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Maryland Legislator, Once Impoverished, Wants To Give Back To Low-Income Students

By ANJALI SHASTRY
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — Alonzo Washington made it out of the projects and into the Maryland State House, and now he has a new project of his own: help low-income students in the state obtain a higher education.

The 32-year-old delegate from Prince George's County was in 8th grade and had just moved into public housing in Laurel when Joseph Fisher knocked on his door.

"He said, 'I just want to introduce myself to you and your family.' He talked to my mom of course," Washington said. "He said, 'I want to be able to help you out, this is my organization, this is what we do.'"

Fisher helped the future politician keep up his grades and finish high school, but Washington wasn't enthusiastic for the help at the very beginning.

"I was just like, I don't need nobody telling me to go to college, man," Washington said. "I already had great grades in middle school. I was a straight A student, I knew where I was going to go, but I didn't necessarily know how I was going to get there. And it was him that helped me fill in that gap."

"I just watched that boy (Alonzo), and he's unbelievable," Fisher said. "I remember

him very well. We had him in homework club, he graduated high school, and he knew where he wanted to go."

Twenty-five years ago, Fisher created First Generation College Bound, a college access program in Prince George's County to encourage and assist low-income students who are often, like Washington, the first in their families to go to college.

Washington and state Senator Jim Rosapepe, D-Prince George's and Anne Arundel, each introduced bills this year to help college access programs such as First Generation College Bound with state-provided grants that would allow them to expand their services.

Both identical bills passed the legislature; Gov. Larry Hogan on Tuesday signed the Senate version.

"(Alonzo) got interested in seeing how we could get support to scale up programs like First Generation to reach more kids," Rosapepe said. "He wanted to set up a competitive grant program at the state level to help those like the one in Prince George's to help and reach more kids."

The number of low-income students is growing in Maryland, and is at a 14-year high, according to data from Kids Count Data Center. A good indicator of low-income students are those receiving free and reduced-price



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLANDSTATER VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Maryland Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, D-Prince George's.

lunch in public schools, and those numbers are increasing.

According to data from the Kids Count Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#MD/2/0>), 43 percent of all Maryland students are receiving free and reduced-cost lunches. This is up from 2000, when 29

percent of Maryland students received free and reduced meals.

Baltimore City has the state's highest rate, at 86 percent, of students receiving free and reduced school meals.

See STUDENTS Page A3

PGCPS Office of Accounting Team Wins Prestigious Award

By Press Officer
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD — Prince George's County Public Schools received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Peggy Harrison, chief accountant in the Accounting and Financial

Reporting Office, received an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement. She was designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. Harrison has worked with PGCPS for 10 years. This is the first time she has received the award.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating disclosure to communicate the financial story and encourage people to read the CAFR. The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, DC.

More Speed Camera Tickets Issued in P.G. County Than in D.C.

By Press Officer
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C. — It's David versus Goliath, or is it really? More speed camera tickets were issued in Prince George's County last year than in Washington, D.C. All hail. Unlike the nation's capital, the County only issues such tickets in school zones. However, speed camera and red-light camera ticket totals continue to decrease on a yearly basis in Prince George's County. In contrast, the amount of parking citations is increasing in the county, as well as the aggregate number of parking ticket scofflaws

with parking tickets outstanding after 90 days, reveal figures from the Prince George's County Revenue Authority.

Ironically, the speed camera technology was invented by a race car champion who won the Monte Carlo Rally. PGPD officers will likely begin issuing speeding tickets for violations captured in school zones by hand-held laser speed cameras this month. Last fiscal year, the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) issued 303,885 speed camera tickets. That's atop the 282,021 speed camera citations

See TICKETS Page A3

Bowie, MD Inventor Receives Award at INPEX — America's Largest Invention Show

By PRESS OFFICER
INPEX

PITTSBURGH... InventHelp's INPEX®, America's Largest Invention Trade Show, announced its 2015 award winners at the closing awards ceremony for the 30th Anniversary Show. All of the inventions were exhibited June 16-18, at the Monroeville Convention Center located just outside of downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The inventions exhibited at INPEX run a broad spectrum from concept to finished product, from the high-tech to 'why didn't I think of that' - type items. Awards were presented in 45 individual categories as well as special awards, including a grand prize cash award of \$7,500. An independent, international jury judges the inventions each year. The following individual won an award in the Infant/Children Category.

GOLD: Bebe PODPants — Tiffany Copon: Infant clothing

garment that offers busy parents a unique and functional alternative to pants, socks and shoes. Worn over baby's legs, up to the waist with a convenient opening for car seat or stroller buckle access. www.bebepodpants.com.

Additional information about the inventor and their invention are available. A complete list of category awards is also available. Please contact Gia DelliGatti for additional information at (800)-424-2089 ext. 4163 or gdellegatti@inventhelp.com

INPEX is a unique trade show that showcases new products and innovations that are available to business and industry to manufacture, license or distribute, while bringing business representatives and inventors together in one convenient forum. The show is a service of InventHelp®, one of America's leading inventors service companies. For more information about INPEX, call 888-54-INPEX or visit www.inpex.com.

Maryland PROMISE Video Selected as the 2015 Telly Award Winner for Excellence

By PRESS OFFICER
MDD

The Maryland Department of Disabilities along with its partners, TransCen Inc. and Waystation Inc., are proud to announce the Maryland PROMISE Video has been selected as a 2015 Telly Award winner for excellence in broadcasting and video journalism. With nearly 50,000 entries from all 50 states, the 2015 Telly Award has become increasingly competitive and remains a sought after recognition in the industry.

The winning video highlights Maryland PROMISE operated through the Maryland Department of Disabilities as a joint initiative with several federal agencies including the Department of Education, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Labor. Maryland is one of six participating states in this groundbreaking national study, providing services statewide.

The PROMISE initiative is intended to improve the coordination of services for youth



PHOTO COURTESY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES
Vonnya Pettigrew and MD PROMISE Staff with award and MDOD logo in background.

SSI recipients and is aimed at achieving improved outcomes post high school. These outcomes include graduating from high school ready for college and a career; completing post-secondary education and job training; and obtaining competitive employment in an inte-

grated setting. These outcomes are achieved through a variety of supports to include a case manager who is able to bridge the gap between the school, the employer, and the families to ensure a cohesive experience. As a result of the intensive interventions, these youth have greater potential to gain com-

petitive employment and achieve long-term reductions in reliance on SSI.

Area PROMISE Supervisor, Tonya Chubb, commented, "Our staff ensures a beneficial experience for both the youth

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INSIDE

Low Wages and High Rents Lock Renters Out Across the Country

There are significant differences between the National Housing Wage of \$19.35 and state and county Housing Wages, as well as between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, all of which are available in the full Out of Reach 2015 report.

Community, Page A3

America — What Do We Do After Charleston?

I believe we are called in the aftermath of the Charleston massacre, the latest in a long and egregious history of unjust Black deaths, to confront the realities of our true history so that a new generation of White youths does not carry forth the poison of racial supremacy and White privilege.

Commentary, Page A4

Maryland Comptroller Franchot Announces Tax Amnesty

Taxpayers who failed to file a required return or pay a tax imposed on or before December 31, 2014, may file an application with the Comptroller requesting a waiver of all civil penalties (except for previously assessed fraud penalties) and one-half interest due.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Inside Out"

Set mostly inside the brain of an 11-year-old girl, where we see her thoughts and actions determined by characters representing her different emotions, the film is a conceptual near-masterpiece ... except for the big chunk in the middle where it isn't. On either side of that section, though, are many poignant delights.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What are so-called non-human rights?

— Richard Montcalm,
Jenkintown, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Good news (for seniors) from the Prince George's County Library

I've had news from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, news that is especially great for me, since I often return books late and frequently have fines to pay (about \$1.50 right now).

In an effort to serve seniors like me—age 75 and older—the library is going to allow us to borrow books by mail, free us from late fees and increase the checkout period from three to seven weeks.

Now, I haven't taken advantage of this yet, but I certainly will, and maybe some of you might also want to give it a try.

For more information, you can contact Guy Charity, Senior & Homebound Coordinator, at outreach.services@pgcmls.info, or call 301-699-3500, ext 6164.

Appraise

George Hoehl, of Upper Marlboro, has been voted Grand Knight for St. Pius X order of the Knights of Columbus, Council #4076, in Forestville. He will be installed on July 23 at St. Pius X, beginning with Mass at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to attend, RSVP George at 301-599-0307.

Jordyn Goddard, a 3rd-grade teacher at Capitol Heights Elementary, was named Miss Maryland United States 2015 in January. On June 30 she made the Top 10 in the Miss United States competition. However, she didn't make it to the Top 5. We're proud of her anyway, and I'll bet she's a great 3rd-grade teacher.

Two McNamara softball players made it to the 2015 All-Gazette first team: Sophomore Raina Cooper, outfielder, and Junior Laurie Irons, pitcher.

Coming up

August 8: St. Philip the Apostle Crab Feast, 1-5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Price: \$30 per adult, \$15 for children (ages 8-15), and \$75 for a family of four (two adults, two kids). For reservations, send an email to Suzy Giroux at STPHILIP-SCRABFEAST@verizon.net.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

SUMMER CARNIVAL

New Hope Fellowship will sponsor a Summer Carnival Saturday, August 2, 2013 at Nottingham Myers Family Life Center 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro Maryland 20772.

Join us for a day of fun. There will be Carnival Games and Prizes. Early Bird Specials are July 12th-August 16th. The cost is 50 game tickets for \$20.00 and 25 game tickets for \$15.00. Prices will be slightly higher day of the event. The prices are 35 tickets for \$20, 20 tickets for \$15.00 and 15 tickets for \$10.00 the day of the event. Tickets can be purchased on Even Bright and Nottingham-Myers Church.

JULY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Anniversary to Jack & Susan Matthews, Karl & Romonia Pinkney, Safiya Terry & Kenya Joseph, Ulrich & Veronica Thomas who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in July.

St. Philip's is at 5416 Henderson Way in Camp Springs.

August 8: The United States Colored Troops to the Rescue, 4 p.m. at The Surratt House Museum, 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. Free. Renowned historian Dr. Edna Green Medford of Howard University will discuss the importance of these men who fought for freedom and the salvation of the Union.

August 1 (10-11 a.m.) and August 12 (1-2 p.m.): Live Animal Shows at Clearwater Nature Center at Cosca Park in Clinton. Meet snakes, turtles, toads and more. \$2 for ages 2 and up.

County newspapers: update

The *Prince George's* and *Montgomery Gazette* ended their runs on June 18. But the man who started the *Gazette* papers, Earle D. Hightower, didn't live to see his papers fold—he died at age 92 in Pinehurst, N.C.

Back in 1959, the *Gaithersburg Gazette* was issued by Hightower out of the basement of his Rockville home. From that humble beginning, grew the *Gazette* newspapers, with several owners down through the years, finally The Washington Post.

As for other newspaper news: On July 1 the Adams Publishing Company purchased several Southern Maryland Newspapers, including *The Enquirer-Gazette*, *The Maryland Independent*, *The Enterprise*, *The Calvert Recorder* and papers from 12 military installations.

Thoughts on public transit south

Last month I wrote a column about Maryland Transit Administration meetings dealing with transportation between the Branch Avenue Metro station and the Waldorf/White Plains area of Charles County.

I had an interesting letter from Eleanor Mote of Camp Springs. She and her late husband attended a number of meetings on public transit, and

took long trips through Southern Maryland, often following the old Conrail tracks. They contacted Conrail which agreed it would be a good idea to use those tracks for transit, but too expensive.

Eleanor believes many of those tracks are still there and wonders if they couldn't be used now.

May they rest in peace

Virginia R. "Ginny" Robey, just three days short of age 87, a loyal employee of John Sharper Florist for nearly 50 years, died June 25. She was a native of East Hartford, Conn., wife of the late Paul E. Robey, mother of Kathleen Hanna and William "Billy" Robey. She is also survived by two grandsons and four great-grands. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Ignatius with burial at Arlington at a later date.

Jean Elizabeth Igoe, 80, a 1950 graduate of Oxon Hill High, died July 6 in Winchester, Va. She worked at Fireman's Insurance and then at Howard & Hoffman Insurance where she met her future husband, William F. Igoe. He died in 2001 after 47 years of marriage. Survivors include three children and five grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to my granddaughter Claire Mudd, Michael Busky, Mike Fowler Jr. and former Morningside Police Chief Stephen Armhold, July 17; former Morningside Councilman Russell Butler, July 18; Mike Fowler Sr. and Eddie Hall, July 19; Donna Buchin, Dorothy Gessner and Tina Nichols, July 20; Mary Hay, Jeff Frederick, Ryan Simms and David Cook, July 22; Virginia Price, July 23; and Angela Surratt, July 24.

Happy Silver Anniversary to my daughter Sheila and John Mudd on July 20. And happy anniversary to Percy and Barbara Crawford, their 43rd on July 22; and to Steve and Tessie Johnson, their 15th on July 22.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Timothy Edwards, Robert Miley, Jo Thatcher, Melvin Wood, Charlene Hudson, Barbara Burdette, Elizabeth King, Alma Pinkney, Trevor Bourne, Franklyn Isaac, Osama Omoregbe, Anston Williams, Wayne Baker, Shirley Young, Sally Davies, Etinosa Omoregbe and George Carter who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays in July.

MARYLAND QUARTER HORSE SHOW

The Prince George's Equestrian Center will host the Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Show Friday July 24-Sunday July 26, 2015 at 8:00 AM. The location is Show Place Arena—14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. The cost is free for spectators. Contact number is 301-952-7900; TTY 301-952-7998.

FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market at St. Thomas Church hours of operation will be every Saturday 8:00 AM to noon until September 28, 2015. The church is located at 14300 St.

Thomas Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772. Telephone number is 301-627-469.

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

MACARONI KID

Parents there is a website and free weekly e-newsletter of local events for kids. Subscribe on line today and visit www.Brandywine.Macaronikid.com.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS CHURCH

Happy Birthday to Cynthia Brooks, Valerie Pinkney, Kaleb Dorey, Rosalind Pinkney, Bradley Johnson, Savontae Lee, Janice P. Mozee, Shondell Wilkerson, Sean Montgomery, Alicia Johnson, Ruby Brooks and Domico J. L. Eades who celebrating birthdays in July.

Happy Weddings Anniversary to Frank & Gwen DeVille who celebrated their Wedding Anniversary July 2, 2015.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Bill

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement regarding her vote against H.R. 2577, the Fiscal Year 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The legislation passed the House by a vote of 216-210.

"I continue to be disheartened by how House Republicans claim to be a party in support of American families and yet they bring legislation to the House floor that freezes or cuts critical investment in our nation, both today and well into the future," Edwards said. "This bill proposes enormous cuts to policy that would create good paying jobs and grow the economy, such as improving America's transportation and infrastructure, along with depleting investments that could have strengthened communities by addressing homelessness and providing assistance for the poor and most vulnerable."

"This legislation simply fails American businesses and families looking for surety. It shortchanges investments important to middle-class priorities such as improving our nation's roads, bridges, rail and transit infrastructure, and aviation systems. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am appalled and disappointed by what the GOP would do to programs vital to Maryland, such as the following:

- Cutting by one-third (from \$150 million to \$100 million) the federal matching funds for much needed rider safety improvements in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)—a necessity for Marylanders living and working in the National Capital Region;

- Cutting Amtrak's budget at a time of record ridership to the lowest level since 2003, which many Marylanders depend on for daily travel on the busy Northeast Corridor. With a \$2 billion Amtrak backlog for the DC and Maryland areas, this means a longer time for much needed improvements to both Union Station and the Baltimore-Potomac Tunnel;

- Slashing TIGER grant funding, which spurs innovation and propels economic mobility by helping connect people to jobs in communities across the US, to nearly 80 percent below its current level; and
- Cutting locally planned transit capital investments by more than 40 percent.

"The bill also includes harmful cuts to programs crucial to our country's underserved populace. At a time when 75 percent of low-income Maryland families use federal rental assistance, this bill would set back efforts to end homelessness and underfund housing support for families with children, the elderly, and the disabled. Further, it includes unnecessary and unrelated foreign policy riders that would place restrictions on options for educational, religious, or other permitted travel to Cuba."



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Government Data Breach Adds to Worrying Trend What Should You Do?

WASHINGTON, D.C. — News that 4 million current or former federal employees may have had their personal information compromised in a massive data breach, should be concerning to everyone. Data breaches and cybercrimes are already common place and only expected to get worse in the near term.

"It's unfortunate that some consumers only consider monitoring their personal consumer information after a data breach has been announced," says Berni Koch, Chairman and CEO of AAA Mid-Atlantic. "That's like buying car insurance after an accident when the damage is already done."

By the time an organization makes its data breach announcement, weeks may have elapsed since the actual occurrence of the data breach. During that time, an individual's personal consumer information may have already been exposed on the internet enabling unauthorized access to personal consumer information, establishment of a consumer loan such as a credit card without authorization, or even use of an individual's healthcare benefits.

While consumers should be aware that personal risks may exist when a data breach occurs, they should also be proactive in preparing for such an occurrence.

Many identity theft monitoring products are available. For example, AAA Mid-Atlantic's ProtectMyID is a no cost member benefit that may help enrolled subscribers proactively monitor their personal consumer information as a means of early detection of any unauthorized use and possible identity theft.

If you are the victim of identity theft, act quickly to limit the damage. The Federal Trade Commission advises:

Step 1: Call the companies where you know fraud occurred.

Step 2: Place a fraud alert and get your credit report. Contact one of the three credit bureaus. That company must tell the other two.

- Equifax.com/CreditReportAssistance 1-888-766-0008
- Experian.com/fraudalert 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion.com/fraud 1-800-680-7289

Get your free credit report right away. Go to annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228.

Step 3: Report identity theft to the FTC.

Complete the FTC's online complaint form (<https://www.ftc-complaintassistant.gov/>). Give as many details as you can. The

complaint form is not available on mobile devices, but you can call 1-877-438-4338 to make your report.

Step 4: File a report with your local police department.

Go to your local police office with:

- a copy of your FTC Identity Theft Affidavit
- a government-issued ID with a photo
- proof of your address (mortgage statement, rental agreement, or utilities bill)
- any other proof you have of the theft (bills, IRS notices, etc.)

Franchot Launches Search for Unclaimed Property Owners at Summer Fairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The search for the rightful owners of abandoned bank accounts, security deposits, insurance benefits, and safe deposit boxes continues, as Maryland's Agent 0033, a.k.a. Comptroller Peter Franchot, today announced that agency staff will travel to fairs and festivals throughout the summer and fall to help reunite Marylanders with unclaimed property accounts worth more than \$1 billion.

"One of my top priorities is reuniting Marylanders with their hard-earned money," Comptroller Franchot said. "Right now my office is holding more than one million accounts worth more than \$1 billion."

Last summer, more than 450 people discovered and received more than \$437,275 in unclaimed funds after visiting the agency's booth at fairs and festivals. One visitor to the Maryland State Fair discovered an unexpected windfall of \$71,516. There were similar experiences at the Montgomery County Fair, where someone found \$24,840; at the Prince George's County Fair, where someone claimed \$7,836; and at the Senior Expo/Baby Boomer Expo in Timonium, where someone found \$35,186.

Each spring, a list of new accounts is published and distributed in local newspapers statewide. Taking a creative approach to raising awareness about the unclaimed property program, Comptroller Franchot appears on the cover of the list as Agent 0033, and in a YouTube video as a James Bond-inspired character. His agent code reflects his standing as Maryland's 33rd Comptroller.

Financial institutions, insurance companies and corporations are required by law to notify the Comptroller's Office of any property that has gone unclaimed, or without activity, for more than three years. Once reported to the agency, staff works to locate the rightful owners to match them with their property. Funds are available to be claimed at any time, with no statute of limitations.

In Fiscal Year 2014, the agency honored nearly 51,000 claims totaling more than \$62 million. Since 2007, the Comptroller's Office has returned more than \$450 million in unclaimed property.

To search the unclaimed property database online, visit www.marylandtaxes.com.

See **PROPERTY** Page A5

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

What To Do If Someone Files A False Tax Return in Your Name

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing fraud issues at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Online thieves have been capturing Social Security numbers and other tax filing data to file fraudulent returns, principally for the purpose of stealing refunds.

Just this past tax season, TurboTax, the leading tax preparation software company, had to stop transmitting state tax returns and introduce new safeguards after a run of suspicious returns. In March, the U.S. Treasury Department reported slightly over 2.9 million incidents of tax-related identity theft in 2013, up from 1.8 million in 2012. As to dollar loss, in January, the General Accounting Office (GAO) said the IRS had prevented an estimated \$24.2 billion in fraudulent identity theft tax refunds in 2013, but actually paid \$5.8 billion in refunds later determined to be fraudulent.

In terms of damage, tax identity theft is really no different than any other form of identity theft. Thieves illegally obtain your Social Security number through online or other resources and then go to work on your finances and reputation. The first you'll see of it will be on your credit report in the form of unfamiliar (and likely unpaid) accounts or unusual credit inquiries from employers or agencies you've never contacted. The problem may take months or years to straighten out.

Hearing about a false tax return might take time. Many taxpayers find out they've been hacked via a physical letter from the U.S. Postal Service—the IRS never sends (<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Report-Phishing>) taxpayer-specific correspondence via email—indicating that a duplicate return has been filed in the taxpayer's name. That means a significant amount of time might have passed between the hack and the taxpayer learning about the problem. Electronic filers might find out sooner because their return might bounce if a fraudulent one was successfully filed earlier.

Recent reports quote the IRS as saying it tries to settle such cases within 4-6 months, but news reports have indicated wait times might be longer. This is why anyone dealing with identity theft needs to move fast and be actively involved in containing the damage. Regulators can't do it for you and advertised services that say they can handle everything probably won't. You'll need to investigate and clean up your own records.

If you've been hit, first go to the identity theft action pages on both the Federal Trade Commission (<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0008-tax-related-identity-theft>) and the IRS (<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Identity-Protection>) websites for immediate ways to deal with the problem. Start with the following immediate steps:

- Order your current credit reports and set a fraud alert on each at the three major consumer credit rating agencies — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Follow up to make sure those alerts are active.
- Set up a physical or computer-based file where you can organize, date and file all contacts, communications and paperwork associated with your case and keep track of any fraudulent transactions that occur.
- Create an identity theft report (<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0277-create-identity-theft-report>) with the FTC and your local police department. This will help you document your contacts with regulators and law enforcement if there is an arrest.
- Make a call list for all creditors, banks, investment companies, utilities and your employer to let them know about the breach. If you work with qualified financial and tax experts, inform them too. If you've spotted fraudulent accounts, contact those entities to put a freeze on them and thereby limit potential losses.

If you've never experienced this type of identity theft, don't take your luck for granted. Even if you file your taxes by regular mail, make sure you set up your own personal IRS e-services (<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Step-1-Create-an-IRS-e-services-Account>) account, because reports have surfaced that identity thieves are opening false accounts with stolen taxpayer data. Finally, schedule receipt throughout the year of your three credit reports, which you can receive free once a year.

Bottom line: Anywhere your Social Security number goes, identity thieves follow — this tax filing season proved that. Safeguard your data and check your credit reports several times a year for irregularities.



Low Wages and High Rents Lock Renters Out Across the Country

By PRESS OFFICER NLIHC

Washington, D.C. — The National Low Income Housing Coalition's Out of Reach 2015 report reveals that the tightening rental market is making it increasingly difficult for low income renters to find decent, affordable apartments all across the country. The 2015 National Housing Wage is \$19.35, meaning that someone working full-time, 40 hours a week, would need to earn \$19.35 per hour in order to afford a modest two-bedroom rental unit while spending no more than 30% of household income on housing costs. In 13 states and the District of Columbia, the Housing Wage is more than \$20 per hour.

The 2015 Housing Wage is now 2.7 times the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. There is no state in the country where someone earning either the state or federal minimum wage can afford even a one-bedroom apartment renting at the HUD Fair Market Rent (FMR). In fact, a minimum wage earner would need to work 86 hours per week to afford a modest

one-bedroom apartment and 107 hours per week to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment. Even if the minimum wage was raised to \$10.10 as President Barack Obama has proposed, it would fall far short of the Housing Wage.

"Raising the minimum wage is a critical step to improving the lives of low income households, but it is not enough," says NLIHC President and CEO Sheila Crowley. "The data in Out of Reach make it clear that investing in affordable housing is essential to reducing poverty and housing instability in this country."

There are significant differences between the National Housing Wage of \$19.35 and state and county Housing Wages, as well as between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, all of which are available in the full Out of Reach 2015 report.

According to Out of Reach 2015, the top five most expensive states are:

- Hawaii, with a Two-Bedroom Housing Wage of \$31.61.
- District of Columbia, with a Two-Bedroom Housing Wage of \$28.04.

• California, with a Two-Bedroom Housing Wage of \$26.65.

• New York, with a Two-Bedroom Housing Wage of \$25.67.

• New Jersey, with a Two-Bedroom Housing Wage of \$25.17.

Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Alaska, and Washington finish out the list of top ten most expensive states in 2015.

There are ten metropolitan areas where the Housing Wage is greater than \$30 per hour. The most expensive metropolitan area in 2015 is San Francisco, CA, where someone would have to earn close to \$40 an hour to afford a decent two-bedroom rental unit.

There were more than 42 million renter households in the U.S. in 2013 and one in every four have incomes at or below 30% of the area median income. These households experience the greatest housing instability and risk of homelessness. They only can afford rents of \$509 a month, far less than the two-bedroom FMR of \$1,006 or the one-bedroom FMR of \$806. The National Low Income Housing Coalition calculates

that there are just 31 affordable and available units for every 100 extremely low income renter households.

"Partisan paralysis in Congress makes it nearly impossible to raise the federal minimum wage or increase funding for HUD programs such as Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing," says Crowley. "And yet the market continues to fail to provide affordable homes for the lowest income households. When the market fails to provide for such a basic human need as housing, government must close the gap."

The National Low Income Housing Coalition concludes that the strongest solution to the affordable housing crisis is the National Housing Trust Fund. The National Housing Trust Fund will provide communities with funds to build, preserve, rehabilitate and operate rental homes that are affordable for extremely low income households.

Extensive data for every state, metropolitan area, and county in the country are available online at www.nlihc.org/oor.

Tickets from A1

met out by the Metropolitan Police Department. Despite eclipsing the District by 21,864 tickets, the county, nevertheless, experienced a 15.7 percent drop in speed camera tickets in FY 14, while the District's ticket totals were down 32.6% (from 419,037 citations in FY13). On top of that, Prince George's County had a slight 1.6% decline in red-light camera tickets. Although the County saw a 12% increase in parking tickets, unpaid parking tickets are up nearly 30%.

"With each passing year, the automated speed camera program is making children safer in school zones in Prince George's County. Although most drivers are slowing down and getting the message, there are still far too many motorists driving afoul and above the speed limit in school zones," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "The Prince George's County Police Department launched its speed camera program on a county-wide basis at the dawn of the school year in 2011. The year before, seventy children, 15 years old or under, were struck by vehicles in the county in 2010."

Although it snatched the District's crown, the number of speeding camera tickets continues to level off four years after the countywide implementation of the Prince George's County Automated Speed Enforcement Program.

Students from A1

Somerset County was the second highest rate, at 73 percent.

Howard County had the fewest, at 20 percent of students receiving these meals.

Prince George's County had 64 percent of their students receiving these meals, and Montgomery County had 35 percent of their students receiving these meals.

In terms of sheer number, Prince George's County had the most students receiving free and reduced meals.

Of Maryland's 392,525 students receiving these free and reduced lunches, 79,739 of those students were in Prince George's County.

In fact, speed camera ticket totals dropped to 303,885 citations in Fiscal Year 2014, compared to 360,532 such tickets the previous budget cycle, FY13. Year over year, the County issued 56,647 fewer speed camera tickets.

As a result, the revenue realized by the countywide automated speed enforcement program is also declining, county records show. In FY14, the county collected \$10,165,811 in speed camera revenue. In comparison, the County gleaned \$13,111,721 in speed camera revenue in FY13. The cameras are posted within a one-half radius of a school, the fine for the infraction is \$40, and drivers are ticketed for going 12 mph over the speed limit. County officials say the average speed limit compliance rate was only twenty percent on county roads surveyed before the speed camera program was launched. Since the implementation of the speed camera program, the speed limit compliance rate has soared to 67 percent, exult police officials.

Neighboring Washington, Prince George's County has the dubious distinction of leading the state of Maryland and the entire Washington metro region in motor vehicle fatalities, in fatal crashes involving pedestrians, and in the sheer number of fatal motor vehicle crashes involving distracted driving. Prince George's County witnessed over a thousand (1,110) speed-related vehicle crashes on its roadways, nearly 100 per month, on average, during 2014. To safeguard students in

duly designated school zones across the county, the PGPD deploys and rotates a phalanx of 72 mobile speed camera units. On average, each camera recorded 4,221 motorists zipping at least 12 miles per hour over the posted speed limit in the County's school zones. The ticket fine is \$40.

During 2013, the County recorded 87 highway fatalities — the highest toll in the region. That tally includes 16 pedestrian fatalities and two bicyclist fatalities. "More county residents died from motor vehicle accidents (87 deaths) than in any other Maryland county" in 2012, reports the Prince George's County Health Department. Within Maryland, Prince George's County "has the highest number of pedestrian fatalities."

The PGPD's red-light camera program is designed to crack down on red light runners. Red-light camera tickets declined from 46,970 in FY12 to 41,593 in FY14, a decrease of 5,377 citations, or 11.4 percent. Total red-light camera revenue collected yearly, however, has remained constant. Still, the number of vehicle crashes has been falling at intersections, County officials explain. Last year the county saw 3,100 crashes at intersections, compared to 3,051 intersection crashes in FY13 and 3,471 road junction crashes in FY12. Plans are underway to increase the number of red light cameras in FY16, by four cameras per month.

The County boasts 850,000 residents and hundreds of thousands of visitors. With

more competition for a place to park, more County residents are voting to designate their neighborhoods as residential parking zones. This imposes parking restrictions between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays. As a result of the expansion of the license-plate digital parking permit program, parking enforcers are also issuing more tickets in neighborhoods than at meters. The fine for parking in Residential Parking Permit (RPP) zones without a permit is \$50. Yet the percentage of parking citations outstanding after 90 days is mounting, increasing from 8.3 percent in FY12, to 20.1 percent in FY13, to a third — or 36.2 percent — in FY14. The Revenue Authority urges parking violators to pay tickets within 90 days.

The Prince George's County Council voted to expand the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program in 2011. Patrolling neighborhoods, parking enforcers issued 98,341 parking tickets with a face value of \$6,684,420, yet collected \$1,171,859 in parking fine revenue in FY14. This compares to the 87,775 parking tickets issued in FY13 that were valued at \$9,449,421. Yet the county gleaned \$2,851,438 in parking citation revenue in FY13. During the previous budget cycle parking enforcers issued 82,359 parking citations carrying a face value of \$5,312,409. However, the Revenue Authority collected \$3,987,311 in parking fines in FY12.

demonstrate their fundraising ability, and the grant program would match it their request.

"While it may not appear to be a substantial financial investment, it's still to be regarded as an important piece of the puzzle in solving a very important issue for the state," said John Woolums, the director of governmental relations at Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

Washington said his job right now was to convince the governor that this program deserves to be fully funded — with at least a quarter of a million dollars.

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COMMENTARY

Jamel (Mel) Franklin
*County Council Chair, District 9
 Prince George's County*



Council Chairman Mel Franklin Says Supreme Court Decision Affirming “Obamacare” is Great News for Prince George’s County Residents

Today’s Supreme Court decision in King v. Burwell upholding the Affordable Care Act is a huge victory for the working families in Prince George’s County and across the nation. The Affordable Care Act, also known as ‘Obamacare,’ was adopted by Congress based on the belief that access to quality, affordable healthcare should not be a privilege for the few who can afford it, but instead a right for all Americans.

Access to quality health care and prevention for our residents are also priority concerns for the County Council. Committed to the health and wellness of our citizens, the Council as the

Prince George’s County Board of Health, continues to work with other stakeholders to build a world class Regional Health Center, and encourage development of healthy eating options, recreational opportunities, and walkable communities in the County.

Today’s Supreme Court decision ensures that the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama’s signature legislative achievement, will be a permanent part of our nation’s social safety net and will continue to be available to the thousands of Prince George’s County residents who have gained access to healthcare since its passage.



B & O RAILROAD MUSEUM

The B&O Railroad Museum is located at the historic site of the B&O Railroad’s Mt. Clare Shops in Baltimore, MD. Mount Clare is considered to be the birthplace of American railroading. From this historic site sprang so many innovations that it was considered “Railroad University” by many. The B&O was America’s first chartered rail common carrier, dating from February 28, 1827. The museum collection includes a wide variety of steam locomotives. An impressive display of vintage railroad station clocks is located inside the museum. There are also extensive outdoor collections of engines, cars, cranes, and other railroad equipment. Vintage diesel-powered, 3-mile round trip train rides are also offered on Saturdays & Sundays. Hours of operation are Monday — Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Cost is \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, & \$10 for children (2-12).

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: JAMES G. HOWES

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



The Amazing Grace of Clementa Pinckney and the Mother Emanuel Nine

“They were still living by faith when they died, Scripture tells us. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on Earth.”

— President Barack Obama,
Eulogy for the Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney, June 2015

The lives of six women and three men were cut short under a hail of bullets from the gun of a self-professed white supremacist. They ranged in age from 26 to 87. Some were grandparents; others were only beginning to recognize and realize their potential in this world.

They represented the diversity of life in Charleston, South Carolina. Some were teachers; some were lawmakers; others were the glue that bonded their families. While they hailed from all walks and stages of life, the nine innocents slaughtered in the racist-fueled shooting at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church shared a common faith. Their devotion to cultivating that faith gathered them together in the unquestioned safety of that church basement. In the end, it would be in the unquestionable embrace of the grace of their faith that their weeping families, mournful church family and our grieving nation bid them eternal rest.

Reverend Clementa Pinckney was a long-serving Democratic state senator and the senior pastor of Emanuel A.M.E. Church. He fought as hard for constituents as he did love and serve his congregation. In his eulogy for Rev. Pinckney, President Obama remembered him as a “good man.” He shared that, “he was in the pulpit by 13, pastor by 18, public servant by 23. He did not exhibit any of the cockiness of youth, nor youth’s insecurities; instead, he set an example worthy of his position, wise beyond his years, in his speech, in his conduct, in his love, faith, and purity.” The married, 41-year-old father of two daughters leaves behind an impressive record of activism, including his recent push to equip South Carolina’s police officers with body cameras after the videotaped fatal shooting of a Black man at the hands of a white police officer.

Sharon Coleman-Singleton was as widely known for her smile as she was for her dedication to her family, her church and her community. The 45-year-old mother of three was a reverend at Emanuel A.M.E. Church; the celebrated girls team track coach at Goose Creek High School; and a highly respected high school speech therapist. After her death, her oldest son, Chris Singleton, a baseball player at Charleston Southern University, recalled on social media that he would often tease his mother about going to church so much. He remembered that she would always laugh him off and say, “Boy you can never have too much of the Lord.”

It has been reported that 26-year-old Tywanza Sanders died trying to protect his 87-year-old aunt, Susie Jackson. Sanders jumped between the shooter and his aunt, begging him to take his life instead of hers. The shooter is alleged to have said it didn’t matter because, “I’m going to shoot all of you,” before he opened fire. Sanders was a recent graduate of Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. He received a degree in business administration in 2014. Recently, he worked at Against Da Grain Barbershop along with his brother. Despite his bravery and heroism, Sanders could not save his aunt’s life. Susie Jackson, a grandmother and longtime church member, became another of the shooter’s victims, along with her cousin, 70-year-old Ethel Lance. Like the others, Lance was a devoted member of Emanuel A.M.E. Church. She worked at the church for more than 30 years.

Depayne Middletown Doctor was the mother of four daughters. She was a minister and sang in the church’s choir. The 49-year-old devoted her entire career to public service. She had just started a job as an enrollment counselor at Southern Wesleyan University’s campus in Charleston—her alma mater. Before that, she was a Charleston County community development director, helping the county’s poorest residents receive grants. Equally dedicated to serving her community, 54-year-old Cynthia Hurd, who was lovingly described by her brother as “a woman of faith,” worked for 31 years at the Charleston County Public Library as a librarian. Recently, Hurd was the regional library manager at St. Andrews Regional Library. County officials have confirmed that the library will be renamed in her honor.

On the path to becoming an ordained minister, 59-year-old Myra Thompson was the wife of a local reverend, Rev. Anthony Thompson, who is a vicar at Holy Trinity REC Church in Charleston. Daniel Simmons initially survived the attack, but died in a hospital operating room. The 45-year-old was a fourth-generation preacher who fought in Vietnam, and during his time with us on earth also worked as a teacher and a counselor.

This week, Simmons became the last of the Mother Emanuel Nine to be laid to rest. Today, we should all be asking ourselves what happens now; what comes next? Do we, as a nation, take up the charge to tackle the ills of racism and gun violence, or will we cast these issues aside once again and wait until the next tragedy jolts us from our complacency? Will you join in the struggle and sign a petition to rid our public spaces of the Confederate flag—the flag of hate and violence to which the shooter pledged his allegiance? Will you make the lives of those we lost matter by not allowing hate to be the final word in our nation’s struggle to form a more perfect union?

America — What Do We Do After Charleston?

“For in a warm climate, no man will labour for himself who can make another labour for him. This is so true, that of the proprietors of slaves a very small proportion indeed are ever seen to labor. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever ...

— Thomas Jefferson,
Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII

“The Negro race in America, stolen, ravished and degraded, struggling up through difficulties and oppression, needs sympathy and receives criticism, needs help and is given hindrance, needs protection and is given mob-violence, needs justice and is given charity, needs leadership and is given cowardice and apology, needs bread and is given a stone. This nation will never stand justified before God until these things are changed.”

—“Declaration of

Principles” of the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP’s founding

I am a native South Carolinian. Charleston is my maternal ancestral home. My great grandmother was born during slavery. My great grandfather I have been told was a plantation overseer. Never have I been more proud and more ashamed of my dueling ancestral heritages than in the aftermath of the terroristic murders of nine Black Christians engaged in Bible study at Charleston’s historic Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church by a young White man infected by what Dr. King called, after President Kennedy’s assassination, “a morally inclement climate.”

The young White visitor to the weekly Bible study came with a troubled spirit and racial rage inflamed by a White supremacist website. He was enabled to become a mass killer by readily accessible and largely unregulated guns — over 310 million in citizen hands and only 4 million in America’s law enforcement and

military hands. But his dastardly deeds were bathed in an amazing spirit of forgiveness among the victims’ families.

I hope this latest chapter in America’s pervasive history of domestic terrors against millions of Black citizens victimized by slavery and Jim Crow terrorism, denied full citizen rights throughout our history, relegated to subhuman three-fifths status in our Constitution and treated like beasts of burden to fuel our unjust economic system can be squarely confronted. Until the United States sees and cures its profoundly evil birth defects of slavery, Native American genocide, and the exclusion of all women and non-propertied men of all colors from our electoral process, these birth defects will continue to flare up in multiple guises to threaten our Black community’s and everyone’s safety, our nation’s future, and render hollow our professed but still inadequate commitment to ensuring equality for all.

Slavery was followed by thousands of lynchings and racially instigated terrorism through hate groups like the KKK during the Jim Crow era. And it continues to be reflected in the unjust racial profiling and killings of Black boys and men by law enforcement agents and

a mass incarceration system. Millions of Black and Latino children and people of color are trapped in a cradle to prison pipeline lodged at the intersection of race and poverty. That Black children are the poorest, most miseducated, most incarcerated, most unemployed, and most demonized of any group of children in America is a continuing legacy of slavery and Jim Crow that must end now. Let’s seize this latest tragic racial terrorist act to confront our history and how we teach our history. And we must all act together to reject our present day racism in all its structural, cultural and hidden manifestations with urgency and persistence. We must pass on to our children and grandchildren a more honest and just nation and a future free of the violence of racism, poverty and guns.

I believe we are called in the aftermath of the Charleston massacre, the latest in a long and egregious history of unjust Black deaths, to confront the realities of our true history so that a new generation of White youths does not carry forth the poison of racial supremacy and White privilege. We also must

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Are There Ways To Fight Memory Loss?

Each of us, regardless of age, forgets things. As teenagers we often “forgot” we were supposed to clean out the garage or be home by 11, though it usually bothered our parents more than it did us. But as we age we begin to notice that our memory may really be a little less sharp. That can be frightening, since we’ve all heard about Alzheimer’s disease and early onset Alzheimer’s, and may feel anxious that’s our problem.

While Alzheimer’s is a very serious disease, with no known cure or treatment, the fact that your memory sometimes is a bit hazy is not necessarily an indication of the illness. Today about 5.3 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer’s and about 200,000 of them experience early onset Alzheimer’s (affecting someone under 65).

What most of us face is not Alzheimer’s, but simply growing older. Experts tell us that some memory loss is a natural part of the aging process. While we all forget things now and then (like those stupid car keys), it usually is after age 70 that most people notice it may be happening more frequently.

Fortunately, there are things you can do to combat the natural memory loss of getting older.

One is to avoid smoking and heavy alcohol use. A Harvard Medical School study found that smokers perform much worse than non-smokers in memory and thinking skills test.

Experts also advise watching your diet. A diet rich in fruits and vegetables, but low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may improve brain health. They also suggest that foods high in omega-3 fatty acids, like salmon and tuna, can help the brain.

Staying physically and mentally active will also fight memory loss. Physical exercise increases blood flow to the brain, which again means better brain health and function.

Exercising the brain itself also helps. An active social life is one way to do that. Activities like puzzles, reading, writing, playing games and using online “brain exercise” programs appear to stimulate brain cells and the connections between the cells.

You might also want a health check. Your drugs, cholesterol, blood pressure, or some diseases, can all play a role in memory loss.

If you’re forgetting more frequently, find yourself repeating yourself in the same conversation, or being lost when faced with a familiar activity, it could be more serious. Talk to your doctor or a professional counselor for an evaluation.

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

Award from A1

and the employer. The PROMISE program provides prospective employers with youth who are ready to work, pre-screened for job compatibility, and with ongoing support needed for success.”

Root Branch Productions, a local Baltimore based production company, continues to work to provide the community with quality informational multi media products as well as offering camps and other classes to area youth interested in video journalism. Root Branch’s CEO, Vonnya Pettigrew, said the following

about winning the 2015 Telly Award, “It is an honor to receive recognition for work done to promote such a wonderful cause. The PROMISE initiative impacts the community by providing support to at risk youth interested in working and does just what its title implies. The program fulfills a promise to the economic community by helping to ensure a future workforce which is prepared and empowered to move the state of Maryland forward.”

For more information on Maryland Promise visit the Maryland PROMISE website at www.mdpromise.org.

Property from A2

List of Upcoming Fairs and Festivals 2015

Allegany County Fair July 18-25 Allegany County Fairgrounds 11490 Moss Ave. Cumberland, MD	Anne Arundel County Fair September 16-20 Route 178 1450 Generals Highway Crownsville, MD
Montgomery County Fair August 14-22 16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg, MD	Frederick County-Great Frederick Fair September 18-26 797 E. Patrick St. Frederick, MD
Maryland State Fair August 28 to September 7 Maryland State Fairgrounds 2200 York Road Timonium, MD	50+ Expo October 16 Wilde Lake High School 5460 Trumpeter Road Columbia, MD
Prince George's County Fair September 10-13 Rosecroft Raceway 6336 Rosecroft Dr. Fort Washington, MD	Senior Expo/ Baby Boomer Expo October 28 and October 29 Maryland State Fairgrounds 2200 York Road Timonium, MD

Maryland Comptroller Franchot Announces Tax Amnesty

Franchot, “Act Now, File Now” Tax Amnesty Program Runs Sept. 1 — Oct. 30

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Comptroller

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot wants delinquent taxpayers to know that they have from September 1 through October 30, 2015 to take advantage of Maryland’s “Act Now, File Now” amnesty period. The Tax Amnesty program, enacted by the General Assembly, gives delinquent taxpayers one final opportunity to pay their Maryland tax liability with only half of the interest owed. Tax Amnesty applications will be accepted beginning September 1, 2015.

“The vast majority of businesses and individuals pay their Maryland taxes in full and on time,” said Comptroller Franchot. “Tax Amnesty is a limited and rare opportunity for tax delinquents to do the right thing by settling any outstanding liabilities. It’s important for all Marylanders to pay their taxes which support important public services that benefit everyone in our great state.”

Students from A3

“I’m not letting up. If it’s unfunded, it’s not going to work,” Washington said.

Leaders of these college access programs are cautiously feeling the excitement.

When Fisher started his organization 25 years ago, he started with 10 students. Last year, he helped 160 students matriculate to college, he said, and he can imagine doubling that with grants.

The legislation “put language in place for us to help close that information gap needed for low-income kids to attend college,” Fisher said.

Data from Maryland Report Card, which uses Maryland education data, shows that in 2014, 88 percent of Maryland students graduated from high school (not including people who get GEDs) and 67 percent of those students went to college within 12 months of graduating high school. This is an increase over 2010, when 82 percent of Maryland students graduated from high school.

Maryland Report Card also reported in 2014 that 70 percent of students with a high school diploma went to college within 16 months of graduating high school, and 72 percent went within 25 months of graduating high school.

Low-income students face a lot of challenges to make it to college, said Rachel Mazyck, president of Collegiate Directions Inc., a Bethesda-based college access program.

One major problem is college affordability, and learning about financial aid.

“Some students have some sense of how much college costs but not a real sense of where they can find the money,” Mazyck said. “So we talk very clearly about finding financial aid, applying for scholarships and developing a budget and moving towards whatever financial goals you have even beyond college.”

Washington was one of the students who struggled to make it to college. Though academically gifted and bright, he grew up with five siblings raised by a single mother in public housing, and their family was evicted from their home when he was in the 11th grade, he said.

Under Fisher’s watchful eye, Washington stayed the path to

The program is expected to increase general fund revenues by \$18 million and local revenues by \$4.5 million in fiscal year 2016.

Taxpayers who failed to file a required return or pay a tax imposed on or before December 31, 2014, may file an application with the Comptroller requesting a waiver of all civil penalties (except for previously assessed fraud penalties) and one-half interest due. The waivers will be granted for all taxpayers who file their applications on time and meet the terms of the program. Payments made prior to September 1 are not eligible for the tax amnesty program.

The following taxes are eligible for amnesty:

- Personal income tax
- Fiduciary income tax
- Pass-through entity nonresident income tax
- Corporate income tax
- Employer withholding tax
- Sales and use tax
- Admissions and amusement tax

higher education and matriculated to the University of Maryland, College Park, graduating in 2007 with a degree in criminal justice and criminology.

In addition to being a state delegate, Washington now works as a program manager at Prince George’s County Redevelopment Authority, helping to revitalize neighborhoods and boost property values by empowering businesses and residents to improve their building’s interiors and exteriors.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission itself has a number of grant and financial aid programs for low-income students in the state, said Jon Enriquez, the commission’s director of the Office of Research and Policy Analysis. They also do outreach and have community programs to give primary school students information that would demystify the college application process.

“We hope a program like this would accomplish some of the goals stated in the program, which is increased opportunity for low-income students,” Enriquez said.

One issue with the way the bill was passed is that there is no set budget, Enriquez said, so it would be hard to guess what the tangible effects of a partnership between the commission and nonprofit college access programs will look like.

“The idea of the grant is to help bring in partnerships from organizations that work with low-income students, and so we would be open to, interested in ideas that they might bring to the table,” Enriquez said.

Oftentimes, high-achieving low-income students “undermatch,” said Gail Sunderman, director of the Maryland Equity Project.

“The thing about undermatching, students just don’t think about applying to either the flagship or an Ivy League or those kinds of schools because they think they’re very expensive,” Sunderman said.

“What’s oftentimes the case with the more Ivy League kind of colleges, if a low-income student gets in, they might get more financial aid than if they go to a more selective college, but students don’t know that and aren’t so inclined to think they can apply to those.

Taxpayers who submit an application may either pay their outstanding debts in full with their application or include 10 percent of the amnesty amount due with their application, and set up a payment plan before October 30, 2015. Taxpayers, who choose the payment plan, must complete the terms of the agreement on or before December 31, 2016.

During the amnesty period, a taxpayer may not be charged with a criminal tax offense arising out of any return filed and tax paid, so long as the taxpayer does not have any pending criminal charges in the state courts and is not currently under investigation by the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the State Prosecutor and the Office of the State’s Attorney or any office with Constitutional authority. Those who took advantage of two previous amnesty programs in 2001 and 2009 are not eligible for the new program. Those who participated in the Delaware Holding Company settlement established by Chapter 577 of 2004 for tax

periods prior to tax year 2003 also are not eligible.

The Tax Amnesty application form and other online resources will be available by August 28, 2015. The amnesty application form will be accessible at www.marylandtaxes.com, or taxpayers will be able to request a form by calling 1-800-MD-TAXES or 410-260-7980 from Central Maryland. Email requests may be sent to: amnesty@comp.state.md.us or by regular mail to: Maryland Tax Amnesty, Comptroller of Maryland, P.O. Box 2031, Annapolis, MD 21404-2031.

An interactive tax amnesty calculator will also be available online to help taxpayers determine the amount of tax owed. Taxpayers with an outstanding liability will be able to determine their amnesty liability through the agency’s Amnesty BillPay application by using the notice number on bills up to six months old.

For more information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit www.marylandtaxes.com.

The Equity Project is a University of Maryland research program focusing on state educational policy.

Part of the challenge in addressing low-income students’ education opportunities is helping them recognize their potential and ensure they don’t underestimate themselves, and help them avoid “undermatching.”

“It’s already been documented and proven over and over and over again that environment hinders learning, you know, due to lack of resources,” Fisher said. “Whether it’s material or human. And socially, economically deprived communities, they lack those resources and as a result, the skills and resources they have to achieve.”

Alicia Wilson credits College Bound Foundation, a Baltimore-based college access program for her success as a lawyer at Baltimore firm Gordon Feinblatt.

The youngest of three children, she was unsure she could afford to go to college straight out of high school.

“I was real with the situation that I might not be able to afford to go to college straight from high school, and might have to defer that dream to work before college,” Wilson said. “So I chose a vocational trade school to have the training to go straight to the workforce and work my way through college.”

Then she became involved with College Bound Foundation.

“Obstacles that could have been obstacles, like money or confidence for me, weren’t an obstacle,” Wilson said.

She went on to study at University of Maryland, Baltimore County for her undergraduate degree and then attended the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. She had full scholarships to both schools, and now does all she can to raise money for the program she credits for her success.

Jimmy Tadlock, College Bound Foundation’s program director, said part of what they need to do to ensure students who make it to college don’t drop out is coach them on all things financial.

Pell Grants, much like free and reduced price lunches, are a good indicator of low-income students, according to the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Across the state, of the students

who receive Pell Grants, only 76 percent of them make it past their first year in college, and 47 percent of students who receive Pell Grants go on to graduate, according to a Maryland Higher Education Commission report.

Tadlock said one of the biggest issues he has seen involves housing for students who go to college, and they don’t realize that they were supposed to put down a deposit or assume that it is automatically covered by financial aid and they don’t have to handle it themselves.

Students are also not always aware they need to buy their own textbooks and school materials that were provided to them in K-12 schools, Tadlock said.

These are kinds of problems that discourage students right off the bat, and sometimes students who feel wholly unprepared drop out.

Understanding the application process is integral, Mazyck said.

“We focus on getting students to college, but 1 out of 10 first-generation, low-income students who gets to college actually graduates from college,” Mazyck said. “So all our work to get them into college might be lost if a student isn’t actually coming out with a degree.”

Rosapepe said colleges need to be more proactive about recruiting low-income students, instead of putting the burden on these students to make their way to a higher education institution on their own.

“Most low-income people have a lot of problems. When you add to that, a selection admissions system built for educated middle-class people, it’s a mismatch,” Rosapepe said.

“So they need to change the way they do business at the colleges to recruit. The campuses are not shy about recruiting athletes.”

The process of getting students interested in education, especially higher education, has to start in elementary school, said Cheryl Bost, the vice president of Maryland State Education Association.

An elementary teacher in Baltimore for 26 years, Bost said she believes in a hands-on approach that shows students everything they can achieve if they keep furthering their education.

See STUDENTS Page A7

OUT ON THE TOWN

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Two Roads: The Politics of David Blatt and the Passion of Steve Kerr's Father



The 2015 NBA Finals coaches, Steve Kerr of the Golden State Warriors and David Blatt of the Cleveland Cavaliers, have both reached this summit in their first year on the job, but that's not all they share. The two rookies are also bonded by histories intimately tied to the conflicts that plague the Middle East. In an NBA Finals where children at press conferences have generated endless hot takes, this history has been discussed, if at all, in a remarkably shallow fashion.

David Blatt, born in Framingham, Massachusetts, holds dual citizenship in Israel by virtue of being of the Jewish faith. His Israeli citizenship (which I could also claim by virtue of my own familial Judaism) gives him a set of political and civil rights that non-Jews born on this land 5,500 miles from Framingham do not possess. After playing and coaching in Israel following a Princeton education, Blatt became in his own words, "much more Jewish and much more Zionist."

Blatt's proud Zionism means that he has been a soldier in the Israel Defense Forces (the IDF), an experience described in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz as "his most significant bonding experiences with the country." He is also on a first-name basis with the nation's leader, Benjamin Netanyahu. This friendship, which ABC broadcaster Jeff Van Gundy described at high decibels as "impressive" during Tuesday night's primetime Finals broadcast, is so intimate, that Blatt boasts of being able to call Netanyahu "Bibi" when they speak. Blatt told The Plain Dealer that the prime minister "said all of Israel is behind the Cavaliers. That was great."

What went unmentioned by Van Gundy, not to mention The Plain Dealer, are the ethical implications of an NBA coach beaming about his friendship with Netanyahu. "Bibi's" last campaign was so riven with virulent anti-Arab racism, it was condemned across the globe. The aforementioned Israeli newspaper Haaretz printed an editorial about feeling "shame" that their "prime minister was a racist" after Netanyahu's March election victory. The New York Times editorial page credited his triumph to a "desperate and craven" campaign that relied on a "racist rant" against Arab citizens of Israel to pull out a victory. Time's Joel Klein wrote that Netanyahu's victory represented an "appalling irony" that "brought joy to American neoconservatives and European anti-Semites alike." I use these examples because they represent how even staunch supporters of Israel were nauseated by Netanyahu's toxic political platform.

Blatt has evidenced no such concerns, but this should not surprise. Last year, as NBA players were being excoriated for just posting messages about the loss of innocent life during Israel's war on Gaza, Coach Blatt, without consequence, publicly cheered a venture that, according to the United Nations, killed more than 2,200 people and over 500 children, 1,500 of whom were civilians. Israel lost six civilians in the fighting. In an interview with the Israeli newspaper Globes, Blatt said, "In my opinion, this war is Israel's most justified war I can remember in recent years. I'm really sorry about what's happening in Gaza, but there's no doubt that we had to act there, so that Israel will have quiet there once and for all." He then reprimanded the people of the United States for not supporting Israel's war more heartily, saying, "There's support, although sometimes it's not enough."

The absence of public criticism or even discussion about Blatt's politics represents a head-spinning double standard. If another NBA coach had served in another country's army, boasted about a first-name friendship with a foreign head of state who had just won an election on racist grounds, and said that a war that killed 500 children was "justified" and would "bring quiet," would they be criticized? If they actually chided the United States for not supporting this government's bombardment of enemy civilians with sufficient relish, would it at least be commented upon? Most likely, Skip Bayless's head would explode. Instead, we only get Jeff Van Gundy saying, "Impressive!"

While David Blatt thinks nothing of broadcasting his friendship with someone who has come to power on a crest of "anti-Arab bigotry," Steve Kerr arrives from much different stock. The basics are widely known: His father, Dr. Malcolm Kerr, was killed in 1984 by two unknown assailants (with responsibility later taken by the group Islamic Jihad) while he was serving as president of The American University of Beirut. Few know, however, that Dr. Malcolm Kerr wrote what is considered a work of genius, the foundational text of Middle East politics in the '60s, *The Arab Cold War*, or that he is the author of the celebrated book *Islamic Reform*, which profiles the most influential Muslim modernists of the early 20th century. Even fewer probably know that the Middle East Studies Association, an academic organization of over 2,700 academics, names its annual award for the best dissertation after Dr. Kerr. This same Middle East Studies Association has voted overwhelmingly to debate the boycotting of Israeli institutions in the aftermath of the Gaza war.

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Inside Out"

Inside Out
Grade: B+
Rated PG, mild scariness and thematic elements — I'd say it's for ages 8 and up
1 hr., 34 min

When the Pixar wizards are at their best, they create films that are complex and thoughtful yet also, magically, hilarious and kid-friendly. We've stopped being amazed at how deftly they weave mature ideas into their candy-colored fantasies, simply because it keeps on happening, film after film.

Or so it seemed. The last few ("Cars 2," "Brave," "Monsters University") have been, to varying degrees, sub-Pixar in quality, lacking depth and ambition. But "Inside Out" is a giant, heartfelt leap back in the right direction. Set mostly inside the brain of an 11-year-old girl, where we see her thoughts and actions determined by characters representing her different emotions, the film is a conceptual near-masterpiece ... except for the big chunk in the middle where it isn't. On either side of that section, though (and even in some respects within it), are many poignant delights.

The girl, Riley (voiced by Kaitlyn Dias), has just moved from Minnesota to San Francisco with her parents (Diane Lane and Kyle MacLachlan). The three adore each other and share a love of hockey. But moving is stressful, going to a new school is scary, and Riley is at the age where one's emotions start to become complicated and irrational anyway.

Inside her head, looking out through her eyes from the starship bridge of her brain, are the five major emotions that govern her: Joy (Amy Poehler), Sadness (Phyllis Smith), Fear (Bill Hader), Anger (Lewis Black), and Disgust (Mindy Kaling). (It's indicated that we all have these same five characters in our minds, tailored to our personalities.) Color-coded for easy reference and with attitudes befitting their vocations, any of the five li'l brain sprites can step in when their services are required, but Joy is usually in the captain's chair, because (therefore?) Riley is generally a happy little girl. Lately, though, Sadness has been behaving erratically, and when she touches happy, yellow memories (which are bowling ball-sized spheres that project a scene), they turn blue, like her.



ROTTENTOMATOES

Growing up can be a bumpy road, and it's no exception for Riley, who is uprooted from her Midwest life when her father starts a new job in San Francisco. Like all of us, Riley is guided by her emotions — Joy (Amy Poehler), Fear (Bill Hader), Anger (Lewis Black), Disgust (Mindy Kaling) and Sadness (Phyllis Smith). The emotions live in Headquarters, the control center inside Riley's mind, where they help advise her through everyday life. As Riley and her emotions struggle to adjust to a new life in San Francisco, turmoil ensues in Headquarters. Although Joy, Riley's main and most important emotion, tries to keep things positive, the emotions conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house and school. — (C) Pixar

That's never happened before. The five emotions don't know what's going on.

In her frantic efforts to get things back to normal, Joy ends up whooshing herself, Sadness, and some of Riley's most crucial formative memories out of mission control and down into Riley's subconscious. For Riley, this means she now only feels anger, fear, and disgust. For the story, it means now there's a journey: Joy and Sadness have to get themselves and the core memories back to Riley's consciousness.

This is where the film struggles conceptually. The obstacles in Joy and Sadness' way are presented as physical barriers (narrow bridges, a maze of hugely tall memory-storage shelves), and the arbitrariness of these choices is an obstacle in itself. Why are THESE the obstacles? What's the analog? Why are there obstacles at all?

The other elements of the film are rooted in reality: abstract concepts like emotions and memories represented by tangible things like tiny personages and different-colored balls. But here it's murkier. If your emotions were accidentally whooshed out of your consciousness — which, by the way, what does that even mean? —

what would prevent them from coming back? Why are the shortcuts shortcuts? When they miss the Train of Thought (the one sturdy metaphor employed in this part of the story), why can't they just wait for the next one? When Joy gets stuck in the supposedly inescapable pit of permanently erased memories, how does reusing an old daydream of Riley's get her out?

The first section of the movie, at headquarters, is a marvel of carefully laid out metaphors that bring the intangible ideas to life. But in this second section, the rules of the universe are random and capricious, and it's hard to feel invested. I just kept waiting, somewhat impatiently, for Joy and Sadness to get back so the story could continue.

There is a lot to enjoy in the subconscious, though, including Riley's old imaginary friend Bing Bong (Richard Kind), who's like a sad clown wandering the rows of stored memories. We also meet the mischievous pair of workers who throw out unneeded memories and will sometimes send an old commercial jingle up into the forefront of Riley's mind, just to mess with her. We get to visit Riley's dream production studios. Joy and Sadness are a funny duo, perfectly cast, and it's oddly

moving to see Joy come to realize that sometimes Sadness is the right emotion for the job.

Out in the real world, Riley is out-of-sorts and moody, and homesick for Minnesota. Your heart breaks seeing the poor girl go through tough times — a testament to director Pete Docter ("Monsters Inc.," "Up") and his team's skill at conveying relatable, flesh-and-blood characters through computer cartoons. The stakes are small in scale — a little girl's happiness, not life or death — but they feel personal, even intimate. The film is emotionally raw and deeply felt, filled with beautiful observations about how our feelings shape us.

It's also very funny, unsurprisingly, when it's not making you cry. The screenplay (credited to Docter, Josh Cooley, and Meg LeFauvre) gets some mileage out of showing glimpses of other people's brains, with two gags in particular that are brilliantly executed. There are terrifically sly jokes about the way our minds work. There is, of course, the cheerful mismatched-buddy comedy that's been one of Pixar's hallmark ever since "Toy Story." It's a singular piece of work, really, cut from the familiar Pixar cloth, yet different from anything they've tried before. I love most of it.

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Dr. Kerr was a giant to those who care about the future of peace and justice in the region. This is why, when he was killed, Palestinian academic and activist Edward Said told The New York Times, "No one could doubt either his perceptiveness and knowledge or his understanding."

As Middle Eastern professor and author Abdullah Al Arian said to me, "Before his tragic death, Dr. Malcolm Kerr was a preeminent scholar and indeed, a pioneer in the field of Middle East studies. But beyond the groundbreaking studies that he authored, Kerr was exceptional in his desire to give back to the people of the region that he studied, a rarity among many Western scholars of the region. He committed his life to enhancing the level of education for Arab populations at institutions in Egypt and Lebanon and preferred life in a Beirut reeling from civil war and Israeli occupation to the comfortable confines of Southern California. Those of us who continue to research the region in the hopes of heightening the understanding of the Arab world are indebted to him."

Dr. Malcolm Kerr sought the position as president of The American University of Beirut despite the civil war plaguing the country because he believed that understanding and education could end conflict. This has impacted his son. While one could understand how his murder could have turned Steve Kerr against

this way of thinking, the lessons of his father have become embedded in Coach Kerr. Over this last decade of US war in the Middle East, Kerr has made commentssuch as, "You have to consider the political landscape. The number-one question we should all have, is why do people hate us? Why is there a faction of people in the world so against what we stand for?" He has also likened the idea of blaming all Arabs and Muslims for terrorism to "blaming Americans for Timothy McVeigh." Suffice it to say, these are not the political views of those currently holding power in the Knesset.

Steve Kerr, without fanfare and without a bullhorn, walks in the path of the late Dr. Malcolm Kerr. It's a path that sees peace as arriving only through education, empathy, and justice. It honors Dr. Kerr's towering memory to say, without hesitation, that David Blatt's political compass is an unapologetic path to more conflict. Using his platform as an NBA coach to steer more people onto this path demands criticism. It's difficult to imagine that Dr. Kerr would have had nothing to say about it, even if his son is currently dealing with more immediate concerns. David Blatt is entitled to believe whatever he likes about Israel, Netanyahu, and war in Gaza. But it makes no sense whatsoever that these views have to be met with puffery or silence, instead of vigorous debate.

Calendar of Events

July 16 — July 22, 2015

Safe Summer: Basketball

Date and Time: Thursday, July 16, 2015 10 pm-12 midnight
 Description: Tonight teens will compete in a basketball game called Buzzy beater. Afterward, they'll have a pie eating contest and finally the night will end with a fun game of Family Feud.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 12-17
 Location: Bladensburg Community Center
 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg 20710
 Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-445-4512

Seniors: Magical Musical Days

Date and Time: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:30 am-11:30 am
 Description: Enjoy a variety of live music every month. This month, the featured musical talent will be Reginald Cynte Jazz 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

Funk Fest: 70's Soul Sounds

Date and Time: Friday, July 17, 2015 7 pm
 Description: 70's funk concert featuring the Bar-Kays, Zapp, Con Funk Shun, Rick James' Original Stone City Band, and Rose Royce. Doors open at 6 pm
 Cost: Ticket prices are \$95, \$85, \$75, and \$59.
 Location: The Show Place Arena
 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD
 Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-952-7998

Safe Summer: T-Shirt Design

Date and Time: Friday, July 17, 2015 10 pm-12 midnight
 Description: On this fun Friday night, teens will create designs for their own t-shirts.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 12-17
 Location: Bladensburg Community Center
 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg 20710
 Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-445-4512

Safe Summer: Imaginations of Flight

Date and Time: Saturday, July 18, 2015 10 pm-12 am
 Description: Teens will travel to the College Park Aviation Museum to see the "Imaginations of Flight" exhibit. We will depart at 10 pm and will return by midnight. Signed specialized permission slips are required in order to attend this trip.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 12-17
 Location: Good Luck Community Center
 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham 20706
 Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-445-4512

Arts on the Waterfront: Trials and Tribulations Entertainment

Date and Time: Sunday, July 19, 2015 6-7:30 pm
 Description: Get into the groove with the R&B/Go-Go music of Trials and Tribulations Entertainment.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
 4601 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg, MD 20710
 Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Bicycle Nature Tour

Date and Time: Sunday, July 19, 2015 9-11 am
 Description: Take a nature tour by bike and enjoy the sights and sounds of the wetlands, birds and more. Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Use one of our bikes or bring your own. Bikes are limited, call the park to reserve one for your trip.
 Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident \$3
 Ages: 8 & up
 Location: Patuxent River Park (Group Camp Area)
 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
 Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-446-3402

Safe Summer: Teen Glow Party with DJ Cheno

Date and Time: Saturday, July 19, 2015 8-11 pm
 Event Description: Teens will enjoy this glow party featuring DJ Cheno spinning the latest records. Don't forget to wear all black.
 Ages: 13-18
 Fee: FREE
 Location: Glenarden / Theresa Banks Complex
 8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden 20706
 Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-218-6768

Safe Summer: Roller Skating

Date and Time: Monday, July 20, 2015 10 pm-12 midnight
 Description: Tonight, teens will participate in a roll bounce skating party. So, bring a friend and come skate to the sounds of DJ Richard.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 12-17
 Location: Bladensburg Community Center
 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg 20710
 Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-445-4512

Jazz on the Lawn: Stacy Brooks

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 7 pm
 Description: Bring a blanket or lawn chair, and enjoy Jazz on the Lawn—Riversdale's summer jazz series. In case of rain, the concert moves inside. This evening patrons will be treated to music by Stacy Brooks.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Do Animals Have Legal Rights?

Dear EarthTalk:

What are so-called non-human rights?

— Richard Montcalm,
 Jenkintown, PA

Non-human rights is a term coined by animal welfare activist and lawyer Steven Wise, who has campaigned for three decades to achieve actual legal rights for members of species other than our own. His organization, the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP), is working "to change the common law status of at least some nonhuman animals from mere 'things' which lack the capacity to possess any legal right, to 'persons' who possess such fundamental rights as bodily integrity and bodily liberty, and those other legal rights to which evolving standards of morality, scientific discovery, and human experience entitle them."

According to NhRP, nonhuman animals are still considered property in the eyes of the law. Even those animals that we know possess feelings, emotions and higher forms of intelligence—great apes, elephants, dolphins, whales—have no more legal standing than a shoe, a table or a car.

"These are complex animals who have deep emotions, understand each other's minds, live in complicated societies, transmit

culture, use sophisticated communication, solve difficult problems, and even mourn the loss of their loved ones," reports the group. "Just like humans."

"But they are still considered property, poached and taken from their natural habitat, separated and held against their will, subjected to cruel experimentation, exploited for entertainment, sold on the black market, used, abused and treated like objects for our amusement and financial gain," says NhRP, adding that such experiences can scar animals for life. "Yet the law affords them no rights, allowing humans to do with them whatever we want."

Wise and company would like to see animals who are confined for use in research or entertainment have the opportunity to live out their days in a wildlife sanctuary with a hospitable climate where they can enjoy "bodily liberty" to pursue their free will. NhRP is working to first establish a legal precedent that nonhumans can have legal rights in the U.S. judicial system. The organization filed its first cases in New York State in December 2013 representing four individual chimpanzees being used in research labs and for entertainment purposes, and hopes to expand its caseload to other non-human species in the near future.

In the meantime, NhRP is looking for the help of volunteer



CREDIT: PATRICK BOUQUET, FLICKRCC

Steven Wise and the Nonhuman Rights Project is using the legal system to establish a precedent for animal rights, first for chimpanzees and eventually for other non-human species.

lawyers, scientists, mathematicians and predictive analysis professionals interested in lending their expertise to the fight for recognizing the legal rights of nonhumans.

"Over the coming years, we will be filing as many cases as we can afford, so contributions are very important, too," reports the group. "We also need funds to help establish sanctuaries for the animals we're working to free from captivity."

Why should we care that animals have legal rights too? Steven Wise is fond of quoting Abraham Lincoln, who said: "In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free." If we don't want to live in a world where humans are enslaved, why

should we tolerate similar treatment of our closest animal relatives and other sentient beings great and small? Whether or not the chimps he is fighting for ever get to a sanctuary, Steven Wise will forever go down in history as the Abraham Lincoln of the non-human rights movement.

CONTACT: Nonhuman Rights Project, www.nonhumanrightsproject.org.

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(www.emagazine.com).
 Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Students from A5

"I would get the kids out to Annapolis, other parts of the state, so they could see life in a different place and have different experiences," Bost said. "Go camping, nature walks. Low-income students don't see life beyond where they walk and where the bus can take them."

Bost said that higher education should not be narrowly defined as a four-year institution.

"We can't ignore the technical and vocational programs," she said. "They have to see a bigger variety of things they can do. Four-years are one of them but not the only option."

After Washington's four years at the University System of Maryland's flagship campus, he became the youngest chief of staff for now-Delegate Will Campos, D-Prince George's, when Campos was on the Prince George's County Council. He ran for the

Democratic Central Committee for Prince George's County, then was promoted to the State House as a delegate in 2012 after former Delegate Justin Ross retired, leaving a seat open.

He won his seat again in the fall, and he joked about now he is now senior to Campos, whom he worked for years before.

Washington said he wanted to give back, but when it came to creating change in his community, he was impatient waiting for

it. When it came down to it, he took matters into his own hands.

"We face a lot, man. We face social issues, we face health issues, sometimes there's even hunger issues that some of our kids face," Washington said.

"That's why this bill is so important, because here it is, an opportunity that some family who is qualified for them but don't know about them. We face an educational, informational disadvantage."

COUNTY BAN

Prince George's County has banned the use of coal tar pavement products used on parking lots, driveways, playgrounds, airport runways and other surfaces. These products contain extremely high levels of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) that find their way into our local stream sediments during rain events and pose a significant threat to our waterways. Sediment PAHs are known to harm aquatic life and contain cancer causing carcinogens.

WHAT TO DO

- Use asphalt-based or latex sealants that are less toxic. Some products that do not contain coal tar include:

RETAIL

- Henry PM2000 Premium Driveway Sealer/Filler
- Henry Elastomeric Emulsion Crack Filler

COMMERCIAL/WHOLESALE

- Paveshield
- Jennite Asphalt Emulsion Pavement Sealer
- Gilsonite Asphalt Driveway Sealant

*There are other sealant products available that do not contain coal tar, so please read labels carefully. Listing of specific product trade name does not constitute an endorsement of its use.

- Construct parking lots with pervious pavement or concrete to avoid the need for sealants
- If purchasing a pavement product/sealant from a retailer or hiring a contractor/sealant applicator, ask for a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) that can help you identify coal tar-containing products before you purchase them.

Use of a coal tar pavement product can subject the applicator and the property owner to a fine of up to **\$1,000**.

Disposal of any unwanted product can be made at the **Prince George's County Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Site** located at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill, 11611 White House Road in Upper Marlboro. For information, contact 3-1-1.

To report a potential violation of the ban, contact George Nicol at **(301) 883-5976**.

