddings, recitals, and meetings.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Time for Justice for Children in New York

Under New York's juvenile justice system a child as young as seven can be arrested for a crime, and a 16-year-old is automatically charged as an adult.

These laws are shockingly behind the times — bad for children and bad for public safety. New York is one of only four states to create a juvenile jurisdiction for little children who are barely old enough to shed their baby teeth and still believe in the tooth fairy. And they are expected to have the cognitive development necessary to participate in and understand a trial?

New York is one of only two states to ignore the latest neurological research underscoring the fact that 16- and 17-year-olds are still children developmentally. Their brains will not be fully formed until age 25, and they lack the ability to control impulsive behavior by focusing on its consequences.

This key developmental period is an important opportunity for rehabilitation. Research shows adolescents are highly receptive to change in a way that adults are not. They respond very well to proven interventions, and with them, can learn to make more responsible choices.

Ignoring evidence-based interventions proven to reduce recidivism and continuing to ship teens off to crime school (adult prison) are mistakes we can't afford to keep making. In adult prisons, youths are more likely to suffer physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and to be molded by other prisoners, often hardened career criminals. Studies have found that youths in the adult criminal justice system are 36 times more likely to commit suicide and are re-arrested 34 percent more often for felony crimes than their peers in the juvenile justice system.

This sobering fact, that automatically charging 16- and 17-year olds as adults makes them more likely to commit violent crimes, is proof that this policy is a threat to public safety. The evidence shows children should be treated as children, particularly since these teen arrests are overwhelmingly for nonviolent

crimes like shoplifting, turnstile jumping, or drug possession. The racial disparities in policing youths of color (over 70 percent of the children arrested and 80 percent of the children sent to prison statewide are Black and Latino) compound the harm these unfair laws are inflicting on our children and communities.

Earlier this year, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo included recommendations from his Commission on Youth, Public Safety & Justice in his 2015-16 Executive Budget. His proposal raises the minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction from age 7 to 12 (age 10 in rare cases of homicide). It also raises the overall age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18, and broadens the list of eligible circumstances in which young offender status can be assigned to age 21. Importantly, this means that 16- and 17-year-olds would never again be housed with adult criminals. Instead, the justice system would focus on proven services and interventions that the most current research has demonstrated result in better outcomes for youths, reduce recidivism, and keep communities safer from violent crime.

CDF's work to raise the age in New York builds on our early work to keep children out of adult jails — recognizing inhumane conditions and great harms to children. In the foreword to our 1976 report Children in Adult Jails, Judge Justice Wise Polier, New York State's first woman judge, who presided in New York City's Family Court for 38 years, and at the time was director of CDF's Juvenile Justice Division chided states that continued to prosecute and jail children in the adult criminal justice system: "It has been over three-quarters of a century since states began to legislate that children should be treated as children."

Today New York and North Carolina are the only two states left that automatically treat children as adult criminals, but how pleased Judge Polier would be that Governor Cuomo has put forward a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to juvenile justice reform that would change that. Now is the time for the New York state legislature to join him by adopting this important, long overdue change.

See WATCH, Page A28

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



The State of Black America—By the Numbers: Part 2, Jobs

"The hardest work in the world is being out of work."

— Whitney M. Young, National Urban League President 1961-1971

One of the advantages of my position as the president and CEO of the National Urban League is that I have both the opportunity and platform to speak to so many of our nation's young people. I was presented with that same opportunity last week as a featured speaker of the Medgar Evers College Global Lecture Series. As I addressed that crowd of future lawyers, IT professionals and perhaps even a president of the National Urban League, it struck me that for a number of these students—our future workforce—they may encounter an America, and a job market, that is hostile to the principles of economic mobility on which our country was founded.

Five years after the widely-accepted end of the global economic downturn commonly known as the Great Recession, America's economy inches ever closer to full recovery. In fact, the start of 2015 saw the most sustained period of job creation this century. But the dark cloud inside this silver lining is that too many people are still being left behind—particularly in our communities of color, where unemployment remains at a crisis level, even as our economy continues to rebound.

For Blacks and Latinos in America, the economic devastation of the Great Recession is as real today as it was when it began in 2007 and what we've found in our newly released 2015 State of Black America® report - "Save our Cities: Education, Jobs + Justice" is a mixed economics bag that reflects a stark tale of two Americas.

The U.S. economy added 295,000 jobs in February of this year. For the first time since 1997, we have seen 12 straight months of private-sector job growth above 200,000 and unemployment is down to 5.5 percent—its lowest rate since May 2008. But despite this encouraging news, the Black unemployment is twice that of white unemployment, wages are stagnant and many working people are not earning enough to make ends meet.

The Equality Index in the State of Black America® report catalogued Black, Hispanic and white unemployment and income inequality in the nation's largest metropolitan areas. Overall, the Black unemployment rate was at 11.3 percent and the Latino

unemployment rate stood at 7.4 percent versus a white unemployment rate of 5.3 percent. Of the 70 cities ranked for Black-white unemployment, almost half (33 cities) had a Black unemployment rate above 15 percent. In seven of those cities we discovered Great Depression era Black unemployment rates of 20 percent or higher.

It is clear that for far too many Blacks and Latinos, our nation's economic recovery is only something they read or hear about. According to our analysis, America's comeback is bypassing large swaths of people in Black and Brown neighborhoods—and that is dangerous—not only to those communities, but to our nation. A recovery that leaves millions of its citizens behind will ultimately threaten America's sustained growth.

In a recent report on jobs and unemployment in the Black community, Economic Policy Institute economist Valerie Wilson said, "Even before the Great Recession, black unemployment has consistently been twice as high as white unemployment. To address this problem, we need to look beyond simply returning to the pre-recession status quo and implement policies aimed at ensuring that everyone who is willing and able to work has a job." A central focus of the National Urban League is workforce development, and being in the business of creating jobs and proposing solutions to our longstanding challenges, our organization has advanced the following public-policy recommendations:

- Passage of a transportation infrastructure bill with a targeted jobs component.
- Passage a targeted, large-scale summer youth/young adult jobs bill.
- Raising the minimum wage to a living wage.

This week the U.S. Department of Labor will publish the March jobs report. Experts are predicting the numbers will show another strong month of job creation. While we applaud every stride our country makes in resuscitating our once battered economy, we remain vigilant—and concerned—about the disparity of access to these benefits among our nation's citizens as revealed in the State of Black America® report (for more details and essays from leading figures on the economy, be sure to visit www.stateofblack-america.org). I am concerned for all Americans, but especially for all the students I meet who live in those communities in crisis and are working so hard in their classrooms now while they dream of a better future.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Finding Time For Better Family Relationships

A common complaint today is how busy we all are and how little time we have even for things that really matter, often including our families.

Work obligations, school projects, aging parents, social events -- the things that eat up our time can seem endless. And the result is that we have little time to spend with family members. Instead, there may be limited communication and the start of serious problems that can be hard to recognize.

A key to improving and strengthening family relationships is to make family a priority. In practical terms, it doesn't mean ignoring all your other obligations, but rather simply including family time in your planning and scheduling, and making that a priority for all family members.

A simple way to improve family ties is to schedule regular family meetings. Even if it's just once or twice a month, it can keep everyone informed and allow for issues to be addressed as a family, rather than waiting for something to become a disaster.

It's important to have some simple ground rules for a successful family meeting. Number one is that everyone has to attend. It's also not a time for yelling, name-calling, accusing or blaming. Each family member gets a turn to speak with the goal of communicating and working out normal family problems together.

One suggestion for positive meetings is to start with each person relating something good or interesting that's happened recently. Next, go to working out everyday problems, such as chores, errands, and schedules. Give family members a chance to bring up concerns so that all can work together to find solutions.

Relationships can also be strengthened through family dinners. If yours is a typical busy family, you might need a family rule that at least once a week everybody arranges their schedules so that you all can sit down to a friendly meal. Make it special with candles and favorite foods. Get everyone involved in preparing dinner or setting the table. Steer dinner conversation toward positive things and updates on what's happening in each family member's life.

It's unfortunate that in today's busy world it often takes real effort to find the time to be with those we love the most, but it's an effort worth making. Strengthening family ties can help us really get to know and enjoy family members and to get the most from our relationships with them.

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

Small-Business Initiatives Advance in Maryland Senate

By NATE RABNER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — In his first State of the State address nearly two months ago, Republican Gov. Larry Hogan repeatedly referred to small businesses as a barometer for Maryland's health, advocating for a focus on business-friendly policies to boost the state's economy.

The state Senate agreed Tuesday, passing a bill that would create a small-business advisory panel in the Department of Business and Economic Development and advancing a tax-relief measure Hogan has said will benefit more than 70,000 small-business owners.

The advisory panel echoes Hogan's promise to consider how each decision he makes will affect small businesses. The six-member council, which would include small-business owners, would review bills and help inform lawmakers about the legislation's potential consequences for businesses.

"It gives the small-business community a voice in the regulatory process that they haven't had before," said Senator Thomas Middleton, D-Charles, the chair of the Finance Committee.

Meanwhile, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on Friday approved Hogan's Small Business Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 2015. The bill would excuse a business from paying a tax on \$10,000 or less in personal property, which includes work-related property such as office equipment.

The bill should save eligible businesses an average of \$72 in taxes per year, according to the bill's fiscal note.

The two measures advanced with strong support in the Senate chamber, though a few senators were concerned the advisory panel was a "feel-good bill" that would not make state regulations more business-friendly.

The proposed panel "makes the regulatory process in the state so bureaucratic as to slow down any effort to help improve working conditions," said Senator Richard Madaleno Jr., D-Montgomery, vice-chair of the Budget and Taxation Committee.

But Madaleno described himself as the "floor leader" in the discussion of Hogan's tax-relief bill.

"It's more of a headache elimination for the smallest businesses," he said. "To me, that had a real impact on reducing a burden on small businesses."

Cardin, Collins Lead Senate Support for the Growing American Craft Beer Industry

Craft brewers sold an estimated 15.3 million barrels of beer in the U.S. in 2013 with sales totaling \$14.3 billion

By PRESS OFFICER
United States Senate

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), have teamed up to reintroduce their bill, S. 375, The Small Brewer Reinvestment and Expanding Workforce Act or Small BREW Act that will stimulate regional economies nationwide with a reduction in the excise tax on each barrel of beer brewed by small brewers. The bill also changes the threshold definition of a small brewer to better reflect modern production.

The Small BREW Act of 2015 would reduce the federal excise tax on every one of America's small craft brewers. Under current federal law, brewers producing fewer than 2 million barrels annually pay \$7 per barrel in federal excise taxes on the first 60,000 barrels they brew, and \$18 per barrel on every additional barrel (one barrel = 31 gallons). Under the Small BREW Act, the rate would be \$3.50 per barrel on the first 60,000 barrels. For production between 60,001 and 2 million barrels, the rate would be \$16.00 per barrel. Then, the rate would be \$18.00 per barrel. Breweries with annual production of 6 million or fewer barrels would qualify for these new tax rates.

"Small brewers have been anchors of local communities and

America's economy since the start of our history. In addition to making high-quality beers, Maryland craft brewers create jobs and reinvest their profits back into their local economies," said Senator Cardin, Ranking Member of the Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee and a member of the Senate Finance Committee. "The federal government needs to be investing in industries that invest in America and create real jobs here at home. With more than 3,200 small and independent breweries currently operating in the US, now is the time to help this industry — and our economy -- keep growing stronger."

"Maine is home to dozens of unique craft breweries and brewpubs that invigorate our economy by providing more than 1,400 jobs and drawing countless tourists into our state," Senator Collins said. "In meeting with brewers across Maine, they always make clear to me how federal tax policy affects their businesses. Our bill would help reduce the tax burden placed on many small brewers across our country, allowing them to thrive, create jobs, and further grow our economy."

Joining as original cosponsors of the Small BREW Act are Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.),

Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), Tom Carper (D-Del.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Bob Casey (D-Penn.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Angus King (I-Maine), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.).

There are now more than 3,200 small and independent breweries in the United States, with approximately 1.5 more opening every day, according to the Brewers Association. Even though these small breweries represent about 12 percent of the U.S. beer industry in volume terms, they now represent the majority of jobs in beer. In 2013, craft breweries directly employed 110,273 people. They had a total economic impact of more than 360,000 full-time equivalent jobs generating more than \$3 billion in wages and benefits; and paying more than \$2.3 billion in business, personal and consumption taxes in towns and cities across America.

Because of differences in economies of scale, small brewers have higher costs for raw ma-

terials, production, packaging, and market entry compared to larger, well-established multinational competitors. Adjusting the excise tax rate would provide small brewers with an additional \$65-\$70 million each year they could use to start or expand their businesses on a local, regional, or national scale.

An economic impact study by then-Harvard University's Dr. John Friedman (now at Brown University) found that the bill would generate \$183.1 million in economic activity in the first year and almost \$1.04 billion over five years and would also create nearly 5,230 jobs in just the first year. Maryland is home to 29 craft brewers, with at least 24 more in the planning stages. Maine has 36 craft brewers, with at least a dozen more in the planning stages.

The small brewer threshold and tax rate were established in 1976 and have never been updated. Since then, the largest multinational producer of beer has increased its annual production from 45 million barrels to 97 million barrels domestically and 325 million barrels globally. Raising the ceiling that defines small breweries from two million barrels to six million barrels more accurately reflects the intent of the original differentiation between large and small brewers in the U.S.

Revenue from A1

the state's general fund, Capital News Service found through a Public Information Act request to the state comptroller's office.

Marylanders are missing money from abandoned insurance funds, stocks, uncashed checks, bank accounts and more, the state says. This can happen when someone accidentally pays the same bill twice, for instance, or when companies mail refunds to old addresses after the owner moves away.

Under state law, financial institutions must turn over to the state comptroller's office any of this money after three years of no contact with the owner and unsuccessful attempts to contact them. Though companies can be headquartered anywhere, the property holder's last address must be in Maryland.

The state holds the money in trust, indefinitely, while searching for its owners through booths at fairs, newspaper and TV ads, video campaigns and an online, searchable database.

Since 2000, the amount of money the state has accrued from so-called "unclaimed property" has soared almost 400 percent: from about \$38.4 million in fiscal year 2000 to \$150.4 million in fiscal year 2014, according to numbers compiled by the Maryland comptroller's office.

Under Comptroller Franchot, who took office in 2007, the proportion of that pot the state has successfully returned to Marylanders has also jumped. Between 1999 and 2007, only about 20 to 30 percent of money remitted to the state made it back to its owners; now, about 40 percent is returned, according to the comptroller's office.

It's good news for both Marylanders, who get back some lost dollars, and for the state, which generally keeps whatever the original owners don't come to collect, one unclaimed property expert said.

States generally hold no more than a fourth of the unclaimed

funds to pay back potential owners coming to reclaim their money, said expert John Coalson, a partner at national law firm Alston & Bird, LLP.

Maryland retains about 40 percent to cover claims, based on calculations over 10 years of the amount of unclaimed property the state received and how much it repaid to Marylanders, state Assistant Comptroller Joseph Shapiro said.

The rest of the money is fed into a state's general fund and used to pay the state's bills: often for education, state employees' salaries, transportation and more, Coalson said.

"Technically, they will repay it if owners come forward to claim it, but they rarely come forward after — and states treat it as theirs," Coalson said.

It is becoming an increasingly important source of revenue in some states: in Delaware, it is the third-highest source of revenue in the state, Coalson said.

Sherlock Franchot' on the Prowl

At the Maryland State Fairgrounds' "Baby Boomer and Senior Expo" fair in late October, revenue claims examiner Faye Johnson called out to fairgoers strolling by her booth.

"Want to check if you got any cash?" she asked one man.

"Oh, sure," he said, spelling out his name for Johnson to search in the online database.

Five minutes later, the Anne Arundel County man was smiling. He'd discovered a few hundred dollars from an old loan; he planned to use it for Christmas.

"And I was going to walk by!" he said as he left.

Since Franchot took office, the comptroller has "doubled down" on his unclaimed property efforts, said Andrew Friedman, a comptroller's office spokesman. Revenue claims examiner Faye Johnson, who also worked under the state's previous comptroller, said television ads and other media efforts have especially picked up.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ANNIE MCGINNIS.
Photo of revenue claims examiner Faye Johnson manning the state comptroller's unclaimed property booth at the "Baby Boomer and Senior Expo" at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium on October 23, 2014.

Franchot improved the unclaimed property website, increased his presence at fairs and released quirky YouTube videos, presenting himself as a pipe-wielding "Sherlock Franchot" on the hunt for Marylanders' money.

The comptroller also sells on eBay abandoned items left in safe deposit boxes and turned over to the state after three years. If the owner later comes to claim their property, they receive the proceeds from the auction.

In November, eBay seller "mdcompfranchot" was offering silver dime collections from World War II, a gold pocket watch and a solid gold ring spelling out "Mom" with a heart. The going rate for a 1998

Peyton Manning football card was \$16.99.

"Lost property and he are bound together on a journey that will twist the very fabric of your finances," according to "detective" Franchot's April video on YouTube.

"I wanted to change the world -- but I'll settle with helping you get back your money," he said. "It's elementary, my dear Marylanders."

States Becoming More 'Aggressive'

Much of the state's stepped-up efforts center on the audit companies it hires to do the dirty work

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Get Hard"

Get Hard
Grade: C+
Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity, graphic sexual dialogue, some graphic nudity
1 hr., 40 min

On paper, the central joke of *Get Hard* is that a white-collar criminal, played by Will Ferrell, hires a guy whom he thinks is a tough felon, played by Kevin Hart, to help him prepare for serving time San Quentin. In practice, the central joke is this: Hey, did you know that in prison, there is a lot of rape?

I don't mean to suggest that a comedy about a scared rich dude heading for state prison shouldn't address the subject of prison rape, or even joke about it. Honestly, it would be more conspicuous not to mention it. But there are funnier ways to do it than by merely repeating "You're going to get raped" over and over, which is essentially what *Get Hard* does for about 15 minutes of its runtime. When Ferrell's character practices threatening other prisoners with sexual assault, saying things like, "You're about to get 20 likes on Instafuck"—well, it may not be brilliant, but at least it's an actual joke. There's far too little of that.

It's a shame, too, because when the movie isn't obsessing over forcible sex, it has a handful of solid laughs and a couple of great scenes. Written and directed by satirist Etan Cohen (*Tropic Thunder*, *Idiocracy*) with Key and Peele scribes Jay Martel and Ian Roberts collaborating on the script, the story touches on racial discrimination, income inequality, and other heady subjects, often to amusing effect. ("I'm not trying to appropriate your culture," says Ferrell, dressed like Li'l Wayne. "That's great,"



Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart headline this Warner Bros. comedy about a wrongfully convicted investment banker who prepares for prison life with the help of the man who washes his car. Etan Cohen directs, with Ian Roberts and Jay Martel handling screenwriting duties. ~ Jason Buchanan, Rovi

deadpan Hart. "I'll tell the others.") Ferrell plays James King, a wealthy, oblivious Los Angeles financier who's about to marry the gold-digging daughter (Alison Brie) of his boss (Craig T. Nelson) when he's framed for embezzlement and sentenced to prison. (A rich banker steals millions from ordinary folks and then suffers actual consequences? What universe is this set in?)

Operating under the racist assumption that Darnell Lewis (Hart), the black guy who washes his car, has done hard time—he hasn't; he's a squeaky-clean family man—James pays him to whip him into shape so he won't be eaten alive (and raped repeatedly) when he reports to San Quentin. Darnell, saving up to open his own business, is happy to play tough for the

paycheck. They do spend some time learning to fight, making shivs, forming alliances with gangs, and acting tough. In one truly hilarious role-playing sequence, Darnell plays three different types of thugs who push a bewildered James around in the yard, testing his skills. Hart's motor-mouthed energy and Ferrell's patented cluelessness work in beautiful harmony.

But it always comes back to the rape thing. At Darnell's suggestion, James even propositions a man at a gay bar so he can practice, um, pleasuring a gentleman orally. As with any scenario where a person has to do something he considers gross, unpleasant, or foreign, there's comedy potential here, once you get past the self-consciously "outrageous" nature of it. But the film can't get past

that. The film gets as far as "I do not want to put that in my mouth!" and stops, unable to come up with anything funny to do with the idea.

As a major Will Ferrell fan who is gay, I don't find this line of humor offensive. It's not mean-spirited, and it's panicky straight guys, not gays, who are the target. It's just disappointing, that's all. Ferrell is better than this (the jury's still out on Hart), and the premise of *Get Hard* had real potential. It handles race and class issues with broad but incisive satire, getting laughs out of tough subjects. It's with that other tough subject, the one it doesn't know what to do with, that it gets bogged down. To paraphrase a classic *Seinfeld* line, it doesn't offend me as a homosexual, it offends me as a comedian.

Revenue from A5

of holding companies accountable for funds they're not reporting.

Since 2000 and especially throughout the financial crisis and its aftermath, states across the country became increasingly aggressive in using outside companies to rake in funds, the expert Coalson said.

"They love money, and it's becoming an increasingly important revenue source for the state," Coalson said.

One of Maryland's longtime auditors, Xerox Corp., has brought in \$186 million "for the benefit of the state and its citizens" since the mid-1980s and \$10 million since 2012, company spokeswoman Jennifer Wasmer said. She said the company uses data analytics to audit companies in 48 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. Maryland pays Xerox a 12 percent commission.

In October, the comptroller's office listed that it had increased the number of hired auditing companies from five to eight, and it asked the Board of Public Works for \$9.6 million more to pay them in estimated commission over the next five years. The state expected they would bring in about \$90 million by Nov. 30, 2019.

Friedson from the comptroller's office said it was "a product of success" — a result of the companies performing "well beyond the expectations."

"That's great news for the state and great news for Maryland taxpayers, particularly at a time in a difficult economy when



Photo of revenue claims examiner Faye Johnson handing out paperwork to a man who discovered he had unclaimed property through searching the state comptroller's online unclaimed property database on October 23, 2014, at the "Baby Boomer and Senior Expo" at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. The man on the left, Paul, from Anne Arundel County, did not want to be fully identified because he was discussing financial matters. Johnson is on the right and wearing a pink hat.

folks could really use the money," Friedson said.

The comptroller's office was recommending the new contracts for the auditing companies because "each has the potential to collect revenue for the State of Maryland," the board's agenda item read.

Coalson said the auditors themselves have taken "extremely aggressive positions." In the past, they would require a "returned mail" posting to determine a property was unclaimed, but now, often the only requirement is three years of no activity on a person's financial account.

Life insurance companies are also a major new source of funds. Until around 2012, they

had not been reporting "unclaimed" death benefits, said Caroline Marshall, general counsel for Connecticut-based audit firm Verus Financial, which specializes on these claims and works for Maryland.

"As a result, a tremendous amount of property was identified and (went) to Maryland," Marshall said. Of the state's 2014 fiscal year unclaimed property revenues, life insurance made up \$18.2 million, or 21 percent.

Often, states get a lot of money through "extrapolating," or estimating, how much companies incorporated in the state would have delivered in unclaimed property for years when

they don't have information available, Coalson said.

Since that money is not tied to any real people, a state automatically gets to keep it, Coalson said.

However, though 56 percent of fiscal year 2014's unclaimed property revenues came from corporations, the assistant comptroller Shapiro said, Maryland only accepts property tied to Maryland addresses or owners and does not estimate funds.

"At no time does the State of Maryland accept an estimate of property owed as that would only further prolong and complicate the process of returning all of the funds to the rightful owner," Shapiro wrote in an email.

Coalson said because states continue to garner more from these funds, he does not see the trend ending anytime soon.

"It's not sustainable," Coalson said. "This could well be a highwater mark."

For revenue claims examiner Johnson, giving more money back to Marylanders is simply self-gratifying. She remembered a man who "could hardly wait to get out of here" to give the money he'd discovered to his son.

"When I put a smile on somebody's face, it puts a smile on mine," she said.

Though Johnson herself hasn't yet found any unclaimed properties, she won't give up hope. Maybe one day she, too, will get lucky.

"For me — no, no, I looked a lot for me, but no, nothing for me. But I don't give up," she said, "because you never know."

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

'Are We Still Thugs When You Pay to Watch Us Play Sports?'



It is difficult to imagine two more different university towns than Madison, Wisconsin, and Norman, Oklahoma. Madison has a reputation stretching back decades as liberal—even radical—territory. That ain't Norman. This week however, both of these communities were connected by the resistance of black students—along with allies and supporters—against racism. Madison and Norman are bringing together different aspects of the #BlackLivesMatter movement and demonstrating how this struggle is now firmly implanted among the young—and among young athletes—in a manner that for now seems set in stone. In Madison, several thousand high school students marched and sat in the streets demanding answers and justice after Tony Robinson, an unarmed 19-year-old, was killed by Madison police. In addition to protests and sit-ins, high school basketball fans, players and even coaches arrived at several games wearing either all-black or shirts that read #JusticeForTony or #BlackLivesMatter.

At Oklahoma, the campus has been roiled by a leaked video of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, caught on camera chanting racist slurs. The school immediately cut all ties with the frat and university president David Boren pledged immediately that the school would become "an example to the entire country of how to deal with this issue."

That wasn't enough for the Oklahoma Sooners football team, who canceled their practice and, wearing all black, walked off the field to join demonstrations. It is worth noting that Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops joined his team and marched. It is also worth noting that Bob Stoops has already lost a top-rated high school recruit because of the video.

The players, in addition, held an impromptu press conference saying that they wanted to use this opportunity to also speak about their own grievances about how they are treated on campus. On Thursday, Sooners Quarterback Trevor Knight issued a statement on behalf of the team. People should read it in its entirety because it is a powerful piece of work. The money quote in my mind is:

As a team, our goal first and foremost is to raise awareness of racism and discrimination on college campuses nationwide.... But before we can change the nation, we make it our mission to change our campus. We seek to accomplish this goal by stepping out of the spotlight and integrating the student-athlete experience and the student experience. As student athletes of all races, classes and creeds, we hope to show the university and the community that we are defined by more than the numbers on our jerseys, and that we are human beings that desire to get to know our classmates as we all attempt to end the culture of exclusivity on this campus. Secondary to accomplishing these goals, we also seek disciplinary action for those responsible.

The simultaneous real-time demonstrations for #BlackLivesMatter in these two seemingly polar opposite places of Madison and Norman speak glaringly to the fact that what they have in common is greater than what separates them. Both are state schools with small percentages of black students. Madison, with more than 40,000 students, has a black population of 2.3 percent, and OU, with an enrollment of about 30,000, has a black population of about 5 percent. Both schools field football teams that are nationally ranked, financially lucrative and highly dependent on black talent. This also means that on both campuses sports might be the most integrated public space. Several players at Oklahoma, as sports writer Aaron Leibowitz pointed out, have taken to social media to spell out the ways so-called "student athletes" can be deified on campus while being disrespected when the uniform comes off.

Both the stories out of Madison and Norman brought to mind a sign held up by University of Maryland wide receiver Deon Long when attending a Black Lives Matter rally on campus that read, "Are we still thugs when you pay to watch us play sports?" The answer for too many seems to be yes. We learned this week that the cities of Madison and Norman had more in common than college life and big time football. Here is hoping that as the Oklahoma football team confronts how it is going to "step out of the spotlight" and "raise awareness of racism," its vision includes Tony Robinson and the growing list of unarmed black women and men felled by police violence.

Calendar of Events

April 16 — April 22, 2015

Salsa Cinderella

Date & Time: Thursday, April 16, 2015 9:30 am & 11:15 am
Description: The classic tale is presented with whimsy, beautiful puppets and a Latin twist as Cinderella dances the Salsa, and the Onion and Garlic stepsisters try to keep the Pepper Prince from finding his true love. Kids learn about Latin foods and pick up some Spanish words while delighting in this ageless story of dreams coming true.
Cost: \$5/person
Ages: Recommended for grades pre-K - 2
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road, Landover, 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

Seniors: Magical Music Fridays featuring Ernie Fields Revue

Date & Time: Friday, April 17, 2015 10:30-11:30 am
Description: Seniors will enjoy the R&B sounds of the Ernie Fields Revue. Registration is required.
Cost: Free
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Langley Park Senior Activity Center
1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20783
Contact: 301-408-4343; TTY 301-446-3402

Xtreme Teens: Spring Campfire Night

Date and Time: Friday, April 17, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Teens will enjoy a campfire night, where they can roast hot dogs, make s'mores and have great conversation.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Good Luck Community Center
8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham 20706
Contact: 301-552-1903; TTY 301-445-4512

Seniors: Music Appreciation Day Featuring Ron Duskin - "Multi-instrumentalist"

Date & Time: Friday, April 17, 2015 1-2 pm
Description: Seniors, join us for a special musical performance by multi-instrumentalist, Ron Duskin. His performance will help us celebrate the annual music appreciation day at the Evelyn Cole Senior Activity Center.
Cost: Free
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Evelyn Cole Senior Activity Center
5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant 20743
Contact: 301-735-2400; TTY 301-446-3402

Xtreme Teens: Skate Night

Date and Time: Friday, April 17, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Teens will enjoy an indoor skating party at the community center with their friends. There will be a DJ, so get ready to have fun. Skates will be provided; please remember to bring socks.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merimac Drive, Hyattsville 20783
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-455-4512

The Audacious Joshua Barney

Date and Time: Saturday, April 18, 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! Early 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

Xtreme Teens: Ice Cream Social

Date and Time: Saturday, April 18, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Bring creativity and your appetite! Tonight you will be creating your own ice cream sundae with all the great fixings. How creative will you make your sundae?
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Kentland Community Center
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover 20785
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-455-4512

Spring Greening Fair

Date and Time: Saturday, April 18, 2015 12 noon-4 pm
Description: Learn and promote sustainable, "green" living while saving money and having fun! Demonstrations/vendors will be on site discussing gardening, composting, rain barrels, green roofs, recycling, games, crafts, animals, and more.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center
4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
Contact: 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Earth Day

Date and Time: Saturday, April 18, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Spring is here and tonight we're celebrating by planting flowers, after decorating the flower pots.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park 20740
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-445-4512

Dallas Black Dance Theatre Masterclass: Modern Dance

Date & Time: Thursday, April 23, 2015 6-7:30 pm
Description: For advanced dance students only. Members of the acclaimed Dallas Black Dance Theatre teach aspects of modern dance technique, style, and choreography. Space is limited, and should be reserved in advance. \$20/student, \$15/student with purchase of weekend performance DBDT ticket, \$10/observer
Cost: \$20/person (students); \$15/person (with purchase of weekend performance to DBDT); \$10/person (observers)
Ages: For advanced dance students only
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road, Landover, 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

EARTH TALK ... Cape Wind Dead in the Water

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the latest on the controversial Cape Wind project off Cape Cod in Massachusetts?

— Mitchell Barstow,
Bern, NC

First proposed in 2001, the Cape Wind Project aims to put 130 wind turbines across 24 square miles of Horseshoe Shoal almost five miles offshore of Massachusetts' Cape Cod to generate some 1,500 gigawatt hours of electricity per year from clean, renewable wind power. The project has been polarizing from the get-go, pitting well-heeled Cape Cod homeowners opposed to the obstruction of their ocean views against environmental advocates intent on implementing cleaner energy sources.

Things were looking rosy for Cape Wind, which finally gained approval from federal and state regulators in 2011 and then lined up contracts with two big utilities, National Grid and Northeast Utilities, to purchase its green power. But recent news that Cape Wind was unable to reach funding milestones—despite raising some \$2.6 billion to date—that would have enabled the commencement of construction by the end of 2014 means the beleaguered project may finally be, in the words of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound's Audra Parker, "dead in the water." Indeed, a week after

the missed deadline, National Grid and Northeast Utilities terminated their contracts with Cape Wind, and analysts don't see any way forward for the project.

Slated to be America's first offshore wind farm, Cape Wind may be the most famous offshore wind project to never happen. But other plans to develop offshore wind farms off the coast of Massachusetts may be in the works. Ellen McNamara reports in the Boston Globe Magazine that the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is preparing to open up another ocean swath across some 700,000 acres south of Martha's Vineyard (an island off of Cape Cod) to competitive bids from wind developers. Other offshore wind projects are slated for the Gulf of Mexico and near Block Island off Rhode Island's coast.

But it's anybody's guess whether these other projects can get their heads above water given the expiration of the federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) at the end of 2014. The PTC rebated wind energy developers 2.3 cents per kilowatt hour of electricity produced for their first 10 years of operation.

The non-profit American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) reports that with the PTC in effect from 2007-2014, U.S. wind capacity nearly quadrupled, representing an annual average investment of nearly \$15 billion. Thanks in part to the PTC, upwards of 70



CREDIT: SIEMENS

Cape Wind's effort to install offshore wind turbines in Massachusetts' Nantucket Sound may be "dead in the water" due to funding problems.

percent of U.S. Congressional districts now host a wind project or wind-related manufacturing facility that is helping boost local economic development across the country. And perhaps most important, the PTC has been an instrumental tool in helping lower the cost of generating electricity from wind by more than 40 percent over the past four years. But just because the costs of generating wind energy have come down doesn't mean wind energy projects are ready to survive without the PTC subsidy in an energy market still dominated by cheap and abundant natural gas.

But with Republicans firmly in control of Congress, the topic of renewing the PTC doesn't even seem to be on the legislative agenda for 2015. While

Cape Wind's recent troubles don't seem to be tied directly to the expiration of the PTC, an unfriendly legislative environment for renewables doesn't augur well for reviving the ambitious plans to put up windmills in Horseshoe Shoal.

CONTACTS: Cape Wind, www.capewind.org; Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, www.saveoursound.org; American Wind Energy Association, www.awea.org.

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Settlement of Alleged Violations at Former Sparrows Point Steel Mill Includes Commitment For Millions of Dollars in Environmental Project

Violations of Water Pollution, Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, Oil Control, Asbestos Laws During Demolition; Settlement Includes Cash Payment, Projects to Benefit the Environment

By PRESS OFFICER
MDE

BALTIMORE, MD — A company hired for the demolition of the former Sparrows Point steelmaking facility and the former owner of the steel mill property are to undertake more than \$3 million in projects to benefit the environment under an agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The agreement, which settles alleged violations of state environmental laws during demolition activities at the site, includes a payment of \$1.5 million. Of that, \$375,000 is to be paid in cash by HRE Sparrows Point LLC, former owner of the above-ground facilities at the site. The remaining \$1.25 million is to be offset by one or more environmental projects commissioned by Sparrows Point LLC, the former owner of the real estate that was home to the steel mill, and MCM Management Corporation, the company contracted for demolition and removal activities there. The settlement agreement requires these "Supplemental Environmental Projects" to have a value of at least three times the amount offset or, in this case, at least \$3.75 million, unless otherwise approved by MDE.

The Sparrows Point property is being redeveloped by new owners Sparrows Point Terminal LLC, which is not the subject of these alleged violations and is not a party to the settlement agreement. The environmental cleanup of the property under its new ownership is being overseen by MDE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"This is good news for the environment and the econ-

omy," said MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles. "This settlement includes significant penalties but also spurs new environmental projects and helps clear the path for redevelopment that is crucial to Maryland's future."

The agreement settles alleged violations of water pollution, erosion and sediment control, solid waste, hazardous waste, oil control and asbestos laws.

MDE inspections of the property in 2013 and 2014 found that Storm Water Pollution Plans that had been submitted were not being fully implemented, that the controls in place were not adequate to protect stormwater from contamination from ongoing activities and that pollutants were placed in positions where they were likely to pollute waters of the State.

Inspections in 2013 noted treated waste water being discharged from a fire hydrant in the area of a machine shop, placing the effluent in potential contact with such pollutants as old batteries, construction debris and fuel oil before discharging to storm drains.

An inspection in 2013 noted a lack of adequate sediment and erosion controls at Grey's Landfill.

Inspections in 2013 and 2014 noted pollutants in locations exposed to stormwater and in positions where they were likely to pollute waters of the State. This included standing water with petroleum or oily material in pits and oily sludge-type material on equipment in a machine shop area, black oil or petroleum sludge material dumped outside the Coke Point landfill and construction debris around the property.

A 2013 inspection noted open dumping of solid waste and industrial waste sludge,

improper management of the Grey's and Coke Point landfills and stockpiles of scrap tires without the proper license.

A 2013 inspection noted hazardous waste containers without additional containment and containers without required labels.

A 2013 inspection noted pooled petroleum on remnants of the concrete floor of a machine shop and discharge of an oily sludge material in an area outside the Coke Point Landfill.

Inspections in 2013 and 2014 found alleged violations of asbestos control and abatement regulations, including bags with tears, allowing discharge of friable asbestos material to the atmosphere.

Under the settlement agreement, Sparrows Point LLC and MCM Management Corporation are to submit one or more proposals for Supplemental Environmental Projects to MDE for review and approval.

In September 2014, MDE and the new owner of the former Sparrows Point steel-making facility, Sparrows

Point Terminal LLC, signed an agreement that will lead to the final cleanup of a key environmental site and will facilitate the redevelopment of the Sparrows Point property. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also reached an agreement with Sparrows Point Terminal LLC.

Under the terms of the MDE agreement — an Administrative Consent Order — Sparrows Point Terminal, LLC will assume responsibility for the ongoing environmental work and will develop and execute plans to complete cleanup of the 3,100 acre site. MDE obtained a substantial financial commitment from the company, as well as provisions to ensure that the cleanup of the site remains on schedule.

Secretary Grumbles thanks Assistant Attorney General and MDE Principal Counsel Steven Johnson and MDE compliance staff in the Water, Land and Air and Radiation Management Administrations for their work on the case.

Celebrate Arbor Day
FRIDAY APRIL 24 2015
9 a.m.

Prince George's County Executive
Ranney L. Booz, III and
the Prince George's County
Board of Education
Executive Council
invite you
to join the staff and students of
Port Washington Forest Elementary School
for an Arbor Day Celebration
and presentation of the
21st Annual Tree City, USA Award
Friday, April 24, 2015
9 a.m.

Port Washington Forest Elementary School
1000 Filmore Road
Port Washington

Hosted by April 13, 2015 at (301) 881-2052