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OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY AMANDA LUCIDON

President Barack Obama greets recipients of the 2013 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching prior to joining them for a group photo in the East Room of the White House, July 31, 2015.

President Obama Honors Outstanding Mathematics and Science Teachers

By GRACE TOOHEY
Office of the White House

WASHINGTON, DC—President Obama today named 108 mathematics and science teachers as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This year's awardees represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia,

Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools. The educators will receive their awards at a Washington, DC, event later this summer.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The

winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates between teachers teaching kindergarten through 6th grade and those teaching 7th through 12th grades. The awardees named today teach 7th through 12th grade.

Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also are invited to Washington, DC, for an awards ceremony, as well educational and celebratory events, and visits with members of the Administration.

See **OBAMA** Page A3

A Summer Night On the Potomac

By Christina Williams
PG Post Staff Writer

On Wednesday, July 29, 2015, the Wolfgang Puck Catering Team located in major cities such as Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York City, and Los Angeles, kicked off an event called "A Summer Night on the Potomac," which consisted of guests coming to toast off the days of summer while enjoying delicious bites and the view of the Capital Wheel Platform in the Sunset Room.

One by one, guests from ages 21 and up came into the elegant Sunset Room and made their way to the middle of the room, which consisted of a table containing delicious appetizers such as zucchini, chips, and humus.

Guests also had a selection of drinks to choose from, including lemonade to wine and cocktails.

The venue was set up nicely with tables covered in white tablecloths and decorations, and all with a scenic view of the Potomac River. Guests could also step outside on the terrace to experience the beautiful view. The staff was very nice and welcoming. A waiter would consistently come around to offer people new appetizers such as a cup filled with a slice of watermelon, tomatoes, lettuce and an olive as well as drinks such as Cruzan rum, consisting of rum and peach juice.

Sunset Room was big enough and allowed for people to walk

See **POTOMAC** Page A6

Two PGCPS Graduates Receive National Scholarships

By Press Officer
PG County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recently announced approximately 1,700 additional winners for the College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship. Charles Bond and Kristen Ramsey, both 2015 graduates of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, are among the scholarship winners and will join more than 2,200 other college-sponsored award recipients announced in late May.

"Thank you to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for selecting our students for this prestigious scholarship," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "Our students are deserving of this recognition and will make us proud as they pursue their dreams."

Bond, who wishes to pursue a career in medicine, received the National Merit University of Maryland scholarship. Ramsey received the National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship and wishes to major in biology.

Laurel Regional Hospital Closing Announced

Laurel Employees Disappointed That Dimensions Board Voted to Close Laurel Hospital and Instead Build an Ambulatory Care Center

By PRESS OFFICER
UHWE

More than 600 jobs as well as quality health care in Prince George's County are at stake in the sudden announced closing of Laurel Regional Hospital, said officials at 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, which represents 350 workers at the hospital and more than 1800 throughout the Dimensions Healthcare System. After reports were leaked to news organizations earlier this week, Dimensions announced to employees today that Laurel Regional Hospital will be closed and be replaced by an ambulatory center by 2018. The hospital is the largest employer in the city of Laurel.

In a statement to employees today, Dimensions officials said that there will be a "reduction and ultimate elimination of patient beds" at Laurel. In this same statement, Dimensions announced that it will "minimize job losses by offering as

many displaced employees as possible comparable positions at Prince George's Hospital Center and other DHS facilities." Despite this claim, Dimensions executives have not supplied to 1199SEIU requested information about what vacancies actually exist in other parts of the system. Dimensions officials also estimated to county officials that even after filling such vacancies, between 150 and 200 jobs will be lost.

"We remain concerned that, with yet another announcement of a reduction in services to the community that Dimensions is not committed to providing the type of quality care needed by the residents of Prince George's County," said Lisa Brown, executive vice president for the Maryland-DC Region of 1199SEIU. "The residents of the county, and the nurses and caregivers at Laurel—who have sacrificed for Dimensions to survive—deserve bet-

See **HOSPITAL** Page A3

Cardin Meets with Nigerian President Buhari

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Senator Ben Cardin

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC), released the following statement after meeting on July 22 with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari.

"The United States has high hopes for our relationship with Nigeria, which is an important partner in our counterterrorism and regional development efforts. We look forward to increasing collaboration as Nigeria takes steps to ensure civil and human rights for all Nigerians, expand economic opportunity, and address corruption challenges that have so hampered its progress and fostered recruitment by terrorist groups such as Boko Haram. I support President Buhari's efforts to develop and execute a national anti-corruption strategy. Shining a light on those who divert funds from the people of Nigeria,



PHOTO CREDIT: U.S. SENATE PHOTO

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari.

robbing them of economic opportunities, is an important step toward ending the 'resource curse' that has plagued the largest economy and most populous country in Africa.

On this fifth anniversary of enactment of the Dodd-Frank bill, which includes the Cardin-Lugar provision (1504) to encourage transparency in the oil, gas and

mining industries, it is important to recognize the important role the Nigeria Extractive In-

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INSIDE

Medicaid Program Seeks Federal Waiver to Expand Drug Treatment Options

Maryland pursuing this waiver amendment has drawn significant support from key stakeholders, including the Maryland Hospital Association, the Maryland Chapter of the National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, and numerous community providers.

Community, Page A3

Hanging On to Hope to Keep Black Men and Boys Alive

"We've always had challenges but this is a different kind of challenge because it is structural, it is systemic, and it is institutional. And it presents itself in this kind of really misguided almost kind of bizarre exploitation of the word 'justice.'"

Commentary, Page A4

Maryland Motor Fuel Tax Rate Increased Again by One Percent on July First

Even after the one percent increase in the motor fuel tax rate on gasoline purchases in the state, Maryland's total state taxes and fees on a gallon of gas will only be a fraction higher than the nationwide average state fuel tax rate on pump prices.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Ant-Man"

Armed with the astonishing ability to shrink in scale but increase in strength, master thief Scott Lang must embrace his inner-hero and help his mentor, Dr. Hank Pym, protect the secret behind his spectacular Ant-Man suit from a new generation of towering threats. Pym and Lang must plan and pull off a heist that will save the world.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the best way to recycle my old and/or unwanted paint, primer and stains?

— Kim Beeler,
Lake Oswego, OR

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Suitland High grad, three others die in Wyoming plane crash

Suitland High alumnus Gerald A. "Jerry" Stubbs and his wife Diane died July 18 when their plane went down near Cody, Wyoming. Two others, Diane's brother Donald Scott and Joyce Bartoo, also died.

Jerry was the son of an Air Force colonel and grew up in various locations around the United States. He graduated from Suitland High School in 1964, earned a master's in biology and worked at the Environmental Protection Agency from 1976 to 2006, serving as branch chief for most of his career. At the time of his death, he was near completion of a history of his father's World War II experiences in the Pacific.

Jerry met his wife Diane when they were students at Knox College, in Galesburg, Illinois. They were married in 1967. Diane received her law degree from George Washington University in 1981. She was retired from the Dept. of Energy.

The couple was vacationing with Diane's brother, Donald Scott, and friend Joyce Bartoo, who were also lost in the crash. Joyce was a longtime resident of Washington, worked in private law practice and with the Department of Justice.

Diane and Jerry lived in Annapolis and Bethany Beach. They are survived by son Chris and his wife Chantel and three grandchildren. Jerry is also survived by brothers Max and Don Stubbs. Services were at St. Matthew Methodist Church in Bowie with burial at Lakemont Memorial Gardens in Davidsonville.

Ruth Sanford honored at 90th birthday party

Ruth Sanford moved to 503 Allies Road in Morningside in 1947 and still lives there. She turned 90 on Aug. 8, but a week earlier, on August 1, her family hosted a surprise birthday party at the Morningside Town Hall. Her daughter Margie told me Ruth was "totally surprised."

Among the 25 who celebrated with Ruth were her neighbors, friends, children—Margie Crowl, Linda Sandoval, Janet Hemming and David Sanford—two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ruth has been very active in the Morningside community. She has been a Morningside Election Supervisor for years,

was vice-president of the Morningside Seniors and a longtime member of the choir at the Morningside Baptist Church.

I first met her back about 1960 when we both had sons in Mrs. Smith's Morningside Co-op Kindergarten. She has been one of my devoted readers, often contributing news for my column. Happy 90th, Ruth!

Neighbors

Lt. Joyce Esposito Bowers was at Skyline's annual Night Out, representing the County Sheriff's Office. She remembers that, during her years with the Morningside Majorettes and Drum & Bugle Corps, they used to practice at Skyline School. She is a native Morningsider and grew up on Forest Drive. Sad to say, her mother died in October (see obit below).

The youngest attendee at Skyline's Night Out was 4-month-old Brianna Spivey. She seemed to enjoy the excitement.

Student volunteers Travis Mullins and Nicole Wade were presented Certificates of Appreciation and \$25 Visa cards for their help in Morningside's Spring Cleanup.

Former Morningsider Rose Hoffman is in rehab after breaking her hip in a fall. Remember her in your prayers.

Changing landscape

The Morningside Town Hall parking lot has been repaved and re-stripped. Looks great.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria—easily visible across the Potomac from much of South County—has been designated a new national historic landmark. It was built on a hill, overlooking Old Town Alexandria, between 1922 and 1970, to honor our First President. It is open for tours, and I recommended you take one if you never have.

Coming up

- A discussion about Hospice Care by Hospice of the Chesapeake, Tuesday, Aug. 18, from 7 to 8 p.m., at the Knight of Columbus, 3611 Stewart Road, Forestville. All welcome.

- John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tours, Sept. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Call the Surratt House Museum 301-868-1121 for availability and fees. It's an all-day tour. I've taken it three times and I highly recommend it.

- Prince George's County Fair, Sept. 10-13, at Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington.

- Military Concert Series: Celebrating Air Force Heritage, Sept. 11-12 at National Harbor. Friday: Airmen of Note, 7 p.m. Saturday: Celtic Aire, noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

- Air Show at Joint Base Andrews, Sept. 18-19.

- Skyline Citizen's Association invites you to a Flea Market on Sat., Sept. 19, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Morningside Fire Department. Fish & Chips, and more! Tables, \$15; call Ms. Suzanne, 240-838-6412, or Ms. Spivey, 301-335-2896.

- Bishop McNamara High School Homecoming weekend, Oct. 23-24.

May they rest in peace

Monna Raye Rogers, 75, a founding resident of Morningside, died Oct. 21, 2014, in Hawkinsville, Ga. She was born in Washington to Hazel and Casey Prescott "Tex" Rogers and grew up on Forest Drive. She went on to raise her own family in the town. She worked for the County School Board for years until retirement in 1992 when she moved to Georgia. She is survived by three children, Joyce (Gary) Bowers, S. Renee (Wesley) Gordon, and George (Jennifer) Yates; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

John E. Morris, 59, Life Member of the County Fire Department, died July 24. He served seven years with the Army as a medic. With the Fire Dept., he conducted classes in gas safety and Heart-saver CPR and drove that engine on almost every call. He was the husband of Margie Morris and father of John III and Clifford Morris. Donations to the Forestville F.D. may be made in his memory.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Mary Berkeley and Brittany Short, Aug. 13; Margaret Hunt, Nancy Stacey and Gracie Mothershead, Aug. 16; Hildagard Koenig, Aug. 17; my granddaughter-in-law Heather McHale, Le August Brent and Mark Cummings, Jr., Aug. 19; Melody Barnes, Aug. 20; Austin Michael Fowler, Aug. 21; Wayne Anderson, Barbara Phipps and Gavin Michael Glaubitz, Aug. 22; Joseph R. Maiden, Jr., Aug. 23; my son Brian McHale, Aug. 25; Edith Hull, Aug. 26; Shirley Holmes, Chris Busky, William Fowler, and twins Anthony and Avery Simmons, Aug. 27.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

MEN OF PGCPs

Men of PGCPs/Fatherhood Forum Back-to-School BBQ & Father's v. Teachers Basketball game will be held on Sunday August 23, 2015 from 1:00 PM-5:00 PM at Oxon Hill Middle School. The event is hosted by PGCPs School Board Member Curtis Valentine, ASASP EZ Street of 93.9 FM and 100 Black Men of Prince George's County. Please RSVP by Thursday, August 20, 2015 to 301-952-6115.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Marcus Long, Reagan Elsie Denbow, Rosamond Panda, Brian Harper, Anna Tucker, Diamond Hall, Emeka Mbakwe, Ben Caple, Karl Pinkney, Valentine Grant, Donovan Joiner, Kevin Augustus, James V. Dorsett, Norville Hughes, Kourtney Diane Sims, Esther Neckere, Carlton Williams, Georgia Kinard, Janice Moore and Denia Paelta who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays during the month of August.

PRINCE GEORGE'S FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

Council Chairman Mel Franklin presents the 5th Annual Prince George's Family & Friends Day August 30, 2015 from 3:00 PM-6:00 PM at Show Place Arena. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Join Council Member Franklin at this annual showcase of our county's local business and non-profit community featuring F.A.M.E Performers: Chelsey Green, Verny Varela and Virtuoso Horns. There will be food, live entertainment, games, live music, DJ, clowns, and a good time for the whole family.

TRAVEL ADVISORY REMINDER

CSX Transportation is repairing two railroad crossings along MD 381 (Brandywine Road) located between Tower Road and Brandywine Heights Road, just east of US 301 (Crain Highway). To allow crews to complete these repairs, SHA will temporarily close MD 381 at 6:00 PM Friday August 14, and reopen the roadway by 5:00 AM Monday, August 17.

The work is necessary to replace deteriorated rubber panels at the railroad crossings. To ensure the safety of work crews and travelers, SHA will close the eastbound and westbound lanes of MD 381.

SHA will provide a signed detour route for motorists and businesses. Traffic will be directed to US 301, Cherry Tree Crossing Road, Old Indian Head Road, and Tower Road. Motorists are reminded to plan their routes and prepare for extra travel time.

If weather conditions delay repairs, work will be rescheduled for the weekend of August 21-24. For more information, visit SHA's website at www.roads.maryland.gov/D3 or contact the SHA District 3 Office at 301-513-7300. SHA appreciates the patience and cooperation of those who work and live in the surrounding communities.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Celebrates 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement celebrating the 50th anniversary of the historic Voting Rights Act (VRA), signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965.

"Today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), a historic law that helped make the fundamental right to vote accessible to millions of Americans," Edwards said. "With a stroke of President Johnson's pen, the VRA ended years of systemic and blatant practices aimed at keeping African Americans and other minority groups from registering to vote and casting their ballots.

"However, I celebrate today with mixed emotions after the Roberts Court struck down a key provision of the VRA in 2013. The justices who wrote the majority opinion inconceivably proclaimed that the VRA had done its job, and was no longer necessary. This could not be further from the truth. Across the country, we are seeing renewed efforts to adopt policies, designed to primarily impact minority groups, aimed at discouraging an individual's ability to vote. In our democracy, we should be celebrating our right to vote and lowering obstacles to do so. Instead, we are seeing unnecessary voter ID laws, cuts to early voting periods, and restrictions on same-day registration being passed in states throughout the country. Congress must restore the critical protections of the VRA, and I call on House Republicans to bring this legislation to the floor immediately."

Guffrie Smith Elected Maryland State Board President

Dr. S. James Gates Elected Vice President
BALTIMORE (July 28, 2015)—The Maryland State Board of Education today unanimously elected long-time educator Guffrie M. Smith, Jr. as president, and University of Maryland Professor S. James Gates as vice president.

Guffrie M. Smith, Jr. is a retired educator with a diverse career including more than 30 years with Calvert County Public Schools (1964-1975 and 1981-2004) and more than six years with the Maryland State Department of Education (1975-1981). In Calvert County, he served as a teacher, vice principal, principal, supervisor, coordinator of Healthy Families, director of curriculum/instruction and coordinator of a resource center. With the State, he served as specialist in migrant education, specialist in Title I and Migrant Branch Chief. Mr. Smith also has a long history of volunteer service in Calvert County.

A graduate of St. Mary's County Public Schools, Mr. Smith earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees from Bowie State University. He has participated in post graduate studies at the University of Maryland and Nova University. He is married, has two daughters, and resides in Calvert County.

Dr. Sylvester James "Jim" Gates, Jr., a theoretical physicist, received two B.S. degrees and a Ph.D. degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His doctoral thesis was the first thesis at MIT to deal with



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

supersymmetry. He also completed postgraduate studies at both Harvard University and the California Institute of Technology (CalTech). Gates is currently a University System Regents Professor, the John S. Toll Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland, College Park, the Center for String and Particle Theory Director, and serves on the U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). He is known for his work on mathematical physics.

In 2013, President Obama awarded Dr. Gates the National Medal of Science, the highest recognition given by the U.S. to scientists. That year, he also was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, becoming the first African-American physicist so recognized in its 150-year history. Dr. Gates is married to Dr. Dianna Abney, the Charles County Health Officer. They have a daughter and a son and reside in Prince George's County.

Mr. Smith succeeds Dr. Charlene Dukes as president, while Dr. Gates succeeds Dr. Mary Kay Finan as vice president. The board terms of both Dr. Dukes and Dr. Finan had expired.

Doctors Community Hospital Award for Second Consecutive Year

Lanham, MD—Doctors Community has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success in ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

To receive the Gold Quality Achievement Award, hospitals must achieve 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Stroke achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month periods.

These quality measures are designed to help hospital teams provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. They focus on appropriate use of guideline-based care for stroke patients, including aggressive use of medications such as clot-busting and anti-clotting drugs, blood thinners and cholesterol-reducing drugs, preventive action for deep vein thrombosis and smoking cessation counseling.

"With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and this award demonstrates our commitment to ensuring patients receive care based on nationally-respected clinical guidelines," said Helen Bradley, BA, RN, CEN, director of education at Doctors Com-

munity Hospital. "Doctors Community Hospital is dedicated to improving the quality of stroke care and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke helps us achieve that goal. We are especially proud to have been honored with this recognition for two consecutive years."

"We are pleased to recognize Doctors Community Hospital for their commitment to stroke care," said Deepak L. Bhatt, M.D., M.P.H., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines steering committee and Executive Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Programs at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. "Studies have shown that hospitals that consistently follow Get With The Guidelines quality improvement measures can reduce length of stay and 30-day readmission rates and reduce disparities in care."

For providers, Get With The Guidelines-Stroke offers quality-improvement measures, discharge protocols, standing orders and other measurement tools. Providing hospitals with resources and information that make it easier to follow treatment guidelines can help save lives and ultimately reduce overall healthcare costs by lowering readmission rates for stroke patients.

For patients, Get With The Guidelines-Stroke uses the "teachable moment," the time soon after a patient has had a stroke, when they learn how to manage their risk factors while still in the hospital and recognize the F.A.S.T. warning signs of a stroke.

WSSC Receives Second Consecutive AWWA National Safety Award

"Many of our employees work in potentially dangerous environments and we have to be one step ahead to make sure they go home safely every day," said Michael Lewis, WSSC Safety Unit Coordinator

"Our safety team once again proves they are second to none," said Jerry N. Johnson, General Manager and CEO "Their innovative programs run quietly behind the scenes. I'm proud that we have an opportunity to shine a spotlight on their work that protects our most valuable assets, our employees."

WSSC's new safety programs and initiatives include heavy machinery and equipment retraining, including the use of pipe saws, forklifts and other large vehicles used throughout the Commission. WSSC most recently introduced a "How's my driving" program aimed at keeping our employees and customers safe on the road.

WSSC won the class IV award, which recognizes water utilities with 500 employees or more. AWWA reviews nominees on an annual basis, selecting utilities with exemplary safety records over the past five years, and those which promote and implement safety and health programs that exhibit best practice-level quality.

The award was presented at AWWA's Annual Conference & Exposition in Anaheim, California on June 9. This marks the third time in the past seven years WSSC has received the award.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

10 Ways to Become Financially Independent

After the 2008 economic crisis, many people assumed they would never be able to reach true financial independence—the ability to live comfortably off one's savings and investments with no debt whatsoever.

However, individuals willing to use their time horizon to plan and adjust their spending, savings and investment behaviors might just find financial independence is possible. Here are 10 ideas to get started.



1. Visualize first, then plan. Start by considering what your vision of financial independence actually looks like—and then get a reality check. Qualified financial experts can examine your current financial circumstances, listen to what financial independence means to you and help you craft a plan. The path to financial independence may be considerably different at age 20 than it is at age 50; the more time you have to save and invest generally produces a better outcome. But at any age, start with a realistic picture of your options.

2. Budget. Budgeting (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting/>)—the process of tracking income, subtracting expenses and deciding how to divert the difference to your goals each month—is the essential first task of personal finance. If you haven't learned to budget, you need to do so.

3. Spend less than you earn. It might be obvious, but it's one of the most difficult financial behaviors to execute. Adhering to a lower standard of living and expenses will help you put more money into savings and investments sooner.

4. Build smarter safety nets. Emergency funds and insurance are rarely discussed in combination. The traditional definition of an emergency fund is a separate account for cash that can be used instead of credit to repair a broken appliance or other expense that may run a few hundred dollars. However, many people keep insurance deductibles high to keep premiums low. Would you have enough cash on hand to cover an insurance deductible if you had a sudden claim? If not, build your deductible amounts into your emergency fund.

5. Eliminate debt. Though consumer debt levels have generally fallen since the 2008 financial crisis, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported in February that home, student loan, auto and credit card debt began creeping up again in 2014. Getting rid of revolving, non-housing debt (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/costofcredit/>) is one of the most effective ways to free up money for savings and investment.

6. Consider your career. Financial independence doesn't require you to quit a career you love, but you really can't get to financial independence without steady income to fuel savings and investments that will build over time. Speak with qualified advisors about your income, benefits and retirement picture first, and see if you might be able to expand your sources of work-related income, such as consulting part time. Also keep in mind that over the age of 50, the Internal Revenue Service allows you to make catch-up contributions (<http://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Plan-Participant,-Employee/Retirement-Topics-IRA-Contribution-Limits/>) to both 401(k) and IRA accounts.

7. Downsize. You'll generally reach wealth financial goals faster if you can cut your overall living expenses. For some, that means selling your home and moving to a smaller one or to an area with lower living costs and taxes. You can also sell or donate property you don't need and use those proceeds to extinguish debt or add to savings or investments.

8. Invest frugally. Become a student (<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/undrstndgrtrmt.html>) of investment fees and commissions because they can cut significantly into your principal. Make a full evaluation of fees you are paying on every investment account you have and if you're working with a licensed professional who sells you financial products, know what fees they're charging for their investment and advisory services.

9. Buy assets that generate income. Stocks, real estate, collectibles or cash investments all have up and down markets. But do your homework and focus on investments bought at attractive prices that are likely to appreciate over time. Also, don't forget to study the tax ramifications of any investment transaction you make.

10. Always know where you are financially. Financial planning isn't about making one set of financial decisions and assuming you're set. Lives and situations change and your financial planning must be flexible enough to withstand both positive and negative changes without derailing your hopes for financial independence. If your forte is not investment, financial planning or tax matters, by all means bring in qualified experts to help. But financially independent people generally have their money issues at their fingertips not only for their own use, but for estate purposes as well.

Bottom line: Financial independence involves diligence and a bit of sacrifice, but even the smallest moves can yield big outcomes.

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Call Brenda Boice at
301 627 0900

Medicaid Program Seeks Federal Waiver to Expand Drug Treatment Options

Waiving IMD Exclusion Also Would Help Those With Mental Health Disorders

By PRESS OFFICER
DHHM

Baltimore, MD—The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHHM) is seeking a federal waiver from the Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion (also known as the "IMD Exclusion"). This waiver would significantly expand the scope of treatment options available to Medicaid enrollees with substance use and mental health disorders.

"This waiver would allow adult Medicaid enrollees to receive services in private IMD facilities that are dedicated to treating their specific needs and would promote access to high-quality, specialized

care," said Shannon McMahon, DHHM's Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing, which houses Maryland's Medicaid program. "The waiver also would allow the state to leverage federal funds for these services."

The federal IMD Exclusion prohibits Medicaid reimbursement for adults between the ages of 21 and 64 who are receiving services provided in "a hospital, nursing facility, or other institution of more than 16 beds that is primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing care and treatment of individuals with mental diseases." Because

of this non-payment policy, many Medicaid enrollees with acute psychiatric and addiction treatment needs are referred to hospital emergency departments and general acute care inpatient units, rather than smaller, community-based specialized providers with expertise to care for these individuals.

If the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approve Maryland's waiver application, Maryland will be able to reimburse IMDs for the treatment of Medicaid enrollees aged 21-64 with acute psychiatric and substance-use-related needs and would receive federal matching dollars. Cost savings would be generated at both the state and fed-

eral levels by enabling the state to pay for appropriate care in appropriate settings.

Maryland pursuing this waiver amendment has drawn significant support from key stakeholders, including the Maryland Hospital Association, the Maryland Chapter of the National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, and numerous community providers. Moreover, it presents an opportunity to align clinical and financial goals making it advantageous for both payers and beneficiaries.

Documents related to the waiver application are posted on DHHM's website at <http://goo.gl/eDAKQX>.

Prince George's County Invites Businesses to Participate in Disparity Study Final Public Hearing

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—MGT of America will host the final public hearing for the Prince George's County Disparity Study. Hired by the Office of Central Services Supplier Development & Diversity Division (SDDD), MGT of America, Inc. is conducting a disparity study to measure the success of the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and County Based Business (CBB) programs in Prince George's County and the impact these programs may have on winning contracts. The ultimate goal is to provide fair opportunities for all firms interested in

doing business with the County. More information is available at www.princegeorgescountydysparity.com.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2015, from 10:00 a.m.—12 Noon at 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Largo, MD, 20774. Immediately following the hearing, County partners will discuss upcoming contract opportunities from 12:30 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

To register for the meeting, please visit our website at <http://diversity.mypgc.us>.

Businesses that have worked with or attempted to work with Prince George's County, their primes, or in the private sector

are invited to attend a public hearing to share their experiences. This is the last public hearing for the study. Business participation in the remaining anecdotal data collection, i.e. interviews, surveys, etc., is a random selection process. Therefore, area businesses may not have another opportunity to share their experiences.

About Prince George's County Supplier Development & Diversity Division

The Prince George's County Supplier Development & Diversity Division is the official certification agency for local, small and minority businesses. Our primary responsibility is to help

local, small, disadvantaged, minority, and veteran-owned businesses compete and successfully do business with Prince George's County and throughout the region. To learn more at SDDD, please visit our website at <http://diversity.mypgc.us>.

About MGT of America

MGT was founded more than 40 years ago and is a national leader in disparity research. Since 1990, MGT has successfully conducted 200 disparity studies across the country. MGT produces studies that are accurate, reliable, valid, and most importantly, legally defensible. Learn more at www.mgtamer.com

Obama from A1

"These teachers are shaping America's success through their passion for math and science," President Obama said. "Their leadership and commitment empower our children to think critically and creatively about science, technology, engineering, and math. The work these teachers are doing in our classrooms today will help ensure that America stays on the cutting edge tomorrow."

President Obama is strengthening education in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields in order to fully harness the promise our Nation's students. Investing in exemplary teachers like these awardees is vital to inspiring the next generation of explorers and innovators. That's why President Obama launched the "Educate to Innovate" campaign, which has garnered more than \$1 billion in financial and in-kind support for STEM programs. It is also why the Presi-

dent has called for preparing 100,000 excellent science and mathematics teachers over the next decade, leading to the creation of "100kin10," a coalition of leading corporations, philanthropies, universities, service organizations, and others working to train and retain STEM teachers across the Nation. In addition, the President's proposed STEM Master Teacher Corps aims to leverage the expertise of some of our nation's best and brightest teachers in science and mathematics to elevate the teaching of these subjects nationwide.

The recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are listed below, by state.

To learn more about these extraordinary teachers, please visit: <https://recognition.paemst.org>

Alabama

Marla Hines,
Vestavia Hills High School
Sarah Lowman,
Tanner High School

Alaska

Tasha Barnes,
Wendler Middle School
Russell Walker,
Romig Middle School

Arizona

Shannon Mann,
Osborn Middle School
Marni Landry,
Paradise Valley High School

Arkansas

Brian Leonard,
Lake Hamilton High School
Amanda Jones,
Poyen High School

California

Marianne Chowning-Dray,
Eastside College
Preparatory School
Scott Holloway,
Westlake High School

Colorado

Kirstin Oseth,
Cheyenne Mountain Junior
High School
Mark Paricio,
Smoky Hill High School

Connecticut

Jacqueline Corricelli,
Conard High School
Joshua Steffenson,
Glastonbury High School

Delaware

Kristin Carmen, Sussex
Technical High School
Christopher Havrilla,
Woodbridge High School

District of Columbia

Aris Pangilinan,
Benjamin Banneker
Academic High School
Florentia Spires, The Howard
University Middle School of
Mathematics and Science

Department of Defense Education Activity

Ryan Goodfellow, Vilseck
American High School
Jennifer Wilson,
Andersen Middle School

See **OBAMA** Page A5

Hospital from A1

ter than to learn about the future of the healthcare in the county and their jobs through leaks and drips, rather than through a comprehensive master plan provided to the community."

Even before the announcement, 1199SEIU had prepared to file charges of unfair labor practices against Dimensions for failing to provide requested information about vacancies throughout the system, which includes Laurel, Prince George's Hospital Center and other facilities. Yet, despite failing to provide this data, Dimensions executives said today that they hope many of those left jobless will fill what they say are 150

vacancies at other facilities in the system, or by newly created positions in the future. No information was provided about placement for the remainder of the Laurel workforce, or the gap in time between layoffs now and when the planned ambulatory center or new county hospital center might open in the future.

At a meeting today with Laurel staff, executives revealed that funding is not secured for the planned ambulatory care center and employees expressed disappointment about the decision of the Dimensions board to close the hospital, about being excluded from the decision-making process and about the lack of transparency about the overall plan for the county.

"Dimensions is saying that they want to fill vacancies with workers being laid off at Laurel but can't tell us how many vacancies there are and where they exist" said Cynthia Medavarapu, a nurse in the intensive Care Unit at Laurel. "Management either doesn't have a plan or they are keeping it all a secret."

Union officials added the announced closing also raises questions about the long-term future of specialized services, such as its Behavioral Health unit, recently identified by community members in a public health study. It also raises concerns about the status of the hospital's community health programming and partnerships that benefit underserved, low-in-

come and minority populations.

In 2014, Dimensions closed the pediatric unit at Prince George's Medical Center and revealed a plan to 1199SEIU to downsize the system's staff by 500 full-time jobs, then backtracked in statements to news organizations, classifying the changes instead as a "restructuring."

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East is the largest and fastest-growing healthcare union in Maryland and the nation. We represent 400,000 members throughout Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Florida, with 10,000 in Maryland and DC. Our mission is to achieve quality care and good jobs for all.

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Lauds Senate Passage of Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Bill

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, issued the following statement after the Senate voted with an overwhelming bipartisan majority to approve S. 1177, the Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that was first passed by Congress 50 years ago. The vote was 81-17.

“Ensuring access to a high-quality education is one of the most important duties of government. The last comprehensive update to the ESEA, the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act, had the best of intentions and a comforting name. In reality, the red tape and over-reliance on assessments it codified have left far too many children behind since its passage. I was encouraged to see Democrats and Republicans working together to put children before partisanship and craft the Every Child Achieves Act in a thoughtful manner. The ECAA will allow states to develop accountability systems that accurately represent student progress in the classroom, while still ensuring that students are held to the high-yet-achievable standard of being college- and career-ready upon completion of high school.

“I’m proud that the ECAA recognizes that to support a successful student, schools should support the whole child, both physically and mentally. The approved bill includes my amendment co-authored with Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) that will allow schools in low-income areas to use federal resources for providing school-based mental health programs. School-based mental health programs have been proven to increase educational outcomes, decrease absences and improve student assessments. And in an effort to ensure all our students have an understanding of how our government functions, I also would like to thank Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) for working

with me to modify the American History and Civics Title of ECAA. Our amendment allows evidence-based civic and government education programs that emphasize the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, to receive federal funding for expansion and dissemination for voluntary use. For too long, a singular focus on assessments pushed out other important core subjects like these.

“The Senate is about compromise. In many respects, this bill is a vast improvement over No Child Left Behind, but it is not the bill I would have written. I worked with Senator Mikulski to modify a dangerous amendment offered by Senator Burr that would have reduced Maryland’s share of Title I-A funding for educating low-income children by \$40 million per year. The Burr amendment punished states like Maryland that have made the decision to properly invest in funding education for our children. I worked hand-in-hand with Senator Mikulski to modify the amendment to prevent Maryland from losing money in the short term, but, in the future, the final compromise on this measure sets a dangerous precedent changing the Title I-A formula for the benefit of our state’s low-income children.

“No child should be fearful of going to school or to struggle in continuously low-performing schools. I was greatly disappointed to see amendments that would have made our school safer places for our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students fail to garner sufficient support and amendments that would have required states to work with local education agencies to address continuously low-performing schools fail as well. As this legislation moves to be reconciled with action in the House of Representatives, I will continue to work with members from both parties to ensure that all Americans can access a quality education.”

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Sandra Bland’s Life Mattered: Transforming Our Criminal Justice System Now

“Many people see this situation escalating, and I think it shows the frustration that many minority communities feel when they feel that, you know, maybe it wouldn’t have escalated in a different community. I hope that that can bring this situation to light as well, so that people understand the frustration that many minority members feel when they’re stopped by the police.”

—United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch, July 2015

For many of us, it was with a sickening sense of familiarity that we watched the video recording of the violation of the welfare and rights of yet another person of color at the hands of law enforcement. Unfolding right before our very eyes, we witnessed as another routine traffic stop would come to a tragic and fatal end.

Two days before authorities would discover Sandra Bland’s lifeless body in her Texas jail cell, the 28-year-old called a friend after her first court appearance and left a 22-second voicemail asking, “How did switching lanes with no signal turn into all of this? I don’t even know.” The details of her arrest and her untimely death have left her family, friends, and those concerned about the treatment of people of color in our nation’s criminal justice system, wondering the same: how could a traffic stop could “turn into all of this?”

On Friday, July 10, Bland was pulled over by state trooper Brian Encinia for the minor traffic violation. As seen on the officer’s dashboard camera video, Encinia ordered Bland to step out of her car after she refused his order to put out her cigarette. The confrontation between the two continued to escalate as Encinia attempted to pull Bland out of her car and then threatened to use his taser gun on her. The remainder of the confrontation, and her eventual arrest, is not caught on camera, but we can hear her screaming during the arrest that the trooper

is about to break her wrist and that he has slammed her head into the ground. She was taken to the Waller County jail on a charge of assaulting a public servant during a traffic stop.

Three days later, on Monday, July 13, Bland was discovered dead in her jail cell after allegedly hanging herself with a garbage bag. A medical examiner has ruled the death suicide by hanging, but her family and protestors are disputing the autopsy results. Bland’s relatives have ordered a private autopsy and Waller County District Attorney Elton Mathis has opened up a probe into Bland’s death and has said that his office will treat her case like a murder investigation.

We don’t yet know how Sandra Bland died in her jail cell, but the video of her arrest is cause enough for grave concern. And for those committed to reforming our nation’s broken criminal justice system, it is an urgent call for action. As the litany of names of unarmed Black and Brown men and women brutalized and killed by law enforcement multiplies, so does the skepticism and distrust so many feel for a system that has proven time and again to be stacked against them and their communities at every level of justice.

Encinia’s behavior at the traffic stop was incendiary, unjustified and beyond unprofessional. The Texas Department of Public Safety must not tolerate this disrespectful and provocative method of policing from Encinia—or any officer. Officers are supposed to be trained to de-escalate tense situations, not escalate them.

We cannot limit our concern and anger to motionless outrage. While we mourn the loss of countless victims of police violence and injustice, we must be loud and engaged advocates for the sort of change that will save lives and rebuild that much-needed trust between law enforcement and all communities entrusted to their

See **Justice**, Page A12

Clara Barton National Historic Site



Open to the Public

CLARA BARTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Clara Barton National Historic Site, was established in 1974 to interpret the life of Clara Barton (1821–1912), an American pioneer teacher, nurse, and humanitarian who was the founder of the American Red Cross. The first national historic site dedicated to the accomplishments of a woman, it preserves the early history of the American Red Cross and the last home of its founder. Clara Barton spent the last 15 years of her life in her Glen Echo home (1897–1912), and it served as an early headquarters of the American Red Cross as well. The National Park Service has restored eleven rooms, including the Red Cross offices, parlors, and Clara Barton’s bedroom. Visitors to the site are led through the three levels on a guided tour emphasizing Barton’s use of her unusual home. The house is shown by guided tour only. Tours start on the hour: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12 Noon, 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. Please call 301-320-1410 for more information or to schedule a reservation.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Hanging On to Hope to Keep Black Men and Boys Alive

“Our history is for decades we humiliated people of color. For decades we excluded people of color. For decades we shamed and burdened and beat people of color.”

—Bryan Stevenson, founder and president of the Equal Justice Initiative, and author of *Just Mercy*

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, one of the world’s leading peace and justice advocates, has called Bryan Stevenson “America’s Nelson Mandela.” He has gotten innocent men off death row, successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court multiple times, including to ban “death sentences”—capital punishment and life imprisonment without parole for offenses committed by juveniles. In June this man of great moral clarity and brilliance spoke about “How to Keep Black Boys Alive” to 2,000 college-age Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools® servant leaders at CDF-Haley Farm. He focused on how we can break up the Cradle to Prison Pipeline™ that feeds 1 in 3 Black and 1 in 6 Latino boys born in 2001 into America’s morally indefensible and unjust mass incarceration system. Here is some of what Bryan Stevenson told our young leaders:

“We’re living at a time when there is an incredible crisis that young men of color are facing. There is a challenge that is unique in our history. We’ve always had challenges but this is a different kind of challenge because it is structural, it is systemic, and it is institutional. And it presents itself in this kind of really misguided almost kind of bizarre exploitation of the word ‘justice.’ It uses that word to perpetuate an unprecedented injustice that we’ve never had to face like we’re facing today. And I’m talking about the criminal justice system.”

Bryan put it in perspective for the young college audience. In 1972 300,000 people were in jails and prisons in America compared to today with 2.5 million people behind bars. The

U.S. has 5 percent of the world’s population but 25 percent of the world’s imprisoned. And in Alabama where he lives, a person with a criminal conviction permanently loses the right to vote. Right now in Alabama, 31 percent of Black men in the state have lost the right to vote.

To dismantle this Cradle to Prison Pipeline requires, he says, Americans to change the way we talk about race and confront our history of racial inequality. “The great evil of American slavery was not forced labor; it was the narrative of racial difference that slavery created.” That narrative said: “These black people, they’re not like us. They’re not fully human. They’ve got these deficits. They’re not smart. They’re not this. They’re not that. And because of that, we’re actually doing something civil and Christian by enslaving them. And that narrative was the great evil of American slavery.”

This history of bias and discrimination manifests itself with a presumption of dangerousness and guilt that gets assigned to all Black people, he

continued, “That presumption was created during slavery, nurtured during terrorism, legalized during segregation, and it’s now being implemented by mass incarceration. We need to understand that these acts of violence in Ferguson and Baltimore are a manifestation of this presumption of dangerousness and guilt. And we’ve got to free America from this burden.”

Bryan Stevenson is surrounded in Alabama by many symbols of slavery and the Old South and shared this story about visiting a new client on Alabama’s death row. As he parked, “This truck was there. And some of you all who live in the South see these things all the time. And this truck was like a shrine to the Old South. It has all of these bumper stickers on it. It had the Confederate flags everywhere. It had the gun rack. ... There was a White guard standing at the prison door when I got there. And I said, ‘Hi, I’m here for a legal visit.’ And the first thing the man said to me was, ‘Well, you’re not a lawyer.’”

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The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

How You Can Help When A Child Faces Disappointment

It would be wonderful if we could all go through life with no disappointments and have everything turn out just the way we desire. But as adults we've learned life doesn't work that way; we don't always get what we want. And while, as adults, most of us have learned to accept that, for our children it can be a difficult lesson.

Childhood disappointments can come in various form. It may be being passed over for a playground game, or ending up on the losing side in some competition. It could be a best friend moving away or the loss of a pet.

An important part of helping a child cope with disappointment is to listen to the child's story without minimizing or discounting the event. As an adult you may see that your child's best friend now being mad at him or her is just a trivial and probably temporary matter. But for your child the disappointment is not something minor. It can seem like a major tragedy that will significantly change his or her life.

The key is to talk "with" your child about what has happened rather than talking "to" him or her about the experience. Don't try to interrogate your child, but instead give him or her the opportunity to explain what has happened.

Show your understanding of the disappointment or loss being felt. Do that with statements of understanding, but not explanations of your own life's difficulties. Your goal is not to try and top the disappointment with stories of your own frustrations.

It's also important not to try and make the disappointment disappear with a pleasant experience or reward. Doing so can provide temporary relief by taking your child's mind off the hurt, but can also establish patterns that may be difficult for the child to overcome as he or she grows older.

If a child is displaying a significant change in behavior over a disappointment, make time to allow the child to talk about what has happened and how he or she is feeling. If your child can't or won't talk about what has happened, consider consulting with a professional counselor.

It's important not to ignore or minimize the impact of disappointing events in a child's life. When you do so you simply confirm what many children think all too often about the adults in their lives: "They just don't understand."

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

Watch from A4

I said, 'Oh, yes, sir, I am.' He said, 'I don't believe you're a lawyer.' I said, 'I am an attorney. I've been to this prison before.' He said, 'Well, where is your bar card?' Well, my bar card was in the car. He made me go back to the car to get my bar card. I came back. I felt insulted. I showed him my bar card. I said, 'Look, I want to go inside now.' And the man said, 'All right, all right, but you're going to have to get in the bathroom. I'm going to have to give you a strip search.' I said, 'No, sir, lawyers don't get strip-searched coming into this prison.' He said, 'You're coming into my prison. You're going to get in that bathroom and get strip-searched.'

After driving two hours to get there he made the very difficult decision to submit to the humiliating search. More hurdles and indignities followed. Finally when the guard unlocked the door the guard asked, "Did you see that truck out there with all those bumper stickers and flags?" I said, 'Yeah, I saw that truck.' He said, 'I want you to know that's my truck.'

Antagonized and angry, Bryan Stevenson went to meet his new Black client who had been in 29 foster

homes by age 10, showed signs of bipolar disorder by age 13, symptoms of schizophrenia by age 15, used heroin by age 16, was homeless by age 17, began having psychotic episodes by age 18, and in the midst of one, stabbed someone to death by age 19 and was on death row. There was no mental illness defense in his record.

"The first thing [my client] said to me was, 'Did you bring me a chocolate milkshake?' ... And so I put my pen down and said, 'Look, I'm sorry, I didn't know you wanted me to bring you a chocolate milkshake. Next time I come, if they let me, I'll bring you a chocolate milkshake.' And this man smiled and smiled." Every time Bryan talked to his client after that, the only thing he wanted was a chocolate milkshake.

Months later, Bryan and his team presented a vigorous mental illness defense to a judge over three days. That same prison guard who had strip-searched him on his first visit to his client brought the defendant to the hearing and glared at Bryan in the courtroom each day. But Bryan was feeling hopeful about the outcome and weeks later returned

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Buhari from A1

dustries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) can play in ensuring such transparency and the need to institute anti-corruption reforms in entities like the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

"No meeting with the leadership of Nigeria could ignore the plight of hundreds of

schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram. Any of the girls who are still alive must be returned home and the fate of all of those taken must be made known. How a country treats its women and girls is a strong barometer for its economic and social success. I urged President Buhari to make human rights of all Nigeria's citizens a priority."

Maryland Motor Fuel Tax Rate Increased Again by One Percent on July First

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C. — What if they were to raise the state gasoline tax in Maryland again, again, and again, but no one seemed to notice except a handful of state legislators, a few special interest groups, and a small number of policy wonks? Like clockwork, it will happen for the third year in a row starting today, July 1, 2015, notes AAA Mid-Atlantic. Meanwhile, the prospect of another slight increase in the state's motor fuel tax structure is only producing a collective yawn from the motoring public across Maryland. In fact, the motor fuel tax rate across Maryland changed again at the stroke of midnight, according to the Comptroller of Maryland and AAA Mid-Atlantic.

On July 1, Maryland's motor fuel tax increased by one percent to 32.1 cents per gallon, which equates to an increase of 1.8 cents per gallon from the pre-July 1 state excise tax on gasoline purchases of 30.3 cents per gallon. In comparison, the rate was 23.5 cents per gallon in 2013. The state's motor fuel tax rate on gasoline purchases has increased by a total of 8.6 cents per gallon since the Maryland General Assembly passed the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013 two years ago. However, motorists might not detect the latest tax hike. Although pump prices have climbed over the past several months, Marylanders were still poised to pay the lowest prices at the pump over the Fourth of July holiday weekend in at least five years.

"Despite the impending motor fuel tax increase, it is all in the wash. Maryland motorists are seeing the bigger picture and focusing on the fact that gasoline prices are much lower than last Fourth of July," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Lower prices have helped Americans, and consumers across Maryland,

to save about \$65 billion on gas so far this year, compared to the first six months of 2014, which is more than \$530 for every U.S. household on average."

On the first day of the busy travel period, July 1, the applicable state excise tax on a gallon of gasoline increased overnight to 32.1 cents per gallon, according to the Comptroller of Maryland. That compares to a statewide motor fuel tax rate on a gasoline of 23.5 cents per gallon before the state's motor fuel tax rate was enacted in 2013. Meanwhile, the tax rate on diesel fuel purchases increased to 32.85 cents per gallon, compared to 24.25 cents per gallon in 2013.

However, most Marylanders probably won't notice the slight tax increase for a couple of reasons, observes AAA Mid-Atlantic. First of all, gasoline prices were still much cheaper this Fourth of July travel period, than they were at this time last year, according to the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report. Heading into the holiday weekend the average pump price across the state of Maryland is \$2.75 per gallon, compared to \$3.69 on this date a year ago. In the cosmic scheme of things the average retail gasoline price in Maryland is 94 cents cheaper. It is a tad higher — four cents — in Washington, D.C.'s Maryland suburbs, where the price averages \$2.79 per gallon, compared to \$3.72 a gallon this time last year. That's a discount of 93 cents year over year, reveals the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report.

Perhaps there is secondary reason motorists in the state will overlook the latest round of motor fuel tax increases. The increase in the gas tax on the statewide level, starting in 2013 in Maryland, did not result in a "commensurate penny-to-penny increase in the retail price motorists pay at the pump," according to research recently released by American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) based in Washington, D.C. In fact, ARTBA reviewed the gas-tax retail impacts in Maryland and four other states

that all raised their state motor fuel tax rates in 2013. Moreover, The Oil Price Information Service (OPIS), which supplies daily fuel price data to AAA, analyzed ARTBA's research. Here are the major findings:

- "A month after enactment, only about a third of the levy shows up in the pump price, and thereafter, it is not a significant retail price factor."

- "One year after enactment of a state gas tax increase, the average price for a gallon of regular had dropped, on average, 3.7 percent below the market price the day before the tax increase went into effect. Over the same time frame, the average national price dropped 3.3%."

In addition to Maryland, ARTBA are studied gas-tax retail impacts in four other states, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Wyoming. The motor fuel tax rate is just one of the factors impacting the retail price of gasoline, advises AAA Mid-Atlantic. The state gasoline tax had remained constant in Maryland at 23.5 cents flat since 1992. After passing both Chambers in the Maryland General Assembly 21 years later, the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013 was signed into law by then Governor Martin O'Malley on May 16, 2013, and the new law, pegged to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), took effect on July 1, 2013.

Overall, Maryland's fuel tax rate on gasoline purchases increased by roughly by 3.5 cents per gallon (cpg) from 23.5 cents per gallon on July 1, 2013 to 27 cpg. It increased again a year later on July 1, 2014 by 0.4 cpg, as adjusted for inflation. The tax rate on gasoline and diesel fuel at the state level increased 3.1 cents per gallon (cpg) on January 1, 2015.

The Maryland Comptroller's Office uses two methods to calculate the motor fuel tax increase: the average percentage growth in the CPI, and a percentage of the average retail price of gasoline, also known as the "Sales and Use Tax Equiva-

lent Rate." As of June 30, 2015, the state excise tax on gasoline in Maryland was 30.3 cents per gallon, compared to 23.5 cents three years ago, according to the American Petroleum Institute (API). This total includes a state excise tax of 23.9 cents per gallon, plus 6.4 cents. On top of that, motorists in the state also pay federal excise taxes on gasoline purchases of 18.4 cents per gallon, which has remained the same for two decades.

Before this most recent increase, Maryland consumers were paying a total motor fuel tax of almost a half a dollar or 48.7 cents per gallon, reports API. That was almost a cent less than the national average motor fuel tax rate on gasoline of 48.85 cents per gallon. On June 30, the average statewide motor fuel tax rate on gasoline across the United States was 30.45 cents per gallon, which included an average state excise tax of 20.7 cents per gallon, plus 9.76 cents per gallon in other state taxes and fees, the API survey shows.

Even after the one percent increase in the motor fuel tax rate on gasoline purchases in the state, Maryland's total state taxes and fees on a gallon of gas will only be a fraction higher than the nationwide average state fuel tax rate on pump prices, notes AAA Mid-Atlantic. All told, consumers and motorists in Maryland and five other states will see increases in the state gasoline taxes they pay on July 1, 2015.

The latest tax increase comes as a record number of Maryland motorists (754,000 persons) and Washington metro area residents (871,300 holiday travelers) prepare to embark on their Fourth of July Holiday weekend excursions 50 miles or more from home. The record surge in holiday travelers is fueled, in part, by the fact motorists across the USA and Maryland have paid an average of \$2.45 per gallon for the first half of the year. That is the cheapest average for the first six months of the year since 2009, notes AAA.

Obama from A3

Florida
Robin O'Brien, Seminole Ridge Community High School
Carlos Montero, Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School

Georgia
Valerie Jones, Ron Clark Academy
Pauline Henry, Luke Garrett Middle School

Hawaii
Amy Yonashiro, 'Iolani School
Erin Flynn, Sacred Hearts Academy

Idaho
Ramey Uriarte, Heritage Middle School
Melyssa Ferro, Syringa Middle School

Illinois
Darshan Jain, Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Rebecca Vieyra, Cary-Grove High School

Indiana
Melissa Colonis, Lafayette Tecumseh Junior High School
Livi Haiducu, Avon Advanced Learning Center

Iowa
Allysen Lovstuen, Decorah High School
Brian Reece, Central Academy

Kansas
Patrick Flynn, Olathe East High School
Jeremi Wonch, Indian Trail Middle School

Kentucky
Robyn Morris, East Oldham Middle School
Andrew Kemp, Louisville Male High School

Louisiana
Lerri Cockrell, David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy
Michael Simoneaux, Dutchtown High School

Maine
William O'Brien, Camden Hills Regional High School
Lisa McLellan, Windham High School

Maryland
Julie Harp, Easton High School
James Schafer, Montgomery Blair High School

Massachusetts
Suzanne Kubik, Middleboro High School
Susannah Cowden, Roxbury Preparatory Charter School

Michigan
Luke Wilcox, East Kentwood High School
Walter Erhardt, Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center

Minnesota
Leif Carlson, Jefferson Community School
Peter Bohacek, Henry Sibley High School

Mississippi
Jenny Simmons, Saltillo High School
Betsy Sullivan, Madison Central High School

Missouri
Ruth Knop, Parkway West Senior High School
Kathleen Dwyer, Maplewood Richmond Heights High School

Montana
Daniel Bartsch, Billings Senior High School
David McDonald, Sidney High School

Nebraska
Shelby Aaberg, Scottsbluff High School
Angela Bergman, Westside High School

Nevada
Carrie Hair, Darrell C. Swope Middle School - Gifted and Talented Magnet
Jan Hrindo, Incline Middle School

New Hampshire
Stephanie Burke, West Running Brook Middle School
Jennifer Deenik, Souhegan High School

New Jersey
Kathleen Carter, North Hunterdon High School
Michael Lawrence, West Orange High School

New Mexico
Marco Martínez-Leandro, Highland High School
Karen Temple-Beamish, Albuquerque Academy

New York
Patrick Honner, Brooklyn Technical High School
Chance Nalley, Horace Mann School

North Carolina
Julie Riggins, East Forsyth High School
Jeffrey Milbourne, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

North Dakota
Cynthia Nelson, Grand Forks Central High School
Scott Johnson, Century High School

Ohio
Karma Vince, McCord Junior High School
Christopher Monsour, Columbian High School

Oklahoma
Mark Thomas, Stillwater High School
Sarah Vann, Owasso Eighth Grade Center

See OBAMA Page A7

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review
"Ant-Man"

Ant-Man
Grade: B
Rated PG-13, a little mild
profanity, sci-fi action violence
1 hr., 57 min

Even though no large cities get destroyed in it, "Ant-Man" is a Marvel movie. (You can tell by the stop-the-movie-dead-in-its-tracks Stan Lee cameo.) The perpetually adorable Paul Rudd plays Scott Lang, a felon who has a master's degree in electrical engineering and just spent three years in San Quentin, though you will not believe that he spent even five minutes there. He is manipulated by Dr. Hank Pym (Michael Douglas), a righteous old scientist, into donning a special suit that shrinks him down to the size of an insect, all in the service of getting the shrinkifying serum out of the hands of bad guy industrialist Darren Cross (Corey Stoll). Pym's scientist daughter, Hope (Evangeline Lilly), bitter about her mother's sketchy death some years back, works for Cross now, but agrees that he's gotten out of control.

Directed by comedy veteran Peyton Reed ("Bring It On," TV's "Upright Citizens Brigade" and "Mr. Show"), "Ant-Man" wears its ridiculousness well, with a screenplay by Edgar Wright and Joe Cornish ("Attack the Block") AND Paul Rudd and Adam McKay. No surprise that it's funny, and the action beats work well too. It's self-aware but not smug about it, and the cast—also including Michael Peña as Scott's cheerful criminal friend Luis—is all at the top of their game.



The next evolution of the Marvel Cinematic Universe brings a founding member of The Avengers to the big screen for the first time with Marvel Studios' "Ant-Man." Armed with the astonishing ability to shrink in scale but increase in strength, master thief Scott Lang must embrace his inner-hero and help his mentor, Dr. Hank Pym, protect the secret behind his spectacular Ant-Man suit from a new generation of towering threats. Against seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Pym and Lang must plan and pull off a heist that will save the world. ©Marvel

The story is contrived and rush, though, and it's a little hard to buy that the guy who discovered how to shrink things also discovered how to use mind-control on ants. Those just seem like two totally different fields of study. Or, more likely, it seems like the conversation went this way:

"We named him Ant-Man. He

can shrink to the size of an ant."
"OK, that makes sense."
"Oh, and he can control ants' mind."
"Why?"
"... Because we named him Ant-Man."

The villain is a bit weak, and the story feels small in scale, almost inconsequential. But the

film, without belaboring the point, establishes connections between this film and the larger Marvel Cinematic Universe. I've said before that the Marvel franchise has come to feel like a TV series. So here's the comedy episode that introduces Ant-Man, whom you can expect to see hanging around in some episodes hereafter.

Potomac from A1

from table to table to mingle with other guests. At the National Harbor, guests can enjoy the Sunset Room, which consists of a plaza and harbor view. The plaza view can seat 150, the harbor view 300 and the full venue, 450. Guests at the event were also given the opportunity to

walk out of the venue to a ride on the Capital Wheel, which was only about 5 minutes away.

Wolfgang Puck Catering offers a variety of catering for different events such as weddings, meetings, and specialty occasions such as proms, anniversaries and birthdays. Some of the companies signature recipes are Crab Louise,

consisting of crab, chives, onions, and tomatoes, curried chicken satay with fresh mint soy vinaigrette; a Thai dish with chicken breast and black pepper, Pizza with smoked salmon, onion and caviar, and a spicy tuna tartare in sesame miso cones which consisted of delicious sushi grade tuna and chopped scallions.

Deserts include Oscar's fudge, made with chocolate and strawberries, and caramel flan cheesecake. Other notable dishes include asparagus with brown buttered bread and white corn agriolotti, or spicy chicken pizza. Catering can be done at your home, office, or location of your choice.

No matter what type of event, Wolfgang Puck Catering has a variety of options. Before the summer is out enjoy their summer dishes such as watermelon cubes with french feta and tarragon-balsamic syrup and watermelon granita consisting of watermelon and lemon juice, or start planning your wedding for next year. The Wolfgang Puck company also consists of a dining group, which includes causal restaurants and franchises such as the Wolfgang Puck Pizza Bar, Wolfgang Puck Expresses, and Wolfgang Puck Cultural Center Cafes. Visit their website and blog to enjoy the wonderful catering that they have to offer.

Website: <http://www.wolfgangpuck.com/catering-events/event-inquiry>

Blog: <http://alaminute.wolfgangpuck.com/index.php/2012/06/13/watermelon-mania/>

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

The Confederate Flag, the Washington Football Team, and the Owners Who Love Them

It may be literally the least they could do, but it's a victory for human decency that the Confederate flag will no longer be available at Walmart, Amazon,



Sears, and eBay. Even though it is heartbreaking that it took the murder of nine people to get ghouls like Nikki Haley and Lindsay Graham as well as their corporate masters to see it as a public-relations liability, it also raises a question. If the Confederate flag is too toxic to sell, then how can Amazon and Walmart continue to peddle the merchandise of a Washington football team that bears the name of a racial slur? How can they stock the blood-red profile of a Native American chieftain's head adorned with feathers and a brand—no matter what revisionists argue—that celebrates their violent death?

I contacted Jackie Keeler, a Navajo/Yankton Dakota Sioux writer living in Portland and a founder of Eradicating Offensive Native Mascotry. Her words should be read and reread:

"When I hear a spokesperson for eBay calling the Confederate flag 'a symbol of divisiveness and racism' after announcing that they are banning the sale of it from their site, I wonder why I can still search eBay and find over 100,000 Redskins items for sale. Studies and the APA [American Psychiatric Association] have repeatedly warned of the harm being pigeonholed and stereotyped does to Native youths' self-esteem—and Native youth have the highest rates of suicide in the country, three and a half times that of their peers, but it happens where the rest of America does not look. Native men have the highest rates of police brutality and Native women the highest rates of murder and rape. These deaths are invisible to an America that does not weep for our dead. They cheer for the stereotype and paint themselves up in grotesque caricatures of us, but do they think about what cost we bear for that bit of fun? Is it worth it? I look forward to the day eBay and others like Walmart refuse to make a buck off of a bit of our soul."

The Confederate flag, for those who believe it belongs not just in a museum but on fire, is a symbol not only of the Southern states or the Klan but of the great crime upon which this country was economically developed: the transatlantic slave trade. But that wasn't the only crime. A prerequisite to the plantation economy was land acquisition and the near-eradication of the indigenous population. Part of acknowledging our history as a settler nation built on slavery is acknowledging that an entire systemic apparatus has developed to keep down those upon whom Plymouth Rock landed. I contacted Suzan Shown Harjo, the Cheyenne and Hodulgee Muscogee activist and president of the Morningstar Institute, to ask for her thoughts. She said, "There is no disconnect between the white supremacy against African-Americans seen in the rebel flag and that against Native Americans in the racist sports stereotypes. These symbols open deep wounds of ancestors massacred, skinned, and murdered just for being Indians. We hope some will gain awareness and courage, and will act on the racism within their reach."

Harjo is right. There is especially "no disconnect" when we consider the person who named the Washington football team, its original owner George Preston Marshall. Marshall loved minstrelsy and was, in the words of his contemporary Washington Post sportswriter Shirley Povich, the NFL's "leading bigot." It is no coincidence that this owner of the last team to integrate in the NFL was also the person who named his team after a racial slur. It is no coincidence that this same owner, a man who insisted that "Dixie" be played at home games, was also a person who saw Native Americans as less than human.

It's time for a change. But just as George Preston Marshall was a stubborn holdout against racial progress, the team today has another owner who is a proud dead-ender: Dan Snyder. The record of Dan Snyder's defending this name and his various schemes to win public favor in Indian Country has produced one public-relations debacle after another. Reasons for his pig-headed obstinacy on this issue have been subject of much curiosity. Given the incredible list of tribal councils, organizations, media outlets, politicians, and former players that have called upon him to change the name, people wonder why he clings to this the way Lindsay Graham and Nikki Haley clung to that flag before the horrors of last week. It doesn't really matter why Snyder won't change the name, but allow me to speculate. Having observed Dan Snyder for almost two decades, I've come to the conclusion that the answer is not rooted in economics or Snyder's privately nurtured bigotries.

When I first moved to Washington, D.C., the name was something rarely discussed. As this conversation began to surface in recent years, Snyder was so bellicose, so unable to even sit down with those who disagree with him that he has developed a small cult following among a subset of fans of the team. Dan Snyder is the least popular owner in sports, seen as an interfering bully who has stood over two decades of futility of a once-proud franchise. He is also an awkward, sweaty, twitchy hot mess when out in public. But because of his sneering defense of the name, Snyder finally has fans of his own. They chant "Keep the Name" in bars while Snyder grins and pumps his fist. He has taken this objectively racist name—a dictionary-defined slur—and turned it into the football version of the Confederate flag. But none of that matters to him, because finally, Dan Snyder has fans of his own. Hope he enjoys it in the present. Like those who have wrapped themselves in the Confederate flag, he will find that the future will not be so kind.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH EXTRAVAGANZA

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<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/back-to-school-health-extravaganza-tickets-1766126320?aff=es2>

CTIS

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Calendar of Events

August 13—August 19, 2015

The Battle of Bladensburg: Events, Participants, and Outcome
Date and Time: Thursday, August 13, 2015 1-2 pm
Description: The history of the Battle of Bladensburg: A recounting of events leading up to the battle, its participants, and its outcome.

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

Safe Summer: Animal Show

Date and Time: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10 pm-12 midnight
Description: On this Thursday night teens will see an animal show. While there, they'll learn interesting facts about them and their environment.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 12-17
Location: Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merimac Drive, Hyattsville 20783
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-445-4512

Stand-Up Comedy Workshop

Date and Time: Thursday, August 13, 2015 9pm-12am
Event Description: This workshop will give students the opportunity to write, create, develop and perform an original comedy routine.

Ages: 17 and under
Fee: FREE
Location: Glassmanor Community Center
1101 Marcy Avenue, Oxon Hill 20745
Contact: 301-567-6033

Seniors: Magical Musical Days

Date and Time: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:30 am-11:30 am
Description: Enjoy a variety of live music every month. This month, the featured musical talent will be Rahmat Group R&B Soul. 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

Sangria Under the Stars

Date and Time: Friday, August 14, 2015 8-11 pm
Description: Spend a night stargazing from the museum's outdoor mezzanine. Sip on Sangria from Boordy Vineyards while you have the museum exhibits to yourself, learn about the stars, and make your own constellation.

Tickets may be purchased through fieldoffirsts.com or at the museum.
Cost: \$30 per person
Ages: 21 & up
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740
Contact: 301-864-6029, TTY 301-699-2544

Safe Summer: Ice-Cream Social & Skate Party

Date and Time: Friday, July 14, 2015 10 pm-12 midnight
Description: This Friday, teens will have a night of delicious treats and fun with an ice cream social followed by a skating party.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 12-17
Location: Deerfield Run Elementary School Community Center
13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-445-4512

Safe Summer: Street Jam

Date and Time: Saturday, August 15, 2015 10 pm-12 midnight
Description: Teens will get their hoop on with an exciting street jam. Bring your A game and your squad will have fun on the court.

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

Safe Summer: Carnival Night

Date and Time: Saturday, August 15, 2015 10 pm-12 midnight
Description: Delve into carnival night, so bring a bring a friend and end the summer right.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 12-17
Location: Kentland Community Center
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover 20785
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-445-4512

Bicycle Nature Tour

Date and Time: Sunday, August 16, 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

Jazz on the Lawn: Brûlée

Date and Time: Wednesday, August 19, 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 will feature music by Brûlée.

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 ... The Best Way to Recycle Old Paint

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the best way to recycle my old and/or unwanted paint, primer and stains?

— Kim Beeler,
Lake Oswego, OR

Has one of the many popular shows on HGTV inspired you to renovate your own home? If so, you're not alone! Home renovations have been on the rise the last few years in the U.S. and Canada, which can mean lots of leftover paint. Extra paint can last for years when properly sealed and stored away from extreme heat and cold, and if unneeded, can be donated to organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Keep America Beautiful. But if paint can no longer be used, what are some safe, environmentally-responsible ways to dispose of it?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that about 10 percent of the house paint purchased in the United States each year—about 65 to 69 million gallons—is discarded. Leftover and unusable paint wastes causes pollution when disposed of improperly, the EPA warns. Before you can decide how to dispose of old paint, you'll need to determine what kind of paint it is. There are two types of paint: oil-based and latex; and regulations on disposal of each type of paint vary by location.

In some areas, latex paint can be thrown out with the

trash as long as it is completely dried. Keep in mind that some household waste haulers may not pick up latex paint even if it is completely dried, so always check with your local waste disposal service provider on rules and regulations applicable to your area.

Oil-based paints, as well as paint thinners and other paint solvents, are considered hazardous household waste (HHW) and are typically disposed of at HHW facilities. While many communities across the country will hold annual or semi-annual HHW collection days to make paint disposal easy for local residents, the new non-profit PaintCare is allowing residents of California, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Oregon, Minnesota and Vermont to have convenient disposal of house paint, primers, stains, sealers and clear coatings year-round. There is no charge for dropping off paint at a PaintCare drop-off site, and Paintcare's site locator (available on their website and app) allows residents of applicable states to quickly find their closest drop-off location. PaintCare locations can be found at select Sherwin-Williams, True Value, Ace Hardware and other retailers.

"Retailer support of the PaintCare program is not only good business practice, but also an extension of good customer service," says Scott Cassel, Chief Executive Officer of the Product Stewardship Institute, Inc., a



CREDIT: U.S. ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMAND

Americans discard about 10 percent of the house paint they purchase—some 65 to 69 million gallons—every year.

nonprofit that in partnership with the paint industry, led the national dialogue that laid the foundation for the PaintCare program. "By providing paint drop-off locations, retailers not only encourage more foot traffic, but they also offer an important kind of community service that addresses both environmental protection and convenience."

PaintCare manages the leftover paint it receives according to a policy of "highest, best use." Their goal is to recycle as much as possible. Most of the oil-based

paint is taken to a cement plant where it is blended into a fuel and burned to recover the energy value. Latex paint that is not rusty, molding or spoiled is sent to recycling companies and reprocessed into new paint. Some paint that the non-profit receives is nearly new and in excellent condition, and is given away at swap shops or to charitable organizations. Paintcare plans to expand its locations into Colorado in July of 2015, Maine in August of 2015 and the District of Columbia in January of 2016.

CONTACTS: EPA Paints & Coatings Program, www.epa.gov/sectors/sectorinfo/sectorprofiles/paint.html; Paintcare, www.paintcare.org.

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

Obama from A5

Oregon

Mona Schraer,
Grant High School
Bradford Hill,
Southridge High School

Pennsylvania

Susan Higley, Hughesville
Junior/Senior High School
Derrick Wood,
Conestoga High School

Puerto Rico

Eric Figueroa, University
Gardens High School
Maria Vicenty, Central High
School of Visual Arts

Rhode Island

Michelle Way DaSilva,
Kickemuit Middle School
Erin Escher,
Portsmouth Middle School

South Carolina

Brooke Lance,
Lakeside Middle School
Joseph Parker,
McCants Middle School

South Dakota

Lindsey Brewer,
Huron High School
Janet Wagner,
Bon Homme School

Tennessee

Micahel Brown, Montgomery
Central High School
Pierre Jackson,
Middle College High School

Texas

Jessica Caviness,
Coppell High School
Michalle McCallister,
Robert G. Cole Middle and
High school

U.S. Territories

Nneka Howard-Sibilly, Charlotte
Amalie High School
Shamika Williams-Henley,
Ivanna Eudora Kean
High School

Utah

Nathan Auck,
Horizonte Instruction and
Training Center
Andrew Neilson,
Logan High School

Vermont

Susan Abrams,
Montpelier High School
Stewart Williamson, Peoples
Academy High School

Virginia

Melanie Pruett, Bailey Bridge
Middle School
Anne Moore,
Robious Middle School

Washington

Michael Conklin,
University High School
Gretel von Bargen,
Skyline High School

West Virginia

Pete Karpyk, Weir High School
Eric Kincaid,
Morgantown High School

Wisconsin

Corey Andreasen,
North High School
Scott Hertting,
Neenah High School

Wyoming

Kim Parfitt, Cheyenne
Central High School
Thomas Smith, Dean Morgan
Junior High School

Watch from A5

to death row for a visit.

"I was walking to the prison and what do I see in the parking lot? That truck. And I was feeling tired. I didn't feel like I had the energy to deal with this guy. I said, you know, I don't want to deal with him today. I'm just going to drive back another day. And that's when I realized I was losing my hope."

Refusing to give up hope, he turned around, got his bar card and walked to the guard at the door and said, "Hi, I'm here for a legal visit. Here's my bar card." And the [guard] immediately [responded], "Hello, Mr. Stevenson. How are you?" It completely threw me. I said, "I'm fine. I'll go in the bathroom and get ready for your search." "Oh, Mr. Stevenson, we're not going to do that today," [the guard replied]. I said, "Really? Thank you. Well, I'll go back here and sign the book." He said, "Mr.

Stevenson, I saw you coming and I signed you in." Then the guard told Bryan, "'You know, I came up in the foster care system too. I didn't think anybody had it as bad as I did, but I realized that maybe your client had it worse than I did. I'm a very angry person. I've been angry my whole life. But I'm going to tell you something. I think what you are doing is a good thing.' And then he looked at me and says, 'I hope you keep fighting for justice.'"

The guard shook Bryan's hand. "And I turned to go inside the prison and he grabbed me by the arm and said, 'Wait, wait, wait, I've got to tell you something else.' 'What's that?'" I asked. He replied, "I just want you to know I did something on the way back from the courthouse." I said, "What did you do?" He said, "Well, I took an exit and I took your client to a Wendy's and I bought him a chocolate milkshake."

The bottom line message of this extraordinary caring lawyer for the young leaders was: "I believe that each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done. I think that if you tell a lie you're not just a liar. I think if somebody takes something that doesn't belong to them they're not just a thief. I think even if you kill somebody you're not just a killer, and that other thing you are has to be mended and responded and nurtured and loved and protected."

Bryan Stevenson believes as I do that the same is true for America. America is much more than the worst things we have ever done as a country and we have done some very bad things including slavery and Native American genocide which we have never fully admitted and repented from. America can come closer to her dream and professed belief of freedom, justice and equality for all only by heeding Bryan

Stevenson's final lesson that day.

"We have to judge how we're doing in America, not by looking at how we treat the rich and the popular and the famous. You have to judge how you're doing in a country like ours not by how you treat the privileged and the rich but by how you treat the poor and the incarcerated and the condemned. That's how you judge how we're doing."

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post

Vendors Needed for March of Dimes Bikers for Babies

Upper Marlboro, Md. — The March of Dimes Maryland-National Capital Area Chapter will hold its 12th Annual Bikers for Babies DC/Maryland/Virginia on Saturday, October 3. The ride will have three separate start locations and finish at

Six Flags America in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

The March of Dimes is looking for vendors to showcase their products, crafts, foods and other unique items at the Six Flags end location. All vendors and items they are selling are subject to approval.

Please keep in mind that we are a family-oriented venue.

To register, learn more about the event and its volunteer, vendor and sponsorship opportunities visit www.bikersforbabies.org/dmv or contact Jennifer Abell at the March of Dimes at (571) 257-2310 or via

email at jabell@marchofdimes.org.

Local sponsorship and leadership is provided by: Throttle Life, Walton, Riders Insurance, Atlantic Cycle and Power, Coleman Power Sports, Glen Burnie Motorsports and Six Flags America.

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