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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY GRACE TOOHEY

State Comptroller Peter Franchot (center left) welcomes Gov.-elect Larry Hogan's (center right) support to mandating state public schools begin after Labor Day -- in the Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building in Annapolis, Maryland, January 15, 2015. Hogan became the 13,244th signature on Franchot's "Let Summer Be Summer" petition.

Cardin Presents Congressional Gold Medal to Former Tuskegee Airman William A. Colbert, Jr.

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Senator Ben Cardin

CUMBERLAND, Md. — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) today presented a Congressional Gold Medal to former Tuskegee Airman William A. Colbert, Jr., whose poor health had prevented his attendance at an

awards ceremony in 2007 when the 300 other famed "Red Tails" were duly recognized for their service.

"William Colbert, a Maryland native, is receiving this rare distinction for serving his country in the first African-American combat unit of the Army Air Corps, breaking through bar-

riers without any expectation of fame or fanfare. But his contributions to his beloved country and home state go far beyond that groundbreaking accomplishment during World War II," said Senator Cardin, who recently filed a formal statement honoring Colbert in the Congressional Record.

"Mister Colbert also served in the New Deal-era Civilian Conservation Corps, which left a lasting legacy of improvements of our country's public lands. He is a widely admired family man who shared his heart, home and

See TUSKEGEE Page A12

Rushern L. Baker, III Offers Compromise Reduction in Amount of Investment to PG County Public Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

Upper Marlboro – Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, held a press conference at the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro to announce that, following over two months of community meetings, town halls, and correspondence with citizens throughout the County, he has heard residents' concerns and reduced his proposed increased investment in the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) from \$133 million dollars to \$65 million. Furthermore, the County Executive announced that he is proposing to increase the minimum income limit to earn tax credits from \$60,000 to \$70,000 for low income residents, as well as adding a sunset provision that would end any increase to property taxes in the year 2020.

The FY 2016 Proposed Budget was submitted on March 13, 2015 to the Prince George's County Council. The Council must adopt the FY 2016 Proposed Budget on or before June 1, 2015.

TEXT OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE REMARKS:

Good afternoon and thank you for joining me here today.

When I presented my proposed budget to the Council back in March, I indicated that we had to begin making a greater investment in public education, an investment we must make in order to prepare our students for the opportunities that are coming, and to make the County more competitive in the region.

I said that the most sought after counties in this region, this state, and this nation are the ones that are safe and have the best public education systems. Prince George's County needs and deserves a world-class public school system. Frankly, it is what people have been telling me since I have been involved in politics. It is what people have asked me at every budget meeting and every town hall around this great County.

But in order to get there you have to have willing partners with the political will and courage to take this bold step. I heard the voices of residents over the last few weeks during well over a dozen community meetings we held around the County. Here are the top three things we heard during those countywide meetings with our citizens:

Number 1: Lower income residents and seniors were

See PGCPS Page A3

Unprecedented number of PGCPS Schools Earn Maryland Green School Certification

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Nineteen Prince George's County public schools recently earned their Maryland Green School certification for the first time this year, and five schools recertified their Green School status. The number of new certifications is unprecedented in Prince George's County (which averages two to three new Green Schools each year), and

raises the school system's total number of Green Schools to 37.

"I am very proud of the tremendous growth in our number of new Green Schools," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPS. "These schools serve as models for environmental awareness, management, and education in our communities, and encourage students to be lifelong environmental stewards."

See CERTIFICATION Page A5

Department of Parks and Recreation Wins Big at 2015 MRPA Conference

By PRESS OFFICER
MNCPPC

GREENBELT, MD – The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation won several awards during the 2015 Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Conference last week, receiving 11 out of a possible 33 awards.

The Department was recognized for excellence in several different categories, including landscape architecture, volunteering, maintenance, innovative programming, marketing and for individual achievements.

"We continue to strive for excellence in our delivery of

See PARKS Page A5

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Recognized for its Work to Support Education

By PRESS OFFICER
EFSCU

GREENBELT, MD — Educational Systems Federal Credit Union was awarded the Dora Maxwell Award for Social Responsibility by the MD|DC Credit Union Association at their Trailblazer Awards ceremony. The Credit Union was recognized for providing 6,500 backpacks to middle school students in need throughout the seven county school systems it serves in suburban and southern Maryland.

In August and September of 2014, the Credit Union volunteered over 100 hours of employee time to hand-deliver and distribute the 6,500 backpacks with the Credit Union's mantra of "Support Education" printed on the pocket and containing school supplies to 30 middle schools where 75% of the student body was eligible to receive free and reduced meals. Educational Systems FCU also worked closely with the seven county school systems it serves to distribute

backpacks to students in need through their Offices of Homeless Student Services.

"Our core purpose is serving the education community," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "Educators routinely tell us that middle school is a vital time in a student's career and that their experience in middle school can be the deciding factor to whether or not the student graduates high school. We felt providing backpacks with school supplies was a great way for us to help students achieve in middle school and position them for a bright future."

The Credit Union National Association (CUNA) Dora Maxwell Award is presented annually to recognize "model credit union efforts to strengthen local institutions and materially improve the lives of non-members through community outreach programs." Educational Systems FCU was the first place winner for the MD|DC Credit Union Association Dora Maxwell



PHOTO COURTESY EFSCU

Left to Right: Vic Samuels, Vice President, Community Relations and Kristy Mathey, Vice President, Marketing for Educational Systems FCU are awarded the Dora Maxwell Award for Social Responsibility and two MD|DC Credit Union Association Trailblazer Awards recognizing the Credit Union's efforts to Support Education.

Award, qualifying them for the national competition in which credit unions are honored during CUNA's Governmental Affairs Conference held each spring in Washington, D.C.

At the Trailblazer Awards ceremony held in Columbia,

Maryland, the Credit Union was also recognized for the quality of its Annual Report, which is focused on its service to the education community,

See EFSCU Page A6

INSIDE

Maryland History Day Winners Chosen to Compete at National History Day in June

Topics ranged from national themes such as "Frances Perkins—The Mother of Social Security" and "Woody Guthrie: How His Protest Music Helped Change History," to local topics such as "Harriet Tubman: Conducting the Fight for Freedom in Maryland".
Community, Page A3

B.B. King: Why I Sing the Blues

King's outsized influence on blues—on American music—cannot be overstated. B.B. King is to blues what Louis Armstrong is to jazz, Elvis is to rock, James Brown is to funk and Michael Jackson is to pop. Like King, you cannot mention these musical genres without prominently mentioning their names and substantial contributions.
Commentary, Page A4

Caught in the Web: Comptroller Franchot Releases Names of Top Tax Evaders

"These are people who have chosen to take advantage of the benefits of this great state -- individuals and business owners who knowingly thumb their noses at the vast majority of Maryland taxpayers who fulfill their legal obligations to the state."
Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Mad Max: Fury Road"

"Mad Max: Fury Road" reboots Miller's cult-favorite franchise with all the intense, explosive energy you'd expect from a passion project that's been some 20 years in the making. Which is to say: it is straight-up, wall-to-wall BONKERS.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Can I throw my old disposable batteries in the trash or is there a way to recycle them?

— Jennifer Brandstrom,
Chicago, IL

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Oxon Hill Pantry honors three retiring volunteers, elects officers

For more than 30 years, the Oxon Hill Pantry has provided food for thousands of hungry children and adults.

The Pantry was established in 1984 at the Talbert House on St. Barnabas Road. After the house was destroyed by fire on Nov. 2, 1993, the Pantry relocated to the Williams Center on Oxon Hill Road, and in 1995 to our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 4915 St. Barnabas Road.

It continues to operate with a staff of very generous volunteers, three of whom are retiring, each with more than 18 years' service. They are Eunice Crim, Jean Lewis and Donna Olsen. They received special recognition at the Annual Corporate Meeting, May 31.

Officers were also elected at the meeting: Sylvia Green, president; Joe Vlcek, vice-president; Betty Cottrell, secretary; Brenda Garland, treasurer; and Therese Kincaid, assistant treasurer.

As Mary David, a former volunteer, wrote in the Pantry newsletter, Food for Thought, "I enjoy my time at the pantry—meeting our clients, bagging groceries, offering a word of encouragement and support, and getting to know the team with whom I work. I even like to stock the shelves, clean up spills in the refrigerators and freezers, reorganize food so that the oldest (especially in the refrigerators) is moved to the front so it is not overlooked. All of that is part of what it means to be a volunteer."

SHA meeting: Allentown Rd., Beltway off-ramp changes

There will be a final Community Pre-Construction Meeting at Skyline School on Tuesday, June 9, for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to provide information and maps regarding major changes at the intersection of Suitland Rd., Allentown Rd., and the off-ramp from the Beltway.

Included in the plans: shoulder closures (but no road closings), widening Allentown Road and the off-ramp from the Beltway, adding sidewalks, upgrading traffic signals, and adding turn-lanes.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market at St. Thomas Church hours of operation will be Saturday 8:00 AM to noon June 2-September 28. The church is located at 14300 St. Thomas Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number is 301-627-8469.

At the Market you can find vegetables, fruits, wine, specialty products, meat/fowl, herbs, grains & forage, flowers. The Market will have all types of vendors. So please stop by one afternoon.

JAZZ CAFÉ CONCERT

Come out and join members, families and friends Saturday, July 18, 2015 from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Chuck Brown, Van Dorn and New Phase Band will entertain you with a night of Jazz at Nottingham Myers Church's Family Life Center.

Nottingham Meyer's Church Family Life Center is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road. Please call 301-888-2171 for directions. Donation is \$30.00 (You are welcome to pay at the door).

Work is due to begin this summer. If you travel in the area, you need to be there. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. Skyline School is at 6311 Randolph Road, off Suitland Road. For more information, call Project Manager Kelvin Saldanha at 410-545-8045.

More trails in South County?

The Trails Master Plan for Prince George's County will design a 400-mile trail system for residents and visitors to enjoy. There are currently 120 miles of trails in the County, including the Henson Creek Trail, Paint Branch Trail, Anacostia River Tributaries Systems and others. In the past 12 months, 55% of households in Prince George's have used them.

And many believe we need more trails. So, M-NCPPC is hosting a discussion at the Tucker Road Ice Rink, 1770 Tucker Road in Fort Washington, on Saturday, June 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info? Go to www.pgparcs.com/Trails-MasterPlan.html.

Neighbors

Ellen Posey and Michael Moore were classmates at Suitland High, class of 1964. They married and much later divorced. But now they're both mourning the loss of their daughter Chrissy who died of cancer recently. Remember the family in your prayers.

Monsignor Leonard Hurley, a priest of the Washington Archdiocese, died April 27 at the age of 84. St. Ignatius in Oxon Hill is among the several parishes he served as pastor. He is also the one for whom Father Hurley Boulevard, off I-270, is named. He often joked that his name had become synonymous with rush-hour traffic.

I dropped a pair of shoes off at Marlow Shoe Repair and learned that the shop was founded in 1979 by Bob Chak. His son, who was busy repairing a shoe, said the only change was some years ago they moved just across the street which is one of the shopping center entrances.

Changing landscape

County Executive Baker delivered remarks on May 23 at the Grand Re-Opening and Rib-

bon-Cutting of the Fort Washington McDonald's, which was destroyed in an electrical fire last year. Students in Crossland's vocational school helped with the rebuilding and Crossland art students created a special mural for the restaurant.

The long-closed AMF Lanes bowling alley on Old Branch Avenue, in Clinton, reopened May 29 as Planet Fitness. Hours are 10am-7pm Monday thru Friday; 9am-3pm Saturday and Sunday. Information: 240-685-1402.

The motel at the corner of Suitland and Allentown roads is now a Roadway Inn, which is about the fifth life for it. I believe it started out 40 years ago as a Holiday Inn.

The new county police station, District VII, will be opening in Fort Washington in the fall.

AC Hotel by Marriott has opened at National Harbor. It is eight stories high, features 192 rooms, six suites, a fitness center and the AC Lounge with "all-knowing bartenders."

Morningside has resurfaced and striped the parking lot at the Town Hall. Looks great.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Fay Norton-Cummings and Malik Reed, June 6; Trisha Reamy, June 7; Ryan Fowler and John Nichols, June 8; Robin Murphy and Rev. Frank Ways, June 9; Laura Smith Jenkins, June 10; Fannie Dimes, Jennifer Jenkins McClelland and Meghan Trexler Decker, June 11.

Happy 39th anniversary to Bucky and Debbie Tretler, on June 5.

And happy 55th anniversary to Carmina and Donald Young, of Camp Springs, on June 8.

Their daughter Donna emailed me a little about their nuptials: They were married in Carmina's native Puerto Rico and Don had to learn Spanish to ask for her hand in marriage, even though Carmina was already 32! When her father said Bueno, Don always said he wasn't sure whether he was complimenting him on his Spanish or agreeing to the marriage. "The wedding was in Spanish," Donna said, "so Dad claims not to have understood anything."

CASINO ACTION

Come and join us again for Casino Time with St. Philip's Church to Harrington Raceway and Midway Casino Harrington, Delaware on Sunday, June 14, 2015. Fun package includes a \$10.00 rebate plus a full Buffet Meal, 50/50, and Ole School Music. Donation is \$40/00. There will be absolutely no refunds. You are welcome to bring your own spirits. Benefit: St. Philip's Church Bull Roast.

Bus will leave Park-N-Ride, Clinton, Maryland at 10:30 AM and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 AM. Bus returns at approximately 7:00 PM. For tickets contact Doretha Savoy (301) 233-3136, Ernest Douglas (301) 888-1937 or Shirley Cleaves (302) 690-4260.

YARD SALE

Clinton United Methodist Women's will have a Yard Sale on June 6, 2015 (Rain Date is June 27, 2015) from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. (Set up time is 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM) at 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland.

Come and enjoy a community event, by either shopping or

selling your product. All tables are \$15.00. You must have a table, no spaces will be allowed without one. So come and enjoy food, folks and fun. All proceeds go towards helping women and children in the community. To reserve a table please call (301) 868-1288 Clinton United Methodist Church, Pastor Dorothea Belt Stroman.

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Come and join us Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 4:00 PM for Legos: Creative Club at Baden Community Center. The address is 13601 Baden-Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-888-1500: TTY 301-203-6030.

ARITHMETICKLES

Arithmetickles is a Math Game Show moving Math off the page and onto the stage. The game show provides Interactive Skits, Comedy and 100% audience participation. Visit www.artsonstage.org or call 410-252-8717 for more information.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement on Military Construction-VA Bill

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) today issued the following statement on H.R. 2029, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2016, which fails to fully fund veterans' medical care and military and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) construction. The legislation passed the House by a vote of 255-163.

"I am disappointed the Republican's Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill chose to lock in funding at the Budget Control Act (BCA) levels, leading to draconian cuts to crucial investments, while resorting to budget gimmicks to boost defense funding. In doing so, they have shortchanged important priorities to our military and veterans, and their families.

"The Military Construction-VA bill is \$2.7 billion below the President's request, including less funding for military construction, medical services, medical support and compliance, medical facilities, medical and prosthetic research, and VA construction projects. This includes cutting veterans medical care by \$690 million — the equivalent of more than 70,000 fewer veterans receiving VA medical care — and eliminating funding for four major construction projects, including the replacement of the Community Living Center in Perry Point, Maryland. I will work with my colleagues in both the House and Senate to make sure America's past and present service members receive the care, services, and honor they have earned, while ensuring the VA has the necessary resources to carry out their mission."

Fairfax and Prince George's County Lead the Region in Motorcycle Crash Fatalities and Injuries

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A popular leader of D.C.'s Junkyard Band, and his companion, were killed in a fiery motorcycle crash on U.S. Route 301 in Charles County last weekend. Tragically, Derek Anthony "House" Colquitt and his girlfriend lost their lives on the first weekend of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Despite Colquitt's singular status as a legendary Go-Go bassist and band leader, such tragedies are "no respecter of persons," explains AAA Mid-Atlantic. Yet there is a familiar pattern geographic pattern for such crashes. For example, Fairfax County leads the state of Virginia in the overall number of motorcycle fatalities and in the sheer total of motorcyclists and motorcycle passengers injured in traffic crashes. On the other side of the Potomac River, Prince George's County leads the entire Washington metro region in deaths in motorcycle crashes, according to an analysis by AAA Mid-Atlantic. The nation's capital is also a hot spot for motorcycle crashes.

So far this spring, at least eight persons have perished in motorcycle collisions across the area, including a 30-year-old Virginia motorcyclist on May 5, and a 32-year-old motorcyclist aboard a Kawasaki ZX1000 in a crash on Branch Avenue in Brandywine in May. In early April a 26-year-



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

old Washington, D.C. motorcyclist lost his life after he reportedly veered into the path of a SUV in Fort Washington. April's deadly toll also includes a 30-year-old motorcyclist perished in a crash on I-64 at the Twin Bridges in Virginia Beach, a 67-year-old motorcyclist who was thrown off his Kawasaki after losing control after midnight near a construction zone on Route 50 near Memory Gardens Lane in Hebron, and a 54-year-old motorcyclist on I-795 in Baltimore County. In fact, motorcycle crashes, fatalities and injuries tend to spike during the springtime across the Washington metro area, and elsewhere around the country, where some trauma surgeons are seeing a major seasonal increase in motorcycle crash-related injuries.

"Law enforcement officials in the region say most of those crashes occurred because many motorcycle riders fail to maintain control of their motorcycles, but that doesn't absolve motorists who are urged to be aware of the presence of motorcyclists on roadways this time of year," warns John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "The overwhelming majority of motorcyclists involved in crashes—nine out of ten — or more than 90 percent— learned to ride a bike on the fly, according to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. Tragically, they have had zero or no formal training in riding a bike."

Now the biggest concern for area police this spring is the reemergence of teen ATV (all-terrain vehicle) gangs and dirt bike riders, roving the District and area roads and popping wheelies on illegal motorbikes and scooters. District police are alarmed because a band of 40 ATV riders reportedly circled and then attacked a Metropolitan Police Department officer after the officer attempted to stop a rider preparing to ride the ATV on the city streets. Last year at least one ATV rider was killed in a traffic crash in the District as was the case in 2013. ATVs are prohibited in the District. Made for off-road use, ATVs can travel at highway speeds. "About 1,700 ATV riders died in crashes on public roads in the United States from 2007 to 2011," cautions the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

All told, 25 motorcyclists were killed in traffic crashes in Fairfax County in the period from 2009 to 2013, compared to 16 motorcyclists in Washington, D.C. proper. During those years, 927 motorcyclists and or their passengers were injured in traffic crashes involving motorcycles in Fairfax County, according to Motor Crash Data from the Virginia

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Virginia Highway Safety Office. Fairfax County was the scene of just over a thousand crashes (1,002) involving motorcyclists from 2009 to 2013. Crashes involving motorcycles increased by 14 percent from 2009 and 2012 in Fairfax County and by more than 30 percent in the period from 2011 to 2012, according to the DMV.

Virginia witnessed 11,106 crashes involving motorcycles in the five year period from 2009 to 2013. During that time span 380 motorcyclists perished in highway crashes and 9,933 motorcyclists were injured in traffic crashes. "A motorcyclist is six times more likely to be injured and 27 times more likely to die in a crash," according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration."

Surprisingly, at least three motorcycle riders, and one motor scooter rider, died in traffic crashes in the District of Columbia last year, according to the Metropolitan Police Department. Plus, a total of 41 motorcycle riders perished in traffic crashes on the mean streets of the nation's capital in the period from 2004 to 2013. That deathly tally includes three motorcyclists in 2013, four in 2012, and four in 2011, according to NHTSA's Traffic Safety Facts and Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data.

In Maryland, Prince George's County has the dubious distinction of being the hot zone for motorcycle crashes, fatalities, and injuries. For example, last year four motorcyclists lost their lives in highway crashes in Prince George's County over the long Memorial Day holiday weekend. That tragic tally brought the death toll to at least nine motorcyclists on County roads during the spring of 2014, according to a survey by AAA Mid-Atlantic. Tragically, at least 19 motorcyclists lost their lives in fatal traffic crashes in Maryland and Virginia last spring, according to research by AAA Mid-Atlantic.

This is the common lot of Prince George's County. In fact, Prince George's County typically leads the state in motorcycle-involved fatalities. Generally, the County ranks third statewide for motorcycle crashes, according to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (DMV) and the Prince George's County Police Department. For example, in 2012, Prince George's County sustained 10 fatal motorcycle collision, compared to just three that same year in Fairfax County.

Eleven motorcyclists perished in 246 crashes involving motorcyclists in the County during 2011, compared to ten motorcyclists who lost their lives in 252 crashes in 2010, and 11 motorcycle fatalities in 235 motorcycle crashes in 2009. During 2012, 75 motorcyclists were killed in traffic crashes in Maryland traffic, compared to 78 motorcycle fatalities that same year in Virginia. More than 1,500 riders and passengers are injured in motorcycle crashes each year in Maryland. One in ten motorcyclists (10%) does not have motorcycle insurance, says AAA Insurance.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Clean Desk, Clean Finances — 5 Steps to Streamline Your Money Management

If your financial life is confined to boxes, file cabinets and various piles of statements and receipts that only you can navigate, it might be time for a little de-cluttering.

Software- and Internet-driven advancements (<http://guides.wsj.com/personal-finance/managing-your-money/how-to-choose-and-use-financial-software/>) in money management not only provide paperless alternatives to planning and tracking savings, spending and investments, they make finances easier to handle in an emergency. If you're thinking about resetting your recordkeeping, here are some steps to get started.

Think about financial goals first. Before tackling the job of reorganizing your financial recordkeeping, think through your current financial objectives and what changes might give you better data and efficiency to achieve them. You might want a system that tracks spending, saving, budgeting and on-time debt payments. If you already have that system in place, you might want more detailed information on retirement or your child's college fund. Consider involving your financial and tax advisors in the discussion and see what suggestions they have.

Create a system that makes it easy for loved ones and financial professionals to help in an emergency. If something were to happen to you, could a loved one easily navigate your finances? When organizing, always keep your spouse, children and/or executor in mind. Consider creating an ICE file, short for "In Case of Emergency," and let your representatives see it in advance. On paper or on a computer document or spreadsheet, your ICE file should be a handy guide or index to find the following quickly:

- Contact information for doctors as well as financial and tax advisors
- Locations for all essential estate documents including your will, your health and financial powers of attorney and any letters of instruction you have written to accompany these documents
- All ownership documents for real estate, autos and other major assets
- Usernames and passwords for Internet-accessible financial accounts as well as personal websites and social media (http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/personal-finance/experts/practicalmoneymatters/columns_2012/0706_socialMedia.php) if such items need to eventually be updated or removed
- Contact information and statement access for all savings, investment and debt accounts, particularly joint accounts that will be used to pay bills
- An up-to-date list of monthly bills that need to be paid on time
- All insurance information including health, home, auto, disability and business policies

Know what paper documents you need to keep or shred. Here are some general rules:

- **Keep:** All tax-related documents for up to seven years, including annual tax returns; statements that show a gain or a sale of a security or the purchase or sale of a major asset like real estate; mortgage documents, vehicle titles and insurance policies; multiple copies of birth and death certificates; marriage licenses and divorce decrees; deeds and title documents.
- **Shred:** With identity theft on the rise, it is generally better to shred financial documents before they go in the garbage. After recording all transactions, immediately shred the store and ATM receipts and credit card statements. After a year, shred monthly bank account statements unless you or a family member are close to qualifying for state Medicaid benefits. States generally require applicants to save bank and investment statements for anywhere from three to five years to qualify.

Estate documents and directives generally should be kept in their original paper form in a safe, accessible place with copies as advised. Other documents can be digitally scanned for printout as needed. Many all-in-one printers have a document-scanning feature and today, there are scanning apps available for smartphones as well.

Finally, no matter how you revise your recordkeeping, create a backup system. If you are wedded to paper documents, consider keeping copies at a secure offsite location or with a trusted friend or relative. If you've gone digital, external hard drives or cloud storage are possibilities. Above all, protect all password information and regularly check your credit reports throughout the year to monitor potential information breaches.

Bottom line: Build a financial recordkeeping system that not only saves you time and money but helps you reach financial goals faster.

The Prince George's Post
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Maryland History Day Winners Chosen to Compete at National History Day in June

68 Students Advance; 82 Receive Special Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
 MHC

(Baltimore) — More than 600 talented middle and high students, along with their proud parents and teachers, converged on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County on Saturday, May 2, 2015 to compete in the annual Maryland History Day state contest. Representing 10 counties and Baltimore City, 68 students were selected to advance to the National History Day competition. Additionally, 82 students won special awards at the contest.

A program of the Maryland Humanities Council (MHC) now in its 15 nearly 23,000 students at the school level, representing 18 counties and Baltimore City. Students research topics that address the National History Day theme and participate in school and county competitions to qualify for the state contest. The 2015 theme is "Leadership and Legacy."

Winners were chosen at their district level for both individual and group efforts from five different categories — research papers, exhibits, performances, websites, and documentaries. First and second place winners will represent Maryland at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition June 14–18, 2015 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Students from Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Frederick, Montgomery,

and Prince George's counties and Baltimore City will represent Maryland at the national contest.

A Wide Variety of Topics

Students conducted in-depth research over several months, delving into primary and secondary sources and conducting interviews with experts. Topics ranged from national themes such as "Frances Perkins—The Mother of Social Security" and "Woody Guthrie: How His Protest Music Helped Change History," to local topics such as "Harriet Tubman: Conducting the Fight for Freedom in Maryland" and "The Legacy of the Baltimore Fire—The Mayor's Leadership 1904." Students also addressed issues related to science and technology, such as "Smallpox Eradication: The End of a Disease and the Beginning of a New Era in Public Health," "Alan Turing: The Things No One Could Imagine," and "George Eastman: Establishing the Camera as the American Documenter." Projects that focused on the contributions of women included "Madame C. J. Walker: The First Self-Made Female Millionaire," "Evita: Opening New Horizons for Women, Workers and Impoverished Argentina," and "Marie Curie: The Mother of Radioactivity."

Special Prizes and Teacher Awards

In addition to first and second place medals, 41 special prize



PHOTO BY MITRO HOOD

Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. addresses the crowd at the Maryland History Day 2015 State Awards Ceremony at University of Maryland, Baltimore County on Saturday, May 2. Photo

plaques and cash awards were presented to students during the awards ceremony. Teachers in 12 counties and Baltimore City also received district awards, and three teachers received statewide recognition. RaeLynne Snyder, Social Studies Specialist with the Baltimore City Public Schools, received the Educator of Distinction Award. The Patricia Behring Middle School Teacher of the Year for Maryland was awarded to Leah Olsen of Stephen Decatur Middle School in Worcester County. Sara Romeyn of Bullis School in Montgomery County received the Patricia Behring High School History Day Teacher of the Year for Maryland.

A complete list of advancers, special prize winners, and teacher awards is available at www.mdhc.org. Maryland History Day is made possible with

generous support from the Maryland State Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Abell Foundation. Columbia Gas of Maryland, Whiting-

Turner, and Ziger/Snead Architects sponsored specific award categories.

The Maryland Humanities Council is a statewide, educational, nonprofit organization. The Maryland Humanities Council creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information, visit www.mdhc.org. The Maryland Humanities Council is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of Maryland, and The Robert W. Deutsch Foundation.



PHOTO BY MITRO HOOD

Mack Godfrey, representing exhibits category sponsor Columbia Gas of Maryland, with Maya McAfee and Aaliyah Beckles of Accokeek Academy in Prince George's County following their victory for "Helen Keller: A Fight for a World without Sound and Sight."



PHOTO BY MITRO HOOD

Nigel Cooper, Alana Hines, Seluru Owens and Kevin Rubio of Cross Country Elementary Middle School in Baltimore City, MD celebrating their national advancement in the Junior Group Documentaries competition for their work "Frances Perkins - The Mother of Social Security."



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PGCPS from A1

very concerned about the impact of this investment on their fixed incomes. So I propose that we increase the minimum amount for the homestead tax credit program from \$60,000 in total household income to \$70,000.

Number 2: Residents raised questions about what will happen when revenue from the MGM Casino and other economic development projects start coming in. So we are recommending a sunset provision for any property tax increase that would be used to fund this budget would end on June 30, 2020.

Number 3: Residents believe investing in our children is a top priority and that we should have better schools, but were uncomfortable with the level of investment that I first proposed. So today, I am asking the council to find \$65 mil-

lion in additional education dollars to fund the improvement of our schools, instead of a meager increase that keeps us in the same place and will have limited impact.

An additional \$65 million directed to the school system would not get us to the top ten by 2020, but it would move us up and show the region that we are serious about improving public education in our county. Areas like teacher retention, increased funding for every school, and early childhood education will remain priorities in this budget.

With the investment of \$65 million we will be able to do the following:

- Negotiate retention pay for teachers
- Provide limited School based budgeting
- Continue expansion of Early Childhood Education (Universal Pre-K)

- Continue expansion of Dual Enrollment/College & Career Programs

- Implement Arts Integration in targeted areas only

- Increase family engagement resource, but at a reduced level

Here is what will be cut as a result of this decrease in investment:

- Comprehensive Digital literacy
- Targeted Professional Development
- Expansion of Talented and Gifted programs
- Universal Breakfast Program
- And Literacy coaches at the middle school level

While the plan we initially proposed aggressively raises the level of performance for all schools, this reduced investment keeps intact many of the programs and investments initially proposed but at a slower yet still acceptable pace of

implementation. Areas like teacher retention, increase funding for every school, and early childhood education will receive the majority of the resources.

\$65 million is the minimum investment we can make that will move us forward and significantly improve our ranking in the state. Any investment less than that will not move the needle. That was my objective...to move the needle -- for our children and to improve the quality of life for the people of Prince George's County. \$65 million is a little less than half of what I originally proposed, but still moves us forward.

I used this quote from Marian Wright Eldeman at my budget presentation and throughout this process which I believe best fits this situation. "The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child; it is whether we can afford not to."

Thank you.

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Votes No on Misguided Republican Budget

"A budget should reflect the priorities of a nation concerned with the well-being of all citizens. Far from that goal, this budget fails working- and middle-income families across America."

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, issued the following statement after Senate passage of the Budget Conference Report: "I am disappointed that Republicans chose not to work in a bipartisan manner to create a budget that prioritizes a bright future for all Americans. This is a partisan budget that passed the House without a single Democratic vote and with even a few Republicans opposing it. We could have worked together to reduce the deficit and ease the tax burden on families and businesses. This is a deeply flawed budget that simply ends up as a bad deal for Marylanders and contributes to the widening income inequality and scarce investments in our people and our communities that were at the root of the recent protests in Baltimore. It continues the dangerous effects of sequestration and continues to undercut the value of our federal

workers, undermining their ability to carry out their work on behalf of the American people. "A budget should reflect the priorities of a nation concerned with the well-being of all citizens. Far from that goal, this budget fails working- and middle-income families across America. It doesn't invest in job growth or opportunity, and stalls U.S. competitiveness and cutting-edge research. It attempts to strip quality health care coverage from millions by repealing the Affordable Care Act, makes it harder for students to afford higher education, and weakens important protections keeping our air and water clean and safe. The budget fails to provide the resources so we can rebuild America through infrastructure investments. And this is all done in order to cut taxes for a small percent of the public. With this budget, Republicans sent a clear message to the American people about their misguided priorities."



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Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Healing a Child's Broken Heart

It's always very challenging for a parent when their child has a serious health condition. It's even more challenging when their child has a serious condition but has no health insurance to cover the needed care and emergencies. Both were true for one Texas mother whose 12-year-old daughter Evelyn was diagnosed with a heart defect. Evelyn often ended up at her school nurse's office complaining of shortness of breath. When the nurse encouraged her mother to take her in to the doctor, Evelyn's mother, who bakes cakes for a living, explained that Evelyn was uninsured and she couldn't afford the specialist fees that ran into the hundreds of dollars per visit. But the nurse had attended a presentation for school district staff on the importance of connecting students to available health coverage and knew she could put Evelyn's family in touch with an outreach worker from the Children's Defense Fund-Texas office to help her apply for insurance.

That's why CDF continues to work, in partnership with AASA, The School Superintendents Association, to encourage school districts to help get all students the health coverage they need to learn and succeed in school. Our goal is to make school-based child health outreach and enrollment a routine and ongoing part of school district operations. The model is built around a basic question districts add to their school registration materials: "Does your child have health insurance?" Parents who answer "no" or "don't know" are flagged and receive information from school district staff on Medicaid, CHIP, or other health coverage options. But it doesn't stop there. Parents also can receive application assistance and often are introduced to community partners to help them successfully

navigate the enrollment process the way Evelyn's mother was connected in Texas. CDF-Texas with its partners pioneered this technique in the Houston Independent School District almost a decade ago and since then CDF and AASA have partnered with districts in California, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, including small and large, urban, rural, and suburban school systems, serving elementary through high schools with a rainbow of Black, Latino, Asian, and White students. Superintendents, principals, teachers, school nurses and other staff have gained a clearer understanding of the critical links between children's health, school attendance, and ability to achieve in school. Many are now leading public education efforts to engage parents and the broader community in events geared to health and wellness. Keeping children healthy is a win for everyone. As Dr. Kevin Dotson, Director of Student Services for the Lynwood Unified School District in California, put it at a recent convening at CDF Haley Farm in Tennessee, "we were unaware of the fact that there were so many

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



B.B. King: Why I Sing the Blues

"The blues has lost its king, and America has lost a legend...B.B. may be gone, but that thrill will be with us forever."
— President Barack Obama, Statement on the Passing of B.B. King, 2015

As a young boy in 1920s Mississippi, Riley B. King—who would one day come to be known as legendary blues icon B.B. King—was introduced to the electric guitar at Rev. Archie Fair's church. The introduction soon turned into infatuation, with King deciding he would learn to play a guitar. As soon as King got old enough, he ordered a guitar playbook from a Sears and Roebuck mail catalog. The first tune he learned to play was "You Are My Sunshine." Fortunately for us, it would not be the last tune he would coax from his yielding guitar strings. King was born in 1925 on a cotton plantation in the Mississippi Delta. The future King of the Blues—the son of sharecroppers and the great-grandson of a slave—worked the fields, first as a picker at the age of seven and then a mule driver. He aspired to be a gospel singer like his mentor, Rev. Archie, but fate had other plans. In a 1993 interview, King admitted to leaving Mississippi in the early 1940s because of the racial violence, lynchings and hangings that were becoming all too commonplace. King moved to Memphis, Tennessee, playing small gigs and working as a disc jockey at WDIA, the local blues station. The station manager dubbed King the "Beale Street Blues Boy," which was shortened to "Blues Boy," and then to B.B.—and it stuck. It was at this time that King made another momentous introduction, this time to T-Bone Walker singing "Stormy Monday." King said it was the first time he had ever heard blues on an electric guitar and he was determined to get one. He got that electric guitar in 1946. What followed was an enduring, influential career that defined and redefined the blues—a quintessentially American art form with roots in African-American slave songs, field hollers and spirituals—King carried its moans and mourning to the four corners of the earth. The blues, set loose on the guitar strings and growl of one of America's greatest musicians, spoke of our universal experience of pain and perseverance, tribulations and triumphs. King once remarked that, "Blues music actually did start

because of pain." A pain he experienced at an early age, and like so many influential and groundbreaking figures that had come before him, King used his talent to rise out of the dirt of his humble beginnings to live a life as industrious as it was incredible. A 15-time Grammy Award winner—the most Grammys ever received by a blues singer—King was also awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987. In 1998, his most acclaimed song "The Thrill Is Gone" was awarded the Grammy Hall of Fame Award. King also received a National Medal of the Arts award, a Presidential Medal of Freedom and has been inducted in both the Rock and Roll and Blues Halls of Fame. King seemed to always be performing somewhere, playing an average of over 200 concert dates a year well into his seventies. In 1956, King and his band played an astonishing 342 concerts. He never stopped doing what he loved most: playing the music, which he said "was bleeding the same blood as me." King passed away peacefully in his sleep at his Las Vegas home, and yet, the thrill is far from gone. His notes and innovative sound gave birth to countless blues and rock players, including Eric Clapton, Carlos Santana and Keith Richards, to name a few. His contribution to the blues can be heard, and will continue to be heard, in jazz and rock. King's outsized influence on blues—on American music—cannot be overstated. B.B. King is to blues what Louis Armstrong is to jazz, Elvis is to rock, James Brown is to funk and Michael Jackson is to pop. Like King, you cannot mention these musical genres without prominently mentioning their names and substantial contributions. Today I join the chorus of those celebrating King and his iconic career. He sang his way out of Mississippi's cotton fields to touch each of us—Black or White, American or not—with his talent and insight into our shared human experience. And it is, perhaps, from his brand of soul music that we can learn what found him in that recording studio or night-club almost every day of his life: "Everybody wants to know why I sing the blues. Yes, I say everybody wanna know why I sing the blues. Well, I've been around a long time. I really have paid my dues."

I couldn't agree more. Rest in peace, B.B.

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But we can never stop working to reach children like Evelyn who

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Don't Let The Teen Party Season Overwhelm You

If you have a teenager living under your roof, then odds are pretty good you're facing the worries that go along with the teen parties that dominate this time of year. Whether it's end-of-school or graduation celebrations or parties celebrating the beginning of the summer pool season, this is when the teen party scene is usually the liveliest.

It's natural for parents to worry about their teens' activities, especially when off partying, but some simple rules and guidelines can reduce both teen and parental stress.

First, insist that that you are given the name, address, phone number and parent names for any party your teen will be attending. If you don't know the family, call the parents to make sure an adult will be present and no alcohol will be available. Make your call an offer to help and you can get your questions answered through a casual conversation without embarrassing your teen.

You also want to clarify driving arrangements and restrictions. Riding with someone who's been drinking or taking drugs is always forbidden. In such cases, your teen should know they can call you at any time for a ride, or that you'll cover cab fare home and that there will be no repercussions or blame.

You want your teenager to understand that he or she is really only responsible for himself or herself. Make it clear there won't be punishment just because others at a party get out of control and act irresponsibly.

Teens should also agree to contact a parent should a party's location be changed. Suggest excuses they can use to call ("I forgot my key") so they won't be embarrassed by checking in.

If your teen wants to sleep over at a friend's, make it clear that you will want to call the parents to confirm they'll be home and that this plan has their blessing.

And be sure to be there when your teen gets home to ensure all is well.

You and your teen should work out the rules together. Get your teen's input and offer suggestions on how to handle situations responsibly. You and your teen should agree on penalties when rules are broken.

Your goal is not to over-parent and ruin your teen's fun, but, rather, to ensure that the upcoming party season is safe and enjoyable for your teen and less worrisome for you.

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

Caught in the Web: Comptroller Franchot Releases Names of Top Tax Evaders

- List Names Scofflaws Owing More Than \$13 Million -

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Comptroller

Baltimore, Md. — Comptroller Peter Franchot announced the names of the top 20 businesses and 20 individuals collectively owing \$13.3 million in unpaid taxes, penalties and interest to the state of Maryland. Known as the Caught in the Web program, the Comptroller's Office routinely publishes the list of the top scofflaws on the agency's website, as a public attempt to get people to pay.

"The Caught in the Web program underscores a small number of Marylanders who make a conscious effort to not pay their taxes," Comptroller Franchot said. "These are not people simply down on their luck and unable to pay. These are people who have chosen to take advantage of the benefits of this great state -- individuals and business owners who knowingly thumb their noses

at the vast majority of Maryland taxpayers who fulfill their legal obligations to the state."

Created to send a message to those who ignore attempts by the state to collect overdue taxes, the program names tax delinquents owing the largest sum in back taxes on the agency's website for six months, until payment has been received or a payment plan has been initiated.

Since the program's inception in 2000, the agency has collected more than \$31.5 million from delinquent taxpayers whose names appeared on one of the agency's lists. The most recent group includes liabilities of nearly \$6.9 million in back taxes, penalties and interest from 20 individuals and nearly \$6.4 million from 20 businesses.

-MORE-

When an individual fails to pay their taxes, the Comptrol-

ler's Office initially sends a certified letter listing any unpaid charges incurred for taxes, interest and penalties. If the taxpayer fails to pay, enters into a payment plan, or provides a qualifying reason for having not yet paid, the Comptroller's Office may then:

- ✓ File a lien,
- ✓ Garnish wages,
- ✓ Prevent renewal of state business license,
- ✓ Prevent renewal of professional and occupational licenses,
- ✓ Prevent renewal of driver licenses and vehicle registration,
- ✓ Attach assets (including bank accounts),
- ✓ Intercept state and federal tax refunds,
- ✓ File an estimated assessment for taxes due in unreported periods,

✓ Issue a summons to appear at a hearing to revoke a sales tax license or initiate other legal processes,

✓ Suspend state payments if the taxpayer does business with the state,

✓ Suspend federal payments if the taxpayer does business with the federal government.

Taxpayers who fail to contact the agency to satisfy their tax liability or enter into an agreement to do so are eligible to be included in the Caught in the Web program. These individuals and businesses, which have already had liens filed against them, are notified prior to the list's posting that they will be included.

To see a lists of top individual and business tax evaders or visit www.marylandtaxes.com.

Certification from A1

The Maryland Green Schools program, sponsored by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), is one of the most rigorous and comprehensive Green School certification programs in the country. It encourages educational opportunities, increases environmental awareness, and promotes environmental stewardship practices for students at all grade levels. Through a non-competitive application process, schools must demonstrate their green activities and culture in eight criteria areas.

The school system's William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center, which provides an

overnight outdoor education program to all fifth-graders each school year, recertified as a Maryland Green Center in 2013. The Center has played a key role in growing the number of certifications by assisting schools with achieving and maintaining Green School status through modeling, educational programs, application guidance, and support.

Green Schools must recertify every four years to keep their status current. After three consecutive recertifications, schools are considered "model schools" and no longer have to recertify. Five schools – Berwyn Heights Elementary, Calverton Elementary, Patuxent Elementary, Robert Goddard French Immersion, and Robert God-

dard Montessori – recertified their Green School status this year. The following 19 schools earned new certifications:

- Beacon Heights Elementary School
- Buck Lodge Middle School
- Cesar Chavez Elementary School
- Cora L. Rice Elementary School
- DuVal High School
- Eleanor Roosevelt High School
- Ernest Everett Just Middle School
- Francis Scott Key Elementary
- Greenbelt Middle School
- High Bridge Elementary

- Kenmoor Middle School
- Langley Park-McCormick Elementary School
- Magnolia Elementary School
- Nicholas Orem Middle School
- Parkdale High School
- Riverdale Elementary School
- Samuel Ogle Middle School
- Tall Oaks High School
- Vansville Elementary School

All newly-certified and recertified schools and centers will be honored during the MAEOE Youth Summit on May 29 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Schools will receive a Maryland Green School or Center flag, statewide and local recognition, and special gifts.

Parks from A1

Parks and Recreation programs, facilities and services," said Ronnie Gathers, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation. "MRPA's recognition reinforces the level of effort that our staff provides to the residents of Prince George's County."

Steven Carter (Acting Executive Director for the Parks and Recreation Foundation), Leigh Ann Eckenrode (Facility Director at Beltsville Community Center), Emily Lawrence (Central Area Therapeutic Recreation Program Coordinator), and volunteers Lenora Harper and Bill Walmsley each received individual awards.

Carter won the Recreation and Leisure Services (RALS) Branch Donald Long, Sr., Student Award, given to a student who has achieved academic excellence, and has significantly promoted recreation and leisure service in the community.

Eckenrode was selected as RALS Branch Outstanding Recreation Professional, given to a professional who has given outstanding service to the field of recreation. Eckenrode was nominated for Focus Forward: Young Adult Occu-

pational Program, a 10-week enrichment program for residents ages 16 to 24 which focused on college and career preparation, and social and financial development.

Lawrence, given the Therapeutic Recreation (TR) Chairperson's award, was selected because of her enthusiasm for both TR and MRPA. Lawrence was heavily involved in MRPA's TR Branch this year, consistently contributing to meetings and pushing the branch in the right direction.

Harper, who volunteers at Kentland Community Center, was awarded the Agency Volunteer Award, given to an individual who demonstrated outstanding service to a recreation agency within the state. Harper organized several service events, including a turkey drive, a Winter Wonderland Extravaganza, a coat drive and the community center's food bank, all which help needy families.

The Community Volunteer Award, which recognizes leadership in service to community parks within the state, was given to Walmsley, an Adopt-A-Trail volunteer. He has collected more than 1,700 pounds of trash at Folly Branch Stream Valley since 2012.

In addition to the individual awards, the Department received recognition for several programs throughout the County.

The Department won the Landscape Site/American Society of Landscape Architects Award for work designing and building The Woodland Wonderland, a themed playground at Walker Mill Regional Park. The 100 percent custom-designed playground was built using glass fiber reinforced concrete (ensuring it last for decades), is compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, is ecologically friendly and makes children (and adults) feel like they are fully immersed in the surrounding woodland.

The Suitland Civic Association (SCA) won the Volunteer Group/Organization Award, given to a volunteer group within the state which has contributed outstanding service to the parks, recreation and leisure profession. The SCA has collaborated with the Department on various activities, including the Healthy Living and Healthy Eating Trail Walk, a college planning workshop, a community grant writing workshop and an emergency preparedness workshop.

The Department's environmental recycling program earned the Parks and Resource Conservation Branch Creative Maintenance Award for its composting initiative. The Department's Maintenance and Development Division creates top soil through an extended process which starts at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, where the crew dredges silt. The silt is then mixed with leaves and plants gathered throughout the County, and manure from the Prince George's Equestrian Center. The mixture is then composted to create top soil. The soil is used for renovations at the Department's fields and produces a net savings of between \$200 and \$250 thousand a year.

The Department won two awards in the RALS Branch Innovative Program category, one for the Club 300 Senior Walking Program and the second for the H.A.V.E.N. program.

Club 300, spearheaded by senior services coordinator Darilyn Marinelli, takes participants on a hypothetical walk across Maryland. Participants can walk wherever they like, tracking their mileage along the way until they reach 300 miles. The program helps seniors

maintain a healthy weight, strengthen their bones and prevent various conditions including heart disease, high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes.

Started by Christy Irving, H.A.V.E.N. (Health and wellness; Arts and culture; Volunteerism and community service; Enrichment; and Nature and conservation) allowed 30 residents between the ages of 10 and 17 to participate in and learn about the five elements of H.A.V.E.N. during this six-week program. Specialists from each element taught the children about their expertise, giving participants well-rounded instruction during the summer months.

In the Therapeutic Recreation Branch Innovative Program category, the Department was recognized for its Community Outreach Event for Law Enforcement, First Responders and the Disability Community. This event was designed to increase disability awareness, to provide sensitivity training with law enforcement and first responders, and to educate the disability community on the roles of law enforcement and first responders.

The Department won the Best Facility Brochure category for the Arts at Montpelier brochure in the Agency Show-

case Marketing and Communications awards. The brochure, which details Montpelier's events for the year, was chosen for its sleek design, strong use of photos and for how informative the material was.

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparcs.com and stay connected on Facebook and Twitter. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.



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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Mad Max: Fury Road"

Mad Max: Fury Road
Grade: A-
Rated R, a lot of action
violence, some of it a bit
graphic; some nonsexual nudity
2 hrs., 1 min

Noted Australian madman George Miller may have distracted himself (and amused us) with films like "Babe: Pig in the City" and the two "Happy Feet" toons, but now it's time to quit goofing around and get back to the dusty, post-apocalyptic wasteland that launched his career. "Mad Max: Fury Road" reboots Miller's cult-favorite franchise with all the intense, explosive energy you'd expect from a passion project that's been some 20 years in the making. Which is to say: it is straight-up, wall-to-wall BONKERS.

Not the story, mind you. That's actually pretty simple. In our ruined future, the Wasteland is run by a grotesque, misshapen tyrant called King Immortan Joe (Hugh Keays-Byrne), who has a harem of wives to build his posterity and keeps a tight rein on his subjects by controlling the meager water supply. A loner named Max (Tom Hardy) runs afoul of Joe and finds common ground with one of Joe's own officers, a 1.5-armed badass called Imperator Furiosa (Charlize Theron).



Filmmaker George Miller gears up for another post-apocalyptic action adventure with *Fury Road*, the fourth outing in the Mad Max film series. Charlize Theron stars alongside Tom Hardy (Bronson), with Zoe Kravitz, Adelaide Clemens, and Rosie Huntington Whiteley heading up the supporting cast. ~ Jeremy Wheeler, Rovi

What follows is essentially a feature-length car chase, with Joe's ferocious albino kamikaze soldiers pursuing Max, Furiosa, and their small band of survivors, both sides attacking each other without bothering to pull over first. Most of the battle takes place in, on, and under the speeding vehicles, which are fortified with armor and tricked out

with essentials like flamethrowers and spiked tires. Amazingly, Miller paces the almost nonstop action in such a way that it doesn't get tiresome, nor is it ever hard to follow. No shaky-cam for Miller: he WANTS us to see the spectacular stunts and intricately choreographed fights.

The details of Miller's near-future world are a delightful

hodge-podge of influences and traditions, hinting at a treasure trove of backstory. That compensates for the present characters being merely serviceable rather than memorable — not that such things matter when you're staring goggle-eyed at high-velocity mayhem.

Maryland Island, Once Diminished, Reconstructed with Dredged Material

By TIM CURTIS
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON—A Chesapeake Bay island, once used as a presidential retreat but diminished to fewer than 5 acres by the 1980s, has been replenished with dredged material, creating wetlands that serve as a wildlife sanctuary.

Poplar Island, located one mile northwest of Tilghman Island in Talbot County, began to vanish, like many bay islands, due to rising sea levels and erosion.

The restoration project, a joint effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Port Administration, received additional funding in President Barack Obama's budget for fiscal year 2016. The appropriations would be used to expand the island by 575 acres over the previous goal of 1,100 acres, an expansion approved by the president and Congress last year.

The initial project is nearly complete and will not be able to hold any more dredged material. The expansion will allow the island to continue to provide beneficial habitat con-

struction, according to the Maryland Port Administration.

The budget's \$26.5 million allocation for the Poplar Island project represents a 75 percent increase over the previous year's proposal. The federal government funds three quarters of the project and the state is responsible for the remainder.

The island has been rebuilt with material dredged from the Maryland Bay Channels and the approach channels to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, a total of about 3.2 million cubic yards per year, said Justin Callahan, the Poplar Island project manager for the Corps of Engineers.

"Poplar is groundbreaking because it takes dredged material and is using it beneficially," said David Blazer, director of the Harbor Development Department of the Maryland Port Administration.

This type of project hasn't been done to this scale before and it is generating interest worldwide, he added.

Delegations from other nations, including Germany and Brazil, have toured the island.

EFSCU from A1

and for its social media campaign titled "Reminisce. Recognize. Reward." The campaign invites individuals to recognize the great works of members of the education community who continually strive to make a difference every day.

Earlier this spring at the national conference of CUNA's Marketing and Business Development Council, Educational Systems FCU won two Diamond Awards further recognizing the Credit Union's efforts to Support Education. Educational Systems FCU received a Diamond Award in the special projects category

for its back-to-school efforts which included attending over 45 new employee orientations, providing financial education seminars to new school system employees and sponsoring its annual "Tips and Tools for Back-to-School" sweepstakes where members of the education community can submit ideas on how to make the new school year a success. The grand prize winner of "Tips and Tools" then selects a school of their choice to receive a \$1,000 donation from Educational Systems FCU. The Credit Union was also recognized with a Diamond Award for their 2013 Annual Report titled "Serving the Education Community."



PHOTO COURTESY CAPITAL NWS SERVICE

By 1998, the Chesapeake Bay's Poplar Island had dwindled to several pieces of fewer than 10 total acres -- from over 1,100 acres in the mid-1800s. Later that year, construction started to rebuild the island using clean dredged material from the Maryland Bay Channels, which allow ships to access the Port of Baltimore. Now the island has been restored to nearly 1,100 acres and plans have been approved to expand the island another 575 acres.

Poplar's 3.2 million cubic yards of dredged material is about 60 percent of the approximately 5.2 million cubic yards dredged in Maryland shipping channels every year.

The bay has a natural tendency to refill its deep spots through a variety of factors, including natural erosion and tidal waters, Blazer said.

The dredged material used for Poplar Island is all considered clean. Contaminated material is sent to state containment facilities. According to the EPA, sediment around cities and industrial areas is often polluted from runoff and industrial waste.

Dredging is necessary to keep channels deep enough to allow ships to reach the Port of Baltimore and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

With a 50-foot deep approach channel, Maryland is equipped for the larger ships expected to come through an expanded Panama Canal. The Port Administration and Corps of Engineers are investigating widening the channels for wider vessels, Blazer said.

After material is dredged by scows, it is sent to Poplar Island where the slurry, a mixture of the sediment and water, is remixed in uploaders and then pumped

into containment cells designed to hold the dredged substance, Callahan said.

The extra money for Poplar Island in this year's proposed budget would account for the expansion of the island. Recently, the budget for Poplar Island, including the state portion, has been between \$13 and \$15 million a year, Blazer said.

The total cost of the expansion is expected to be between \$140 and \$150 million.

Construction to restore the island to 1,100 acres began in 1998 and with the expansion the project is approximately expected to finish around 2043.

In the mid-1800s, Poplar Island encompassed over 1,100 acres and included fields, forests and marshland. During the 1940s, Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman used the island as a presidential retreat.

Islands like Poplar have also been natural habitats for herons and diamondback terrapins.

Dredged material has been used to recreate landmasses and habitats before, such as Hart and Miller Island at the mouth of the Patapsco River. Poplar is groundbreaking because it creates large scale wetlands in addition to uplands, according to Blazer.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Makayla Gilliam-Price and Baltimore's Debt to a Remarkable Family



The much-worn quote from Faulkner that "The past is never dead. It's not even past" has never felt less clichéd and more searing to me than last night. I was at a packed town hall meeting in Washington, DC, featuring organizers and activists from Baltimore, and one of the speakers was a 17-year-old Baltimore City College high-school student named Makayla Gilliam-Price. Standing in front of 300 people and speaking without notes like she was alone in her living room, she potently communicated what it has been like to build a movement alongside a youth justice organization called City Bloc amidst the National Guard and curfews enforced at gunpoint. Ms. Gilliam-Price ended, however, not with a challenge to the police or Baltimore's mayor but to the movement: "I want to ask those standing with the people of Baltimore, did we love Freddie Gray before he was killed or only now that he is gone? This needs to be a 'Black Lives Matter' movement, not 'Black Deaths Matter.' This needs to be a movement of affirmation that expresses our desire to stop these killings before they happen and to love each other enough to do it."

It was almost overwhelming to watch Makayla Gilliam-Price speak, and not only because of her clarity and strength. See, I had met Ms. Gilliam-Price before, but she had yet to become this powerful student organizer with shock-red dyed hair. It was the fall of 1998, and she was barely a baby. Over the course of that year, Baltimore was my second home because of a man named Tyrone X. Gilliam. Tyrone was on Maryland's death row. He was also someone many of us believed to be innocent. Tyrone endured the long, indecent ritual towards execution right in the middle of Baltimore, the location of both the state's death row as well as its lethal injection chamber. The Maryland death house, currently closed for business, was in a neighborhood defined at the time by disinvestment and dilapidation. Yet amidst the familiar urban decay, there was a brand-spanking new supermax prison equipped with the most cutting-edge death equipment the state of Maryland had to offer. It was obscene and it spoke volumes.

The fight to force the state of Maryland to spare Tyrone's life had been led by his sister Zelda and her husband John. As we would march the nonexistent distance from the neighborhood apartments to the death house, they held in their arms this baby girl named Makayla.

Tyrone X. Gilliam wasn't just a voiceless name or symbol to those of us on the outside, and not only because we knew his family. He was the inaugural participant of events we staged called "Live From Death Row," where he called in to meetings packed with hundreds of people to answer questions about his case, profess his innocence, and describe life on the row. We knew him, as he developed politically and personally through these interactions with thousands of people he could not see. We fought, we marched, and we even prayed, but on November 16, 1998, Tyrone X. Gilliam was injected with poison as hundreds of us stood outside the death house. I will never forget that evening, as people from the neighborhood made their way out of their homes to stand in front of the only new building in the neighborhood and bear witness to a premeditated killing. Baby Makayla was not outside with us. The Gilliam-Price family kept her home as they mourned the loss of Tyrone, while we all waited fruitlessly for that 11th-hour cinematic reprieve from the governor, Democrat Parris Glendening.

After his death, I will never forget the words of Virginia Harabin of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, who said in her eulogy, "Tyrone is a founder of the modern abolitionist movement. Hundreds know his name, and they have been inspired to join the movement to end the death penalty. As Frederick Douglass said of the abolitionist leader John Brown: 'The future will write his epitaph upon the hearts of a people freed from slavery because he struck the first effectual blow.'"

That blow is being felt in the Black Lives Matter movement and it is being delivered by Makayla Gilliam-Price. Makayla ended her remarks last night by saying, "We need to see the humanity in each other. Then we would be in a radically different world. That is all." Looking on from the front row, beaming, was her mother, Zelda.

It takes your breath away. The Gilliam-Price family would have every reason to treat Baltimore the way Baltimore treated Tyrone and leave it for dead. Instead, they are fighting to reclaim it and demanding their rightful place in a city that took their blood. It's a place they have more than earned.

Mike Stark, who was running Maryland's Campaign to End the Death Penalty in 1998, chaired the meeting last night and said to me, "Sometimes even over 20 years of struggle against the death penalty and mass incarceration, you don't always see and feel the tangible, visible results of struggle. In Makayla I saw a living breathing representation of the continuity in the struggle for justice. I marched with her when she was not even a toddler and to see her now, to see that her family hasn't only not given up but is pushing forward... It's overwhelming."

The city of Baltimore has a brutal history. While it is tempting to see Makayla Gilliam-Price as the revenge of that history, it is also wrong. She's not its revenge. When you listen to her message, you realize that she actually represents its redemption. This might seem like quite a weight for a 17-year-old woman to carry, but honestly, Makayla Gilliam-Price makes it look easy.

Calendar of Events

June 4 — June 10, 2015

Seniors: Magical Musical Days

Date and Time: Friday, June 5, 2015 10:30 am-12 noon
Description: Enjoy a variety of live music every month. This month the featured musical talent will be Anthony Clark & the All Stars Blues Band. Please sign up at the center in advance, so we can plan accordingly.

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: Sweet Taste of Summer

Date and Time: Friday, June 5, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Tonight, teens will enjoy the sweet taste of summer by being active and eating healthy. We will start with a fun game softball, then enjoy some of nature's candy--delicious fruit!

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Beltsville Community Center
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

XtremeTeens: Water Ballon Challenge

Date and Time: Friday, June 5, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: Join your Xtreme Teens family outside for a water balloon fight. Please wear clothes you don't mind getting drenched with water.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights 20740
Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

Seniors: The Real Blues with Memphis Gold Concert

Date and Time: Friday, June 5, 2015 12:50-1:50 pm
Description: Memphis Gold's music is real and heartfelt as he stands with one foot in the past and the other in the present. His original music moves forward with funky rhythms, odd chord changes and structures and his own idiosyncratic view of life. Don't miss this special blues concert.

No registration required.
Cost: Free (An M-NCPPC Senior ID card is required)
Ages: 60 and better
Location: Camp Springs Senior Activity Center
6420 Allentown Rd, Temple Hills, MD 20748
Contact: 301-449-0490; TTY 301-446-3402

Xtreme Teens: Ultimate Frisbee

Date and Time: Saturday, June 6, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: We've mixed frisbee with football, so tonight hit the field for a night of epic fun! Remember to wear sneakers and conformable clothes.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Beltsville Community Center
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville 20705
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-445-4512

Maryland Saddle Association

Date and Time: Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7, 2015 8 am
Description: The Prince George's Equestrian Center will host the Maryland Saddle Association horse show.

Cost: Free for spectators
Location: The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-952-7998

Tasting the Past: "The Virginia Housewife"

Date and Time: Sunday, June 7, 2015, 1:15 pm
Description: Foodways historian Leni Sorensen will share her research on Mary Randolph, author of a landmark 19th century cookbook, and her enslaved cooks in antebellum Richmond. This lecture and tasting is a joint program with the Culinary Historians of Washington, DC. Registration required by Monday, June 1.

Cost: Resident \$10; Non-Resident \$12
Ages: Ages 16 & up
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Seniors: Arts on a Roll Improvisational Theatre Series

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 10:30-11:30 am
Description: In this performing arts series, participants will learn the basic "rules" of improvisation. Afterward, they'll create humorous or dramatic improvised scenes through a series of engaging theater games.

Cost: Free
Ages: 60 and Better
Location: Langley Park Senior Activity Center
1500 Merrimac Dr, Hyattsville, MD 20783
Contact: 301-408-4343; TTY 301-446-3402

A Soldier's Life: The War of 1812

Date and Time: Thursday, June 11, 2015 1-2 pm
Description: A recounting of the life of a soldier during the War of 1812: the roles, responsibilities, uniforms, and weapons.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Spring Lecture Series: Searching Through Genealogy

Date and Time: Thursday June 11, 2015 7 pm
Description: Karen Miles, genealogist and archivist with the Prince George's County Genealogical Society, will help us better understand the process of finding our ancestors and their stories.

Cost: \$5/person
Ages: 16 & up
Location: Marietta House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale 20769
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Should I Recycle My Disposable Batteries

Dear EarthTalk:

Can I throw my old disposable batteries in the trash or is there a way to recycle them?

— Jennifer Brandstrom,
Chicago, IL

Truth be told, those old used up disposable alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt, etc.) aren't the environmental menace they used to be before the federal government mandated taking out the mercury, a potent neurotoxin linked to a wide range of environmental and health problems, as part of the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act of 1996. These days, in every U.S. state except California (which requires recycling of all spent batteries), it is safe and legal to throw them in the trash.

Environmental Health & Safety Online, the leading web-based clearinghouse for information on environmental health and safety, reports that today's alkaline disposables are composed "primarily of common metals—steel, zinc, and manganese—that do not pose a health or environmental risk during normal use or disposal."

In California, tighter waste reduction laws mean that residents are required to recycle their spent alkalines by placing them in clear ziplock bags on top of their curbside trash cans (so garbage

haulers can keep them separate) or by dropping them in battery recycling bins (such as in larger apartment buildings and at libraries). Many electronics, big box and drugstore chains that sell batteries (BestBuy, Walgreens and others) will also take them back for free and send them off for recycling. Check out CalRecycle's website for more detailed information on battery recycling in the Golden State.

Unfortunately, some other kinds of disposable batteries, such as the increasingly ubiquitous alkaline manganese "button cells" (commonly used in digital thermometers, calculators and many toys), still contain mercury, and the federal government provides little guidance regarding their proper disposal. The Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act doesn't mandate phasing mercury out of alkaline manganese button cells because, at the time of the law's passage in 1996, including mercury was the only way to control the potentially dangerous formation of gas inside the specialized miniature batteries. Lithium button cells are a safer, mercury-free alternative now widely available, but consumers often opt for the still cheaper alkaline manganese variety.

"The use and disposal of mercury-added button cells are unregulated at the federal level," reports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "They



CREDIT: HEATHER KENNEDY, FLICKERCC

Now that there's no more mercury in disposable alkaline batteries, they can go right into the garbage.

do not have to be labeled; it is legal to dispose of them in the household trash; and they rarely are collected for recycling in most U.S. jurisdictions." California is currently the only state that mandates recycling even for alkaline manganese button cells, but several other states are considering regulating their disposal and whether to subsidize special recycling programs for them. But until then, most of the mercury from these little wonders will end

up in the municipal solid waste stream and contribute to our ongoing pollution burden.

Fortunately, the recycling of most types of rechargeable batteries (which can contain potentially harmful heavy metals and other contaminants) remains easy thanks to an industry-backed program called Call2Recycle that points people toward recyclers and retailers across the U.S. and Canada happy to take them off your hands at no cost.

CONTACTS: Environmental Health & Safety Online, www.ehso.com; Call2Recycle, www.call2recycle.org; CalRecycle, www.calrecycle.ca.gov/reducewaste/Batteries/.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

TREE RELEAF GRANT PROGRAM

Trees provide countless benefits to neighborhoods and enhance the outdoor learning environment around schools. The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) offers grants for community-based tree planting projects (up to \$5,000 per project) and projects in municipalities (up to \$10,000 per project) through its Tree Releaf Grant Program.

Examples of funded projects include tree plantings in parks and playgrounds, memorial and street tree plantings and reforestation projects along streams. If your neighborhood or school is interested in applying for a tree planting grant, please contact Najj Banjoko, Program Manager at mabanjoko@co.pg.md.us or (301) 883-5802.

Prince L. Baker, III
County Executive

ENVIRONMENT
ACCEPTS CHANGE

TREE RELEAF

New Bill Would Create Height Restrictions on Wind Turbines Near Patuxent River Navy Base-

By Katelyn Newman
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS— As wind energy companies try to find their footing in Maryland, state senators proposed a bill that would limit turbines' heights, as well as their companies' interests, in southern Maryland.

Proposals had placed wind turbines in the Chesapeake Bay near the Patuxent River, and along the Atlantic Coast near Ocean City, but this bill would only limit development near the river's Naval Air Station.

Sponsored by Senator Steve Waugh, R-Calvert and St. Mary's, the bill would allow wind energy companies to build turbines near the Naval Air Station on the Patuxent River so long as they do not exceed certain heights based on distances from the base that could cause inaccurate radar readings.

"The purpose of the bill is to protect the Atlantic Test

Range, which is a national asset and used by the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (for) developmental test activities," Waugh said.

"It's mirroring limits that exist already for (agricultural) preservation land," which provide staggered height limits for wind turbines based on distance away from a determined point, Waugh said. The farther away, the taller the turbines could be.

Applying the state's current agricultural regulations to the base would keep wind turbines at least 24 miles away from the Naval Air Station, and they could not exceed 100 feet in height if within 24 to 30 miles of the base.

But taller towers allow for more energy to be generated because of faster wind speeds at greater heights, according to the American Wind Energy Association. Therefore, height restrictions could limit prof-

itability for energy companies.

Bruce Burcat, executive director of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition, said the bill's provisions are too geographically limiting, making wind turbine development not as profitable -- and therefore less attractive -- for energy companies to build in Maryland.

"We still have some serious concerns about it," Burcat said. For example, he said, "there is no provision for reviewing down the road -- hopefully just a couple years -- to see if circumstances have changed to the point where they would have more comfort with development in that region."

Senator Thomas Middleton, D-Charles, said he supports the bill because it enables the employees of the Naval Air Station to keep working.

"It's hundreds of jobs and lots of economic development to southern Maryland, and going forth...we feel it's neces-

sary to really protect" the base's radar system, Middleton said.

Meanwhile, state Senate Minority Whip Stephen S. Hershey Jr., R-Caroline, Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's, introduced a bill on Tuesday that would give Kent County commissioners the ability to approve wind energy companies' land-based wind projects within their own county rather than requiring the Public Service Commission's approval.

Waugh's proposal comes after U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, D-Maryland, tried to put a hold on any agreements between the U.S. Navy and wind energy companies at the mouth of the Patuxent River in July 2014 until an MIT study analyzing the turbines' potential effects on radar testing is completed, which is expected to be published in summer 2015.

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