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In-house distiller and marketing coordinator Andy Keller poses with the customized still that is the main producing unit in Blackwater Distilling's facility on the Eastern Shore.

Maryland's Micro-Distillers Join in on Spirited Renaissance

By MARISSA HORN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Just five years ago, distilleries were a distant—and most likely blurry—memory for Marylanders.

"There's a great history of rye in Maryland with lots of farmers producing it, and creating rye whiskey from it," said Kevin Atticks, executive

director of the Maryland Wineries Association.

Prior to Prohibition, the state led the U.S. in rye whiskey production just behind powerhouse producers Pennsylvania and Kentucky until its last distributor closed its doors in 1983, according to the *Maryland Historical Magazine*.

"There's even an exhibit in Baltimore on the history of rye

whiskey in Maryland, and there you get to see just how big the industry was before Prohibition," Atticks said. "So, really, it's just a resurgence of what used to be, now that whiskey and rye are becoming more popular again."

Now the Old Line state is again creating a home for the lighter liquor, along with rum, vodka and bourbon. With more

than 10 distilleries planning to open doors within the next year and a half around the state and a handful already operating, the movement seems to be a resurgence indeed.

The proof of it is in the air—literally—as 182.5 proof rum runs from the 500-gallon

See **DISTILLERS** Page A5

Rushern L. Baker, III Announces Local Development Council Members

By Press Officer
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Today, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, announced the fifteen members selected to serve on the County's Local Development Council (LDC). The Prince George's County LDC was mandated by law in those counties in which a video lottery terminal facility (casino) is located. The LDC's primary purpose is to advise the County Executive on the needs and priorities of the communities

surrounding the MGM National Harbor facility so that local impact grants address the community's needs. The funds for the local impact expenditures come from a percentage of the annual revenue generated by the gaming licensee's video lottery terminals.

"I am pleased to announce Prince George's County's newly formed Local Development Council. I know the overall expertise and commitment of this team will yield signifi-

See **COUNCIL** Page A5

PG Arts and Humanities Council Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

By Press Officer
PGAHC

HYATTSVILLE, MD—The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support Innovative Learners 21, an arts integration curriculum development project supporting community connected arts education advancement and action research models. The NEA is the federal agency that supports and funds the arts to give all Americans the opportunity to experience creativity and participate in the arts. NEA programs and funding

support thousands of activities in communities large and small across the country, including about 30,000 performances and 3,000 exhibitions annually.

Innovative Learners 21 will use six school models identified in Prince George's County, that have been selected because of their arts community connections and evidence of a school environment that is arts-focused in teacher instructional strategies to improve academic performance.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "I'm pleased to be able to

See **ARTS** Page A3

For Edwards, Health Care Issues Are Personal

By JON BANISTERR
Capital News Service

LANDOVER, MD—As a young single mother, Donna Edwards once collapsed in a grocery store and had to be taken to the emergency room.

Because she was raising her son with just a single source of income, Edwards did not have health insurance. The medical bills from this incident, combined with her burdensome student loan payments, put her in such a deep financial hole that she almost lost her home.

Edwards told this story in 2009 on the floor of the House of Representatives as a freshman congresswoman casting her vote for the Affordable Care Act.

"If I could have gotten some health care and antibiotics, I would not have ended up in the emergency room, so it shaped the way I thought about what my responsibility was to make sure we could get as strong as possible a bill out of the House," Edwards told Capital News Service during an interview in her Landover campaign office recently.

Edwards, 57, cited health care reform as a main reason she first decided to run for Congress in 2006. She lost the Democratic primary that year, but came back in 2008, defeating incumbent Rep. Al Wynn in the primary and cruising to an easy general election victory in the heavily-Democratic 4th Congressional District. The district covers parts of Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties.

"Her story resonates with a lot of folks here in Prince George's County—we have 150,000 residents that don't have health insurance," said Del. Darryl Barnes of Prince George's County, who has endorsed Edwards in her bid for the U.S. Senate.

Her 2008 election made history as Edwards became the first African-American woman to represent Maryland in Congress.

Now she is aiming to fill the seat of another trailblazer, the longest-serving woman in the U.S. Senate, Barbara Mikulski. If she wins, Edwards would be the only African-American

See **EDWARDS** Page A3

Congressman Chris Van Hollen Announces FBI Relocation Funding Appropriation at EDC Holiday Party

By ALICIA MCELHANEY
PGCEDC

MITCHELLVILLE, MD—Economic Development Corporation President and CEO Jim Coleman and his Team welcomed more than 200 business leaders to The Country Club at Woodmore to express their appreciation to these leaders for choosing Prince George's County. Also joining the festivities were Congressman Chris Van Hollen, State Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard, New Carrollton Assistant City Manager Miranda Braatz, as well as EDC Board members Marva Jo Camp, Eric Henderson, Conni Wilson, Sylvia Syphax and Floyd Wilson.

"This evening is about giving back and showing appreciation to all of the partners and stakeholders that make the EDC successful," said Jim Coleman. "Stakeholders like Congressman Chris Van Hollen, who has truly answered the call of the Economic Development Corporation. Through his leadership and support in Congress, along



PHOTO COURTESY PGCEDC

L to R: Pradeep Ganguly, EDC Executive Vice President, Matthew Lee, President of Kobe Government Contracting Alliances, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, D-MD 8th District, Lisa Liu, General Manager, Long River Realty, Britta Vander Linden, EDC Chief of Staff, Namdi Iwuoha, President JLN Construction Services.

with his colleagues in the Maryland Delegation, we are hopeful that the federal funding for the redevelopment around Joint Base Andrews and the relocation of the FBI in Prince George's County will soon become a reality."

Yesterday, Congressman Van Hollen announced that the U.S. Congress appropriations bill in the House and Senate contains \$390 million for the new FBI headquarters.

"I am pleased that the funding for the FBI building

is part of the appropriations bill that was negotiated by the House and Senate," said Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD 8th District). "Now we must make sure it comes to Prince George's County."

INSIDE

Maryland Reverses Trend of Increased Sales of Tobacco Products to Minors

After years of compliance with this standard, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene inspections found, Maryland retailers were noncompliant, with sales thresholds in Federal Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 respectively near 25 percent and to more than 30 percent. **Community**, Page A3

Why Are Children Less Valuable Than Guns in America? It's Time to Protect Children

New data this month from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show 2,525 children and teens died by gunfire in our nation in 2014; one child or teen death every 3 hours and 28 minutes, nearly 7 a day, 48 a week. **Commentary**, Page A4

White House and Department of Labor Launch \$100 Million TechHire Grant Competition

Over half a million job openings are in information technology fields such as software development, network administration, and cybersecurity—rapidly growing sectors with many more jobs than just a decade ago. **Business**, Page A5

Movie Review: Legend

Written and directed by Brian Helgeland (*42*, *A Knight's Tale*, *Robin Hood*), the film is about the Kray brothers, violent gangsters who were part of London's swingin' '60s scene. How accurate the details are, I couldn't say, though I note that the word "legend" appears in the title. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

Earth Talk

How are environmentalists and environmental groups using crowdfunding to get their projects off the ground?

—Sean Jackson,
Baltimore, MD

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthday greetings to Ethel Austin Cooke, Stephone Contee, Jessica Farmer, Clara Hawkins, Atherine Jackson, Melvin Jackson, Louis Savoy, Jr., Ellen Scott, Juanita Turley, Tiffany Walls, Katrina Wilkerson, and Alice Wright who are celebrating their birthdays during the month of January.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Starting February 13, 2016 from 1:00 PM-2:30 PM, Clinton United Methodist Church will be hosting Saturday classes to help individuals to learn how to manage money God's way; getting out of debt, saving money, investing for the future. The classes are 90 minutes each once a week for 9 consecutive weeks. Register on line at <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1009945>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Some volunteer opportunities with the Department of Parks and Recreation are eligible for student service learning hours or Scout service hours. Visit www.pg-parks.com/volunteer.htm for more information and to sign up.

HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREES

Congratulations to 100 Civil Rights pioneers who received their Alma Mater's (Morgan State University) highest recognition, the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. These pioneers from 1947-1963 were responsible for desegregating theater and lunch counters in Baltimore, including the Northwood Shopping Center across the street from the Morgan campus. Many students were arrested and spent time in jail just for basic civil rights including Gwendolyn Deville, wife of Frank Deville who resides in Brandywine, Maryland.

SKC EARLY EDUCATION CENTERS

SKC creates an environment that fosters opportunities for the development of the child in areas of spirituality, curiosity, social skills, skill development, sensory-motor skills, inner security, initiative and self-confidence.

The Pre-K Program, Toddlers, Infants, Before and After Program is offered at Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. The Center offers transportation, snacks, homework help and recreation. Center hours are Monday-Friday from 6:30

AM-6:30 PM. Call 301-249-5431 for additional information.

BRANDYWINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Brandywine Fire Department will continue to operate administratively from the old station at 14201 Brandywine Road and will be renting out the old station. Contact Ms. Charlotte Bond at (301) 782-7258 for information regarding hall rentals.

BADEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Baden Elementary School in Baden, Maryland received a \$10,000 Verizon Technology Grant to help support the school's efforts to increase student engagement and achievement in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

HOOPS FOR HUNGER

The IB Ambassadors of Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland sponsored a "Hoops for Hunger" basketball game where the faculty played against the students. The students won and the proceeds from the game will be donated to Stop Hunger Now.

*"Happy New Year
Everyone"*

Prince George's Supplier Diversity Head Sharon Jackson Featured in *MEA Magazine*

By PRESS OFFICER
DHMH

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County Supplier Development & Diversity Division (SDDD) Acting Executive Director Sharon Moore Jackson is one of nine 'Women in Diversity Making a Difference' featured in the November/December 2015 issue of *Minority Enterprise Advocate (MEA) Magazine*. Jackson will receive the 'Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year' Award at *MEA Magazine's* 11th Annual Federal Business Forum & Technology Business Executive's Awards Luncheon.

"The 'Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year' by *MEA Magazine* is a distinguished honor and well deserved," said Prince George's County Office of Central Services Director Roland Jones. "Sharon Jackson's work speaks volumes about her commitment

to small and minority business development. She works tirelessly behind the scenes to help grow and nurture Prince George's County's small and minority business community."

This is not the first time the leader of SDDD has received the Advocate of the Year Award. In 2013, Roland Jones received the same honor when he was Executive Director of SDDD. This type of national recognition over the last three years highlights the good work that the County is doing to support the grow and development of small and diverse business suppliers.

The Prince George's County Supplier Development & Diversity Division is the official certification agency for Prince George's County Government. This office exists to maximize County government's use of certified local, small, minority and disadvantaged and veteran busi-

nesses for procurement opportunities. The division also encourages the private sector to utilize these businesses for major projects in the County. SDDD has worked diligently to build up Prince George's County's use of minority and disadvantaged businesses through procurement assistance, business development, certification, education and training and advocacy. For more information, visit the Supplier Development & Diversity Division website at <http://diversity.mypgc.us> or call 301-883-6480.

MEA Magazine will present the award at the 11:00 a.m. Luncheon on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, located at 801 Mount Vernon, NW, Washington, D.C. For the online version of the *Minority Enterprise Advocate Magazine*, go to <http://meamagazine.com>.

PG County Council Mourns the Passing of the Honorable Stephen J. Del Giudice

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

The entire Prince George's County Council is deeply saddened by the passing of former Prince George's County Council Member and Chair Stephen J. Del Giudice. We offer our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to his wife, Sheila Driscoll, and children, Cara Lingle and Nicholas Del Giudice as well as his entire family at this most difficult time.

Steve was a brilliant, devoted and accomplished public servant who was dedicated to making Prince George's County and our region a better place. He was also a good friend and mentor who I had the great blessing to get to know when I was a District 6 staff member and he served the residents of District Two on the County Council.

Among his many leadership positions, the Honorable Stephen J. Del Giudice taught law at George Washington University, and served as a three-term mayor of Takoma Park and

president of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments. Residents of the Second District helped him make history with their enthusiastic support of his election to the County Council in November 1990 as a write-in candidate.

Serving two terms on the County Council from 1991 to 1998, Mr. Del Giudice promoted issues around urban revitalization, transportation and environmental planning in Prince George's County. He brought his extensive experience in economic and community development, transportation and land use planning, as well as zoning law, to his leadership as chair of the Council's planning and transportation committees, and to his terms in Council leadership as Vice-Chair in 1993 and 1998, and Chair in the 1996 Legislative Year. He drafted, sponsored and co-sponsored a host of amendments to the County's Zoning Ordinance, including the Urban Light Industrial Zone, the Mixed Use Town Center Zone and the Village

Zone laws. Steve was also a member of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Improvement Study Coordination Committee formed by the Federal Highway Administration to guide the development of plans for the Wilson Bridge Improvement Project.

As a Chair of Commission 2000, a broadly-based task force on 21st Century transportation needs which recommended broad policies to manage growth in Prince George's County, and which he also helped to create, Steve Del Giudice was a strong proponent for growth management initiatives. Whatever his position of leadership or service, he fought hard for the people he served.

Quoted in a 2006 *Washington Post* article, Steve said, "I consider myself a fairly intense person, and maybe term limits has made me more intense because I don't have a lot of time to accomplish what I want to do." We are grateful for his life of public service and we mourn the loss of a friend and a fighter for Prince George's County.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Responds to Justice Scalia's Offensive Remarks

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) sent a letter to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia today inviting him to join her in a tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Maryland. This was in response to comments Justice Scalia made earlier today during oral arguments regarding the use of affirmative action. Justice Scalia said "One of the briefs pointed out that most of the black scientists in this country don't come from schools like the University of Texas. They come from lesser schools where they do not feel that they're—that they're being pushed ahead in—in classes that are too—too fast for them." He also said, "There are those who contend that it does not benefit African-Americans to—to get them into the University of Texas where they do not do well, as opposed to having them go to a less-advanced school, a less—a slower-track school where they do well."

"Today's remarks by Justice Scalia were offensive, completely unacceptable, and have no place in our legal discourse," Edwards said. "It is shocking that such abhorrent comments about African-Americans were made by a U.S. Supreme Court justice. I would like to give Justice Scalia the benefit of the doubt that he spoke out of naiveté, and that is why I invited him to tour Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Maryland. Last year I traveled to each HBCU in Maryland, seeing firsthand the incredible scientific work being done there by students and faculty. I hope Justice Scalia will accept my invitation and I look forward to our tour in the near future."

Below is a transcript of Rep. Edwards' letter sent to Justice Scalia:

December 9, 2015
Justice Antonin
Gregory Scalia
Supreme Court of the
United States
One First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20543

Dear Justice Scalia,

I am writing to you regarding the remarks you made earlier today while hearing the Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin case. You are reported to have said that "most of the black scientists in this country do not come from the most advanced schools" and benefited from a "slower track." To say that I am greatly disappointed in your uninformed comments is a gross understatement. I found them offensive, completely unacceptable, and believe they have no place in our legal discourse.

As someone who toured Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in March 2014, I invite you to accompany me to Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. Seeing their facilities in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields and talking with their leaders, faculty, and students first-hand, I know you will gain insight and see how they are producing highly qual-

ified graduates needed to help maintain America's national security and technological competitiveness in an ever-changing 21st Century economy.

For example, Dr. David Wilson is the 12th president of Morgan State University and has more than 30 years of experience in higher education administration. Dr. Wilson holds four academic degrees: a B.S. in political science and an M.S. in education from Tuskegee University; an Ed.M. in educational planning and administration from Harvard University and an Ed.D. in administration, planning, and social policy, also from Harvard. He came to Morgan State from the University of Wisconsin, where he was chancellor of both University of Wisconsin Colleges and the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Morgan State's many recent highlights include procurement of the university's largest-ever research contract, a \$28.5-million, five-year contract from NASA; inclusion of Morgan State as one of the recipients of a \$129-million energy innovation research grant to Pennsylvania State University; the launch of an aggressive initiative to maintain excellence in customer service and improve the information technology infrastructure on campus; new construction on campus valued at \$234 million; signing of articulation agreements with several two-year colleges, bringing Morgan State bachelor's degrees to their campuses; approval of Morgan State's first off campus baccalaureate program by the State of Maryland; establishment of Morgan State's first online degree program; a significant expansion of study abroad opportunities for Morgan State students and the continuation of Morgan State's tradition of producing Fulbright Scholars.

I look forward to hearing back from you shortly.
Sincerely,
Donna F. Edwards

**Educational Systems
Federal Credit Union
Sponsors Millionaire's
Clubs at Local High Schools**
GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union announced this week that it now sponsors the Millionaire's Club at seven local high schools. As members of the Millionaire's Club, students work with a faculty advisor to complete a financial education curriculum designed to help them manage their finances.

The Millionaire's Club utilizes curriculum developed by the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE). The club members elect their own leadership, complete a year-end entrepreneurial project and have the opportunity to participate in national competitions such as the Stock Market Game™ and the Personal Finance Challenge™.

Educational Systems FCU now sponsors the Millionaire's Club at the following schools: Huntingtown High School, Calvert County
Thomas Stone High School, Charles County
Albert Einstein High School, Montgomery County
Springbrook High School, Montgomery County

Dr. Henry Wise, Jr. High School, Prince George's County
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Prince George's County
Frederick Douglas High School, Prince George's County
"For us, it's an honor to support education," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "The Millionaire's Club teaches students how to manage their personal finances which is a valuable skill that can be used throughout life. We are proud to sponsor this financial education program that provides a hands-on learning experience."

Each year, Educational Systems FCU sponsors several new Millionaire's Club programs. New clubs are financially supported with a sponsorship agreement shared equally between the Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and the District of Columbia and Educational Systems FCU. By a club's third year of operation, the members are expected to engage in an educational entrepreneurial project that instills business planning skills and generates funds to sustain the Millionaire's Club moving forward.

Educational Systems FCU (esfcu.org) has proudly served the education community for 60 years. With \$800 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties.

Edwards Statement on Sen. Mikulski's Efforts to Include \$390 Million in FY2016 For Consolidated FBI Headquarters

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement regarding Senator Barbara Mikulski's (MD-D) announcement this morning that she included \$390 million in FY2016 omnibus for a fully-consolidated FBI headquarters.

"I was proud to join Sen. Mikulski and Team Maryland to announce this initial, historic, and major down payment of \$390 million on a new, fully-consolidated headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This funding is a huge step forward to ensure the employees of the FBI receive a fully-consolidated facility that provides the most modern and best environment to achieve their security mission in the 21st Century and makes the smartest use of taxpayer dollars.

"From the very beginning, Team Maryland been unified at the federal and state level, and through two Governors. County Executive Baker has worked diligently with his fellow county executives in surrounding counties to ensure Maryland speaks with one voice why Prince George's County is the best and most logical location for the FBI of the 21st century. I am grateful for Sen. Mikulski's leadership in this effort, and I know all of Team Maryland will continue working together to bring the FBI to where it belongs: my home, our county—Prince George's County."

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

5 Things to Do With an Unexpected Inheritance

Unexpected money from a friend or relative can be a great surprise or a potentially difficult money lesson. How you plan for unexpected money issues overall can be a key to how well you'll handle a sudden windfall.

Many people don't do so well. A recent study (<http://research-news.osu.edu/archive/inheritance.htm>) from Ohio State University suggests that adults who inherit money are saving only about half of what they receive. Researcher Jay Zagorsky reported that about only 11 percent of the participants had received an inheritance with the median amount only around \$11,340. Zagorsky suggests awareness of such high spending numbers suggest it is time for a campaign on saving inherited wealth.

Want to get there early? Here's a plan for dealing with an unexpected inheritance or any other surprise money issues in the future:

1. Start by getting control of your current finances. Why wait for an inheritance? In 2013, the Gallup organization reported that only 1 in 3 Americans actually prepared a written or computerized household budget. If you've never prepared a budget before, know that it is the traditional starting point for all personal finance decisions.

2. Start saving now. The long-term purpose of budgeting (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting/>) is to find excess dollars so you can save and plan for the future. Even if it's a few dollars a week as other resources go toward everyday expenses, get in the habit of regular savings and investment now. Consider activating direct deposit to build those amounts automatically. If an inheritance happens, you will already have savings habits in place and account relationships set up to receive the money.

3. Line up qualified advice. Skilled financial or tax experts can help you review what you've done so far with your money and suggest ways to make your personal savings or investments go farther. Having this relationship in place before an expected—or unexpected—windfall is valuable. They'll know your situation and the best ways to handle new money. If an inheritance happens, consider a certified financial planner, certified public accountant and an attorney involved in trust or estate matters for your financial team.

4. Evaluate your relationships. Money can change people for better or worse. This is why you see so many troubling news stories about people who have an unexpected windfall. The best approach to sudden money is to go quietly and immediately into the planning phase—don't make announcements and involve only key loved ones who need to be part of the process.

5. Don't go on a spending spree. If you're lucky enough to receive an inheritance of significant size, planning doesn't mean quitting your job, buying a car or moving out of your current place, at least not immediately. Involve members of your financial team in your planning. After any tax or estate issues are settled and money is free for use, extinguish long-standing expenses, build an emergency fund and then establish savings and investments that are appropriate for you and your loved ones. Once details are complete, do have some fun, but try to keep the cost below 10 percent of the total inheritance amount.

Bottom line: Inherited money can help build a financial future. Get some advice, plan thoughtfully for taxes and investments and save a little bit for fun or luxury. Without proper planning, windfalls don't always last as long as you think.



Maryland Reverses Trend of Increased Sales of Tobacco Products to Minors

Partnerships, Health Campaign Help Retailers to Step Up Compliance With State Law

By PRESS OFFICER
DHMH

BALTIMORE, MD—Using public-private partnership to safeguard the health of its children, the State of Maryland has helped reduce by 56 percent so far this fiscal year the number of retailers who have attempted to illegally sell tobacco products to minors. As a result of this year's partnership, Maryland's non-compliance rate for Federal Fiscal Year 2016 has fallen to below 14 percent.

Each state is required to conduct annual random compliance checks of retailers to ensure they are complying with the law. After years of compliance with this standard, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene inspections found, Maryland retailers were noncompliant, with sales thresholds in Federal Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 respectively near 25 percent and to more than 30 percent. In spring 2015, Maryland's health department developed a comprehensive strategy to ensure that youth access to tobacco products from retail environments was swiftly addressed. The department also executed a marketing blitz that included billboards, social media posts, broadcast media ads, and educational packets and materials that were sent to retailers.

"This reduction in illegal tobacco sales to Maryland's youth could not have been done without a partnership between the State and the retail community," said Gov. Larry Hogan. "We know most smokers start when they are underage. This partnership is literally an investment in Maryland's future."

"The success in achieving such a significant reduction was a team effort," said Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Van T. Mitchell. "I would like to thank my staff, local health departments, community-based organizations, tobacco retailers and Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot in collaborating to achieve this accomplishment for Maryland's children."

"Health and Mental Hygiene's and the Comptroller's unprecedented outreach to the retail community has proven to be successful," said Ellen Valentino, Executive Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association, the retail organization representing convenience stores and service stations. "The public-private collaboration that encompassed educating retailers, parents and teens was the right direction and has resulted in this great news."

According to fall 2014 Health and Mental Hygiene surveys of high school youth, just

8.7 percent of public high school youth reported smoking cigarettes during the previous 30 days. In contrast, however, 20 percent reported using electronic aerosolized products (e.g., electronic cigarettes, "vapes," etc.) during the previous 30 days. These products are also illegal to sell to adolescents less than 18 years old.

A 2014 survey found that nearly two-thirds of Maryland adults who had ever smoked a whole cigarette began as adolescents. Of those who smoked their first whole cigarette before 18 years of age, nearly three-quarters went on to become regular cigarette smokers. The younger adolescents start smoking, the more likely it is that they will become addicted to nicotine, and the more strongly they become addicted. In Maryland alone, an excess of \$3.5 billion annually is required to treat tobacco-related illness.

For more than 20 years, federal and state laws have prohibited retailers from selling or giving cigarettes or any other tobacco product to minors less than 18 years of age. Retailer compliance with existing federal and state prohibitions on the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to underage adolescents is a critical element in Maryland's

strategy to reduce consumption of tobacco products, leading to a decrease in underage smoking and the overall use of tobacco products.

In a series of subsequent random inspections conducted May 2014 through September 2014, 31.9 percent of retailers sold cigarettes to underage youth, with rates in one jurisdiction as high as 54.7 percent. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration similarly found 23.8 percent of retailers across Maryland had sold tobacco to minors during that time period.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention list smoking-related illnesses—which include various cancers and heart- and lung-related conditions—at <http://goo.gl/rqQP0>. Anyone who could use free help in quitting their tobacco habit is urged to contact the Maryland Tobacco Quitline by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW or by visiting <http://smokingstopshere.com>.

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the state government agency that protects Maryland's public health and also works to help Marylanders make better health decisions for better health outcomes. Stay connected: www.twitter.com/MarylandDHMH and www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH.

Edwards from A1

woman in the Senate, and just the second ever—Illinois Democratic Sen. Carol Moseley Braun left the body in 1999.

This would be familiar territory for Edwards. The North Carolina native was one of six black women in her graduating class at Wake Forest University.

Edwards said she feels proud when she speaks to young African-American girls, who tell her they are able to see themselves differently when they see someone who looks like them holding a seat of power in Washington.

But it is not just her race and gender that set her apart in the halls of Congress. Her experience as a single mother struggling to pay the bills gives Edwards a unique perspective that she says shapes the way she thinks about policy-making.

"She's been through these same kind of struggles, a single mother trying to raise her son and get ahead financially, that much of America is going through," said Steve Cobble, political director for Progressive Democrats of America, an

advocacy group that has endorsed Edwards. "That would seem to be an important thing that helps her understand how real people live and I'm afraid a big chunk of Congress comes without a clue."

Cobble worked with Edwards when she was the executive director of the campaign finance reform group Center for a New Democracy and has known her for 25 years.

Before she got into politics, Edwards obtained a law degree from the University of New Hampshire and founded the National Network to End Domestic Violence, a coalition of advocacy groups for battered women. She helped pass the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 and then fought to reauthorize the law as a member of Congress in 2013.

As chairwoman of the Democratic Women's Caucus in the House, Edwards changed the conversation about equal pay to include emphasis on the fact that African-American women make just 64 cents for every dollar men make; for Latina women that number is 49 cents for every dollar men make.

"It's important to have the voice of a woman, and particularly my voice as a black woman, at the seat of power in the United States Senate because I have the ability to not just talk about those things from the 30,000-foot level, but talk about it on the ground because I have experienced it," Edwards said.

On the campaign trail, Edwards talks about how in college she relied on Planned Parenthood for medical check ups, making the current debate and heated rhetoric over that organization personal for her.

"When I look at the role that Planned Parenthood plays in so many lives, both in mine but certainly in other women's lives, I think how dare anyone think about taking away women's health care choices and an opportunity for a quality health care?" Edwards said.

Her passion about women's issues has been a central theme of her campaign, which looks to be a head-to-head with Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Montgomery County in April's Democratic primary (Rep. Elijah Cummings of Baltimore has not ruled out a run). Van Hollen has

a substantial fundraising advantage, out-raising Edwards by more than \$3 million.

Van Hollen's campaign has criticized Edwards for accepting a large portion of her money from outside of Maryland.

A Capital News Service analysis of Federal Election Commission records found that 47 percent of Van Hollen's individual fundraising through September came from within Maryland, while 14 percent of Edwards' fundraising came from donors in her home state.

In July Van Hollen called for both candidates to take a pledge to keep outside money out of the race. Edwards defended her fundraising, saying she doesn't want to silence progressive groups such as Emily's List, which aims to elect pro-choice women to Congress. The organization recently pledged to give \$1 million to support Edwards' campaign.

"I am proud to have the support," Edwards said. "Emily's List was first a supporter of Barbara Mikulski and propelled her into the Senate and they are helping me out in this campaign as well."

Arts from A1

share the news of this award to Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council. In each community the arts have the power to create new avenues for economic health and physical vibrancy, and for people to feel a sense of pride in their locality. This grant demonstrates this power and affirms that the arts are part of our everyday lives."

PGAHC Executive Director Rhonda Dallas stated, "Innovative Learners 21 is another ex-

ample of how arts community-led initiatives can have a profound impact on accelerating access to all the arts for all the children in our County, a vision that continues to frame the arts education strategic plan of PGAHC. Our NEA grant project manager, Eileen Cave, will be managing an outstanding roster of artists and educators who will provide school residencies, staff training, field trips and assessments that will help sustain the movement to infuse arts into the curriculum, and engage school

stakeholders with our growing creative economy."

Supporting research sponsorships and resources for this NEA grant project are being provided by Prince George's County Public Schools Office of Arts Integration for the AI schools.

"It is essential that the school system and the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council work together. Our goals of supporting arts education are so aligned. We look forward to being an active partner in providing school based teams and sup-

port for implementation of this valuable project," says John Ceschini, Arts Integration Officer, Prince George's County Public Schools.

Announcement of the six model school selections will be made over the next few weeks.

To learn more about the National Endowment for the Arts, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov. Follow the conversation about this and other NEA-funded projects on Twitter at @NEAarts.

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Announces Congress-Passed Transportation Bill Makes Needed Investments in Maryland Infrastructure

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced the Congress-passed Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act makes needed investments in Maryland transportation infrastructure, providing \$4.4 billion in federal funding for Maryland highways and transit over the next five years. The bipartisan legislation passed the Senate late Thursday and now heads to the White House to be signed into law as the first long-term national highway funding bill since 2005.

"This bipartisan legislation is great news for Maryland that fully funds construction and maintenance of our highways and mass transit, keeps the highway trust fund solvent, increases rail safety and continues needed reforms for Metro safety," Senator Mikulski said. "This bill will provide a much-needed shot in the arm to rebuild and restore our aging transportation infrastructure, easing congestion, improving safety and supporting thousands of Maryland jobs. I fought to ensure Maryland gets its fair share, investing \$4.4 billion in our state's highways and byways, roads, bridges and mass transit. By coming together on a long-term solution, MDOT and the construction industry will have certainty needed to plan for the future."

Senator Mikulski fought to ensure the FAST Act includes a fair share of federal funding for Maryland transportation infrastructure investments. The bill provides a total of \$4.4 billion in federal funding over the next five years, an increase of \$372.5 million over current levels. Of that funding, \$3.2 billion will be used to invest in Maryland's roadway infrastructure, an increase of \$282.5 million. The other \$1.2 billion of that funding will be used to support Maryland mass transit, an increase of \$90 million over current levels.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America's infrastructure has a D+ rating

with Maryland rated at C-. Currently, a third of America's roads, highways, byways and beltways are not up to safety standards, including 25 percent of major roadways in Maryland. Nationally, one in nine bridges is rated structurally deficient, including 317 in Maryland. Moody's Analytics estimates that every \$1 spent on infrastructure spurs economic activity raising GDP by about \$1.59.

The bill provides \$200 million to help commuter rail systems like MARC and states complete the installation of Positive Train Control (PTC) technology, which would prevent collisions and derailments by automatically stopping a train before a crash occurs.

Metro Safety

The bipartisan legislation includes reforms to enhance the safety oversight of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro). Senator Mikulski fought to include a provision that makes an important change to the way that individuals are selected to fill federal appointments to the Metro Board of Directors. Currently, the federal government's two principal directors and two alternate directors on the Board are selected by the General Services Administration (GSA), an agency with no transportation mandate. This legislation would transfer this authority from GSA to DOT in order to ensure that experts in transportation policy will be responsible for choosing who will represent the federal government on the Metro Board.

"I will not rest until Metro produces safety results," said Senator Mikulski, who fought to get the first-ever federal rail transit safety standards passed into law. "I have demanded new leadership and a new culture of safety at Metro. This legislation gives the U.S. Transportation Secretary the

See **Metro Safety**, Page A5



The Patuxent Rural Life Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS AND RECREATION

THE PATUXENT RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

The Patuxent Rural Life Museums, located within the 7,000-acre Patuxent River Park, are a collection of museums and farm buildings dedicated to preserving the heritage of southern Prince George's County. There are several buildings including the Duvall Tool Museum, a 1920's Sears Catalog House, a Blacksmith Shop, a Farrier and Tack Shop, a Tobacco Farming Museum, and the 1880 Duckett Log Cabin with its privy, chicken coop, and meat house. To learn more about the facilities, including days and hours of operation, or to schedule a tour, call 301-627-6074.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Why Are Children Less Valuable Than Guns in America? It's Time to Protect Children

Three years after the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Newtown, Connecticut where a lone 20-year-old gunman wielding an assault weapon snuffed out 26 child and teacher lives, our nation has done shamefully little to protect children instead of guns. This week more than ten thousand people attended over 100 Orange Walks in 43 states to stand up and deliver a rallying cry that we must and can end gun violence in America, according to Moms Demand Action—a cry that must continue and get louder and louder until our tone deaf political leaders hear or are retired from office.

New data this month from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show 2,525 children and teens died by gunfire in our nation in 2014; one child or teen death every 3 hours and 28 minutes, nearly 7 a day, 48 a week. What is this moral perversion in our midst that values guns more than children and human life?

In the three years since Sandy Hook's nightmare we have not passed even one common sense federal gun law to reduce gun violence and deaths and protect children from our out-of-control scourge of violence. Universal background checks work. The evidence is clear. The overwhelming majority of gun owners and non-gun owners support stricter background checks, yet the Congress has done nothing. How do we change this?

Seventy-eight children under 5 died by guns last year—30 more than the 48 law enforcement officers killed by guns in the line of duty. Is there no shame in the shooters or in the lawmakers who protect the shooters or in the industry who makes profits off the blood of children? Shouldn't Republicans, Democrats, and Independents of every race, income, color and faith be able to agree that child gun deaths are a moral blight on our nation which we have the means but not the will to prevent and change course?

Last month our hearts at the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) were broken by the death of our extraordinarily generous, creative, and decades-long partner and board member Pat Fallon,

cofounder of the award-winning Fallon Worldwide advertising agency. Some of his agency's most searing images depicted the relentless carnage of gun violence that kills and maims thousands of children year after year. CDF began our anti-violence campaign in 1994 after Peter Hart Research Associates conducted intergenerational focus groups of Black youths and adults. We were shocked to learn their number one concern was gun violence: Black male youths didn't believe they'd live to adulthood and Black parents saw gun violence as the number one threat to their children.

Then came Columbine with two White teen boys wearing trench coats who shot and killed 13 people and injured 21 others in a rampage at their school that shocked the nation. Shouldn't it be illegal to sell and buy these weapons of war in America that turn our streets, schools, and workplaces into killing fields? Surely we are better than this. How can we let our lawmakers stand by and do nothing to stop the slaughter of innocents? Since 1963, over three times more children and teens have died from guns in America than U.S. soldiers killed in action in wars abroad.

Pat Fallon and his creative colleagues did everything in their power to help bring us to our senses over the years to staunch the tide of gun violence with these and other powerful violence prevention campaigns urging us to value our children more than our guns. Why is a child's right to live less important than a gunman's right to kill and the gun manufacturers' profits?

Children are certainly not the only ones in danger in our gun-saturated nation which accounts for less than 5 percent of the global population but owns between 35 to 50 percent of all civilian-owned guns in the world. Recent estimates of U.S. civilian gun ownership are as high as 310 million—about one gun for each person. U.S. military and law enforcement agencies possess approximately 4 million guns. Isn't there something horribly wrong with this picture? A gun in the home makes the likelihood of homicide three times higher, suicide three to five times higher, and accidental death four times higher. For each time a gun in the home injures or kills in self-defense, there are 11 completed

See **WATCH**, Page A7

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Corporate Mergers: Good or Bad for Diversity?

"Our workforce and our entire economy are strongest when we embrace diversity to its fullest, and that means opening doors of opportunity to everyone and recognizing that the American Dream excludes no one."

—U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez

The issue of diversity with respect to corporate mergers usually is discussed as a potential drawback—the clash between cultures is sometimes cited as a reason such mergers fail.

Often, however, such mergers present an opportunity to expand ethnic and cultural diversity in the workplace and create economic opportunity. The recently-approved merger of AT&T and DirecTV requires the merged company to make available an affordable, low-priced standalone broadband service to low-income consumers in its broadband service area. Furthermore, due to the strong advocacy of the National Urban League and other civil rights organizations, the merger extended AT&T's diversity strategic plan to DirecTV's hiring, procurement, programming and philanthropy.

Similarly, we worked with NBC Universal and Comcast on a groundbreaking memorandum of understanding to insure that the 2011 merger would provide for a variety of diversity initiatives, including establishing a \$20 million venture capital fund boosting opportunities for minority entrepreneurs in digital media, eight new independently owned and operated networks offering substantial participation by minorities, the creation of Diversity Advisory Councils, and the increase of minority participation in news, public affairs programming and jobs.

There is, of course, the danger that a merger could work in the opposite direction. If the merger

between pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and Allergan is completed, the merged company will be headquartered in—and pay its taxes to—Ireland. The deal allows Pfizer to take advantage of Ireland's tax rates while skirting U.S. rules aimed at curtailing tax inversions.

Will the loss of corporate tax revenue exacerbate income inequality in the United States or will it, as Pfizer's CEO insists, allow the company to create more jobs in the United States?

Largely the merger would create the world's largest drug manufacturer, assurances on diversity—not just in hiring and procurement, but in research and development—could not be more vital and essential.

While Pfizer has provided some transparency about its employment diversity, supplier diversity track record and C-suite diversity, less is known about Allergan and very little is known or understood about which companies practices will survive once Pfizer becomes an Irish company.

The pending merger of The Dow Chemical Company and DuPont USA poses similar questions. Both Dow and DuPont have established effective diversity and inclusion policies, but unless an retention or expansion of those policies is a specific condition of the merger, it could represent a step backward.

In the rush to satisfy activist shareholders, the diversity policies that made these companies strong in the first place must not be overlooked or diminished. The National Urban League believes that diversity is in the public interest and a compelling 21st Century necessity. Regulators who oversee these companies must evaluate diversity and ask the tough questions and the National Urban League and other civil rights leadership organizations will do the same.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

How To Respond to a Child's Disappointment

Welcome to the holiday season. It's usually a time of happy things, but can also bring big disappointments for some children because they didn't get that present they wanted so badly.

As parents we want to make our children happy, but there are times when we just aren't going to hit that target. We may misunderstand what was so important in our child's eyes, or, more commonly, what was desired was simply impractical, unaffordable or downright impossible. Whatever the reason, the result is a disappointed child. So how do Mom and Dad cope with that?

You can start by simply listening to what your child has to say. Minimizing or discounting what has caused the disappointment will only make things worse. And keep in mind that holiday disappointments come in all kinds of sizes and flavors. It may be a toy that wasn't received, or a classmate who suddenly is ignoring your child, or a holiday party that "all" the other kids were invited to, but your child was left out.

While the cause of the disappointment may seem unimportant and trivial to you, to your child it's a very real and meaningful hurt. You know the disappointment will be soon forgotten, but for your child that disappointment is a big deal and one that he or she feels will never be overcome. It's important to remember that your values and understanding are not your child's.

You also don't want to respond to your child's disappointment with a reward or pleasant experience intended to make the hurt disappear. Doing so trains your child to expect a reward whenever something disappointing occurs, helping to establish a pattern of behavior that can lead to problems later in life.

Instead, talk "with" your child, rather than "to" him or her. Don't make it an interrogation, but instead encourage your child to explain what he or she is feeling.

Try to communicate that you understand the disappointment being felt. While it's fine to let your son or daughter know that you understand because you've also had times when you were disappointed, don't try to top their story with your own bigger stories.

Disappointing events will occur in your child's life. Don't ignore or minimize them. Instead, learn to listen, to understand and to empathize. This will help you help your child get past the hurt and gain support from your love.

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

Metro Safety from A4

authority to name federal representatives to the Metro Board. We need strong leadership on the Board to make long-overdue improvements to the safety and reliability of Metro."

The legislation establishes minimum safety standards for the operations of the nation's aging transit systems. Following the fatal Red Line crash in 2009, Senator Mikulski introduced the National Metro Safety Act, to establish the first-ever federal rail transit

safety standards. It also served as a basis for the safety legislation ultimately signed into law directing the Secretary of Transportation to develop safety standards for rail cars and take into consideration recommendations by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). This legislation builds upon that important reform by expanding federal safety standards for the safe operation of Metro systems, based on recommendations by NTSB as well as industry best practices.

Council from A1

cant outcomes for the residents and citizens of our County," said County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "The Local Development Council will provide a voice for the community so that local impact spending reflects input from residents in the surrounding communities."

State law created a mechanism for ensuring public input in how some of the funds generated by a gaming facility are expended by the County. According to law, a LDC must be established in each jurisdiction where a gaming licensee is in operation. This body is composed of individuals representing different stakeholder groups, including three representatives from the Maryland General Assembly and one from MGM Resorts International, operator of the gaming facility at National Harbor. The LDC must have seven residents of the communities and four representatives of the businesses/institutions located in immediate proximity to the facility.

Prince George's County Local Development Council Members (b)—denotes business community representative

Patricia Britton,
Fort Washington
Jeffrey Chandler,
Fort Washington
Lorenzo Creighton,
MGM Resorts
International
Representative (b)
Montina Anderson Davis,
Fort Washington
John Denison,
Fort Washington (b)
Michael Errico,
Peterson Companies
Representative (b)
Anita Gonzalez, Accokeek
Johnny Osborne,
Fort Washington (b)
Manervia Riddick,
Fort Washington
Zeno St. Cyr,
Fort Washington
Javier Torres,
Clinton (b)
Veronica Turner,
Camp Springs

Elected Officials

Senator C. Anthony Muse
Delegate Jay Walker
Delegate Kris Valderamma

White House and Department of Labor Launch \$100 Million TechHire Grant Competition

By PRESS OFFICER
White House Office

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith, Cabinet Secretary and Chair of the My Brother's Keeper Task Force Broderick Johnson, and Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, will travel to Baltimore, Maryland to announce new steps to advance the President's TechHire initiative and expand opportunities for young Americans to get trained and placed into well-paying tech jobs. Baltimore is launching its TechHire initiative to expand pathways into tech jobs to those who have historically been left out of Baltimore's economy and those who are underrepresented in tech fields.

America has about 5.5 million open jobs today. Over half a million job openings are in information technology fields such as software development, network administration, and cybersecurity—rapidly growing sectors with many more jobs than just a decade ago. Whether in manufacturing, advertising, retail or banking, the average salary in a job that requires information technology (IT) skills is 50 percent higher than the average private-sector American job.

Businesses have added 13.5 million jobs over 68 straight months of private-sector job growth, extending the longest streak on record. While this progress is significant, employers are in critical need of tech talent and too many Americans lack the skills and experience to access these well-paying jobs. Over six million young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 are out of school and work, which represents a significant untapped resource of productivity and talent for the country.

That is why in March 2015, President Obama launched TechHire, a bold multi-sector effort and call to action to empower Americans with the skills they need, through universities and community colleges, but also nontraditional approaches like "coding bootcamps" and high-quality online courses that can rapidly train workers for a well-paying job, often in just a few months.

Since then, 35 cities, states, and rural areas with more than 500 employer partners in need of this workforce, have begun working together to find new ways to recruit and place applicants based on their actual skills and to create more fast track tech training opportunities. The President has set a goal of reaching

more than 40 communities by the end of 2015.

Today, the Administration announced new steps to ensure that Americans, including youth and young adults ages 17–29, individuals with disabilities, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals with criminal records, get access including:

- **\$100 Million TechHire Grant Competition.** Earlier this year, the President announced that as a part of the TechHire initiative, the Administration would commit \$100 million to expanding accelerated tech training. Today, the Department of Labor (DOL) is releasing the application for those grants. They will award \$100 million or more in H-1B funds, including at least \$50 million specifically dedicated to supporting young Americans, ages 17–29, with barriers to training and employment, to partnerships that can that rapidly train and connect workers to well-paying, high-growth jobs across industries such as information technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing.

- **\$20 Million Training to Work Grant Competition.** Building off the President's announcement from earlier this month of new actions to promote

rehabilitation and reintegration for the formerly incarcerated, today the Administration is also announcing the launch of the fourth round of DOL's Training to Work grant competition that will award approximately 14 grants to expand access to tech jobs and other high growth occupations for adults ages 18 and older returning from correctional facilities. Interested applicants may apply to this opportunity here.

- **14 Cities and States Have Made New Commitments to Expand Access to Tech Training and Jobs Since the Launch.** Since the launch of TechHire earlier this year, the President has announced that 14 new communities including Baltimore have responded to the TechHire initiative with commitments to work with employer partners on new ways to recruit and place applicants based on their skills, create more accelerated tech training opportunities, and invest in innovative placement programs to connect trained workers with entrepreneurial opportunities and well-paying jobs. Today, the City of Baltimore is launching its TechHire initiative with an emphasis on including those who have historically been left out of Baltimore's economy and those who are underrepresented in tech fields.

Distillers from A1

copper still, simultaneously filling the air of Blackwater Distilling's warehouse with an eye-watering sting.

In-house distiller and marketing coordinator Andy Keller spends most days at Blackwater's Kent Island distillery running the still and bottling their locally famed Sloop Betty vodka and Picaroon rum.

According to Keller, Sloop Betty inherited its name from an old folk tale that is nearly as old as Maryland's history with alcohol production. Sloop Betty was the name of a ship anchored in the Chesapeake Bay that was captured by Blackbeard in the 1700s. After finding it laden with wine and other alcoholic beverages, the pirates allegedly got drunk and burnt the ship down, Keller said.

"We thought it was a very Maryland name," Keller said in between measuring the alcohol content of the post-still vodka.

Keller pours every few gallons that come from the still into a plastic drum that will be hauled into a temperature-controlled room for a six-day fermentation process. In combination with yeast from Martinique, the process brings the rum to a drinkable level—at 12 or 13 percent alcohol.

The company has also decided to invest in the future by barrelling some of the rum and vodka close to their tasting bar. When they are finished aging in two to four years, Keller said, each barrel will taste differently just because of their placement and wood used for the barrel.

"For anything that we decide not to barrel for aging, we put it through carbon filtration, which takes the edge off a little," Keller said. "Our goal for everything made here is for it to be sippable at room temperature or on the rocks, whichever way you like to drink it."

This Isn't the Prohibition Era

As the first fully licensed distillery to open in Maryland in decades, Keller said, Blackwater Distillery opened to a market that had all but forgotten the state's distilling past. When they

first began distilling in February of 2008, there were just over 250 craft distilleries operating in the U.S., and according to *Entrepreneur* magazine's Food and Beverage Trend report, that number had risen to 623 in 2013.

But getting the company up and running didn't come without a lot of leg work.

"The laws were all out of date—we couldn't do tours, tastings or bottle sales out of here," Keller said. "So we got those laws changed at the end of 2012 and we started to bring people in here in 2013. And then after that, other distilleries started opening up."

Though the laws are no longer stuck in the 1920s, distilleries are still limited in what they can do, which includes not being able to participate in beer and wine festivals. This, Keller said, can limit their marketing reach.

"It is sometimes unfair that we can't join in on the beer and wine festivals," Keller said.

Edgardo Zuniga, owner of Twin Valley Distillers in Rockville, agreed that both the federal and state laws are sometimes hard to work with when introducing new types of liquor.

"Every time we bottle with flavors, we have to make a formula and give it to the federal government," said Zuniga, who opened Twin Valley in 2014. "It takes months to get approved. I am working with four different bourbons since I started distilling, but I don't want to complicate my life right now—maybe in my third year."

Zuniga operates the only distillery in Montgomery County by himself and usually works from 3 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day producing an average of close to 225 gallons of bourbon each week, he said.

With so much on his plate—or in his glass—already, Zuniga has found it difficult to both manage the distillery and get alcohol approved by the government. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration can take up to 30 or 40 days to approve labels, he said, which means he is not actually able to make a sale until two months later.

Enter the penultimate factor to solving these issues: the



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MARISSA HORN

Sloop Betty was the company's first product on the market. A honey version was introduced shortly after, which uses honey from local farms on the Eastern Shore in the distilling process

Maryland Distillers Guild, a nonprofit group formed in February by 11 distilleries, including Blackwater Distilling and Twin Valley Distillers.

Atticks, the president of the guild, said they are already beginning to line up sponsors for the spring's legislative session to mold the laws to better fit the times and needs of the distillers.

At the Capital

Some state legislators are also looking to change that in the spring by expanding on last year's county-specific state laws with new regulations that could make distillers' jobs a little easier.

The last legislative session brought about several bill proposals, including Senate Bill 523 by Sen. Jim Mathias', D-Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, which established a Class 9 limited distillery license in Worcester County. Though the law just took effect July 1, a

12,000-square-foot distillery has already broken ground in Ocean City. Seacrets, the famed bar, is moving their new line of craft spirits from production in Delaware to the new facility close by. Besides creating up to 100,000 gallons of distilled spirits each year, the new distillery is expected to bring jobs and even more tourism to the area when it opens in the spring.

"Over the last two decades, Maryland lawmakers have worked hard to craft policy to promote Maryland wineries and, more recently, micro-breweries," Sen. Stephen Hershey, R-Caroline, Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's counties. "It is only logical that we now modernize our rules governing the growing number of craft-distilleries."

Hershey said he plans to introduce legislation during the

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review
Legend

Legend
Grade: B
Rated R, pervasive
harsh profanity,
some graphic violence
2 hrs., 11 min

Everyone knows that when you have identical twins, one of them is going to be evil. That's just science. But what happens when they're BOTH monsters? That, my friends, is *Legend*.

Written and directed by Brian Helgeland (*42, A Knight's Tale*), the film is about the Kray brothers, violent gangsters who were part of London's swingin' '60s scene. How accurate the details are, I couldn't say, though I note that the word "legend" appears in the title. Either way, it's a bruising, entertaining piece of crime cinema, with Tom Hardy doing great work as both twins.

Reggie is the smart one, the personable businessman who can run a nightclub like a respectable member of society while administering brutal beat-downs in the back room. He has a nice girlfriend, Frances (Emily Browning), who serves as narrator and our introduction to the underworld (shades of "Goodfellas," and not for the last time). When the American mafia, represented by Chazz Palminteri, visits to see about setting up a partnership with the Krays, Reggie and his shady businessman, Leslie Payne (David Thewlis), see it as a smart opportunity.

Reggie's brother sees things differently. Ronnie is a psychopath, quite literally insane, and uninterested in playing nice to keep a low profile. He thinks being a gangster should be about busting heads, not making business deals. He's also a homosex-



ROTTENTOMATOES

From Academy Award® winner Brian Helgeland comes the true story of the rise and fall of London's most notorious gangsters, Reggie and Ron Kray, both portrayed by Tom Hardy in an incredible performance. Legend is a classic crime thriller taking us into the secret history of the 1960s and the extraordinary events that secured the infamy of the Kray Twins.

ual, which is more problematic in the mid '60s than it would be now, although being a violent criminal shields Ronnie from most persecution.

In addition to building his little empire of nightclubs and protection rackets, Reggie has to keep Ronnie under control, a full-time job in itself. Things come to a head midway through the film, when Reggie and Ronnie turn their fists against each other, ending in a crucial acknowledgment from Ronnie: maybe he's not quite himself, sanity-wise. We need more of that—more of Reggie's frustration over his problems being caused by his own twin, and more of Ronnie's human side.

The two are fascinating to watch, and their exploits are entertaining, but we never quite get inside their heads.

Hardy does give two fully realized performances, though, playing Reg and Ron as entirely different characters. As Ronnie the psycho, he wears eyeglasses and (it appears to me) a plate of false lower teeth. His forehead doesn't furrow expressively the way it usually does, as if Ronnie is too thick and savage for such delicate nuance. (I speak as one who has given serious contemplation to the details of Tom Hardy's face.) As Reggie, Hardy is more recognizable, both in appearance and demeanor, and is

no less imposing than Ronnie just because he's not quite as violent. They carry themselves differently and have different speech patterns. In fact, there is enough difference between them (and the photographic trickery is so smooth) that you're liable to forget it's the work of a single actor.

Legend is ultimately too slight to enter the canon of great gangster films, and Brian Helgeland (as I'm sure he'd be the first to tell you) is no Martin Scorsese. But it's a bloody, captivating mess as far as it goes, with career-best efforts from Tom Hardy. Next we're hoping for a movie where he plays triplets.

Distillers from A5

next session that could loosen the state's restrictions and allow distilleries to participate in these festivals.

"I can't imagine a legislative session without changes to the state's alcohol laws, especially as the craft-production industry evolves," Hershey said.

Besides Gov. Larry Hogan's stop at the groundbreaking of Kevin Plank's Sagamore Distillery in Baltimore in late October, local governments have also joined in on backing local distilleries.

Zuniga said he's still waiting for Hogan to swing by and pick up the first batch of bourbon that he made for him.

"I have one for him and one for me—a bottle of batch No. 1, bourbon," he said. "(Hogan) can come to the distillery and get it."

Queen Anne's County recently gave Blackwater Distillery \$170,000 in grants and low-interest loans for expansion projects. That will include new, steel fermenters, an upgraded still, more employees, "a couple of other things and boom, it's gone," Keller said.

"It doesn't seem like a couple of tanks would cost \$70,000, but they will," he said.

Keller said they plan for a portion of the money to go toward local marketing campaigns. But with 300 to 400 people already coming in each Saturday for taste-testing tours for the duration of the summer, Keller said word-of-mouth seems to be working pretty well.

"There's a commitment here to support our work and our existing business community," said Jamie Gilbert, the county's eco-

nomics development coordinator. "We think their growth potential, product, marketing and quality of the product is just fantastic."

Plus it might help that Gilbert is a bit of a fan of the hometown spirit, he said.

"It is one of the best vodkas I have ever had, but that being said, what shocked me is that I am not that big of a rum fan, and yet I believe that Picaroon surpasses the Sloop Betty," Gilbert said. "Their products keep coming and they are just knocking it out of the park."

'Its' More of a Come-Back Thing

The number of craft distilleries in the U.S. is expected to continue growing, reaching 1,000 by 2020, according to the American Distilling Institute's annual report in 2014. And counties that are not necessarily Maryland tourist hot spots are feeling some of the effects from the surge, said Connie Yingling, spokeswoman for the Maryland Office of Tourism.

"With (Blackwater Distilling), it's not just about the vodka products, or the rum, it's truly an operation," Yingling said. "It falls into the agricultural tourism for us, and agriculture and seafood are what has driven Queen Anne's County to be one of the largest producers in the state in those industries."

Every new distillery that opens offers something different, Yingling said, with some being built in old barns or garages, and others being set on in the middle of a field for a "rustic feel."

"Each location has its own flavor, and a lot of the alcohol is named after iconic things within the Maryland area, which



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MARISSA HORN

Distilling's in-house distiller and marketing coordinator Andy Keller measures the alcohol content of newly distilled rum, which will later ferment for six days before being bottled and sold

localizes it," she said. "A lot of Ruddy Duck's beers are named after things within the southern Maryland area, while Flying Dog in Frederick—well their names are a little edgier, which sometimes makes it difficult to talk about them."

The Maryland Office of Tourism and many distillers hope that combining efforts now can provide for a distillery trail, much

like the state's several wine trails, in the future. The numbers for the distilleries' initial impact aren't in, but if they are anything like the tourism brought in through breweries and wineries in the state, Yingling said, it could bring Maryland to the forefront of distilling again.

"It's more of a comeback thing than a new thing, honestly," she said.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

When Stadiums Become Potential Killing Fields



The terrorist attempt to enter the French National Stadium and kill thousands of innocent people was barbaric, contemptible, and absent of any humanity. But it wasn't original. The shocking cruelty of attacking the crowded space where a multicultural, multiracial French national team won the 1998 World Cup doesn't make it any less derivative. Sports arenas have long been attractive targets for terrorists to wage the kind of psychological war that carries an impact beyond a body count.

Stadiums swirl with connectivity, magic, and memories. At their worst, these memories are soaked in self-made smoothies of vomit and cheap beer and the only connections are between your wallet and the nearest cash register. "Magic" means getting out of the parking lot in less than an hour. It's overpriced and gross, but usually with time and the right friends, a memory to be enjoyed all the same. But at their best, a stadium thrums with spectral vibrations containing every goal, basket, high five, and hug between strangers. You can feel a buzz, and when entering a new stadium absent of that history, you notice it.

To stain a sports arena with blood is to attack the idea that there could be a communal space defined by frivolous fun. In dictator Augusto Pinochet's Chile, the stadium was chosen very consciously as a place to gather dissidents to interrogate, torture and kill them. It was where the Chilean military mutilated the hands, in full view of a captive crowd, of legendary folksinger Victor Jara. The message from the US-backed dictator was that there was no such thing as a safe space. I once studied in Chile, and I interviewed people who made it out of the stadium alive, if not intact. They speak about their own country's stadium with hollowed eyes. Free World Cup tickets wouldn't draw them back. Pinochet holds no patent in converting a stadium into a concentration camp. The list of dictators who saw its dual use is as long as the 20th century. From the fascist leaders in the Europe of the 1930s to Syria, Afghanistan, and Libya in recent years, stadiums became synonymous with death.

Then there are stadiums as targets of war. Palestine Stadium in Gaza City was bombed by the Israeli military on April 1, 2006, putting a crater at the heart of the 10,000 seat arena. FIFA attempted to rebuild the stadium after its investigation found that it was done "without any reason." In November 2012, after six years of putting the stadium back together, it was bombed again by Israeli Defense Forces. This time the IDF claimed it was the site of missile launching. To attack and destroy this space, as I've argued before, is to attack hope.

Today the psychological fear that fans are the new "soft targets" has inexorably altered the experience of going to a game. It is no longer something centered around kids and we grownups trying to forget our headaches and act like kids for a few hours. Now getting into a sports arena is an experience only slightly less invasive than a colonoscopy. It means you and your children are getting patted down, having your bags checked, being wanded while bomb-sniffing dogs make their way up and down the lines. At one game, my kid tried to pet the dog and we almost ended up kicked out to the curb. This wasn't a petting zoo, we were told. This was for his protection. But it wasn't for him.

And yet still we attend, with no stopping in sight. The \$9 beers, the drunk fans, the knowledge that our tax dollars are paying for the enterprise have not stopped us. The trudging security lines that resemble a "First World Problem" version of a Soviet-era breadline won't stop us either. The inconveniences for now are being shunted aside as we hope against hope for a memory that will get us through the rest of the week. Yet finding those memories becomes more difficult as the real world encroaches on the sports world from all sides. The attackers and the protectors across the world have left these spaces disfigured, mangled, and scarred beyond what they were, with no evidence time will ever go backward. At some point we will need to decide whether to mourn their end or continue to try to breathe life into the ailing idea that there can ever again be a collective space to feel a collective joy.

Calendar of Events

December 31 — January 6, 2016

Looking Back/Looking Forward: 15 Years of Millennium Arts Salon Exhibition

Date and Time: Open through Saturday, January 2, 2016, 10 am (Closed Thanksgiving Day)

Description: This exhibition commemorates Millennium Arts Salon's (MAS) commitment to art and culture in the Washington, D.C. area for over fifteen years.

Participating artists featured in this exhibition foster the dialogue between cultural consciousness, social expectations, and human emotion.

Abstract forms, fictional characters, and symbolic representations give us an entry point to an open-ended exchange about human connectivity.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange

3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722

Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Front Window Featured Artist:

Jewelry Maker Carol-Lynn Swol

Date and Time: Open through Saturday, January 2, 2016, 10 am

Description: Jewelry designer and artist Carol-Lynn Swol is making her mark in the local art jewelry world with very durable, yet different materials.

Her use of Tyvek, a thin plastic that looks and feels like paper, with metals such as brass, copper, silver, and karat gold fill her arsenal of impeccably crafted items. She uses various techniques to create patterns on her wearable jewelry, including a vintage, early 20th-century hand-cut steel stamping set.

Carol-Lynn explains that her work "could be considered limited production rather than one-of-a-kind production, but no two items will ever be exactly the same."

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange

3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD

Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Seniors on Stage Auditions

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 6, 2016, 9 am-1:30 pm

Description: Are you a talented singer 60 & better? Come and audition to be a part of the 2015 Seniors on Stage Show being held in the spring at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Auditions are scheduled every 15 minutes. Please call for details or to register to audition.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 60 & Better

Location: Prince George's Ballroom

2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD

Contact: 301-446-3400; 301-446-3402

TR: Basketball

Date & Time: Wednesdays, January 6-March 23, 2016, 6:30-8 pm

Description: Learn the basic skills and rules of basketball while improving balance and coordination. Participants will also make new friends and improve their social skills.

Cost: Resident: \$40 (Residents only)

Ages: Teens and adults with disabilities, ages 13 & up

Location: Tanglewood Regional Center

8333 Woodyard Road, Clinton, MD

Contact: 301-446-3424; TTY 301-699-2544

TR: Art

Date & Time: Wednesdays, January 6-February 24, 2016, 6:30-8 pm

Description: This visual arts program will present different artistic mediums for participants to explore and express themselves. The class will incorporate basic art techniques along with skill development to improve hand and eye coordination.

Cost: Resident: \$65 (Residents only)

Ages: 13 yrs & up

Location: Glenn Dale Community Center

11901 Glenn Dale Blvd, Glenn Dale, MD

Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

Watch from A4

and attempted gun suicides, seven gun criminal assaults and homicides, and four unintentional shooting deaths or injuries. Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native children and teens are disproportionately likely to die from a gun.

These horrendous facts are not acts of God. They are our indefensible choices as Americans. We must urgently push policymakers to confront and end our national gun violence epidemic as the huge public health crisis it is and there are some steps we can all take now:

- **End the federal ban on gun research and fund research on effective gun violence prevention strategies. Why is the National Rifle Association (NRA) so afraid of the truth and why do our lawmakers and voters capitulate to NRA bullying?** Almost 20 years ago Congress blocked the CDC's gun research funding by 95 percent. The agency's budget that year was cut by the exact amount provided the previous year to study prevention of gun injuries and fatalities. Similar

restrictions were put on research by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2011. Public health professionals continue to believe studying our epidemic gun violence crisis will lead to new understandings of its root causes and possible breakthroughs in new approaches to reduce the daily death toll caused by guns. This is the same process that occurred after focused research on automobile deaths in the 20th century. In 2013, President Obama signed an executive order clarifying that the CDC and NIH are not prohibited from studying gun violence and included \$10 million in funding to study prevention of gun injuries and fatalities. That funding was never approved by Congress. Over the years, some academic institutions and organizations have stepped in to fund some excellent research but a much more coordinated and concentrated research effort is crucial to make gun violence reduction one of the first major public health goals of the 21st century.

See WATCH, Page A12

EARTH TALK ... Does Crowdfunding Really Help Environmentalists Get Their Project Started?

Dear EarthTalk:

How are environmentalists and environmental groups using crowdfunding to get their projects off the ground?

— Sean Jackson, Baltimore, MD

Crowdfunding relies on the collective effort of a large amount of individuals making online contributions to allow a project or venture to happen. ArtistShare, a website that allows fans to fund the creation of new artistic works, was the Internet's first fan-funded crowdfunding platform, launching its initial project in October 2003. Today, crowdfunding is a bit more crowded, to say the least, and among the most popular sites for this purpose today are GoFundMe, IndieGoGo, Kickstarter and Razoo. Crowdfunding has grown from a market of \$880 million in 2010 to \$16 billion in 2014, with 2015 estimated to surpass \$34 billion.

A wide variety of both small and large-scale environmental endeavors are now utilizing this revolutionary new kind of fundraising. In November 2015, Indiegogo.com, the largest global crowdfunding platform, allowed the HomeBiogas system to reach their fundraising goal of \$100,000 in 24 hours. The HomeBiogas system is a family-sized biogas system that converts any organic waste into clean cooking gas and a high quality liquid fertilizer for the garden.

With the system, 2.2 pounds of food waste produces an average of about 200 liters of gas, which generates around one hour of cooking over a high flame. Also, using the HomeBiogas for one year saves six tons of CO₂, the equivalent of your car's yearly emission. The campaign will be active on IndieGoGo until December 23, 2015, and with the support gained they hope to streamline the products to households by May 2016.

On Kickstarter.com, a creative project-focused crowdfunding site where "every project is an opportunity to create the universe and culture you want to see," over 2,000 people pledged a total of some \$280,000 to fund the Little Sun Charge high-performance solar phone charger, developed by artist Olafur Eliasson and engineer Frederik Ottesen. Backers of the Little Sun, which offers a full smartphone charge from five hours of sunshine, are projected to receive the product in March 2016. The device is handheld and can be clipped to a backpack to collect sun when walking outdoors.

Smaller scale—but equally impactful—current environmental efforts seeking crowdfunding include: Ashley Hoffman's Fundraiser for the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education; the World Parrot Trust USA's effort to save wild parrots from being stolen from their nests and forced into captivity; the Washington Youth Garden's living garden classroom that pro-



CREDIT: PATRICK BOUQUET, FLICKRCC

The World Parrot Trust USA is raising money using the non-profit crowdfunding platform Razoo to support its work preventing birds from being stolen from their nests and sold into captivity.

vides hands-on science learning, inspires environmental stewardship and cultivates healthy food choices in youth and families; the Franklin Land Trust's work with Western Massachusetts landowners to conserve farms, woodlands and scenic vistas; and the Nature Conservancy's innovative approach to turn farmland into temporary habitat for millions of migrating birds. All of these campaigns are posted on Razoo.com, which has helped non-profit organizations raise

\$450 million since 2006. Any registered non-profit can claim its Razoo page and start raising money online immediately through the site's customizable fundraising portal.

While crowdfunding to support environmental campaigns and projects may still be in its infancy, no doubt more and more non-profit leaders and activists will embrace it as a way to expand their constituencies and pay for operations in the most democratic way possible.

CONTACTS: ArtistShare, www.artistshare.com; GoFundMe, www.gofundme.com; IndieGoGo, www.indiegogo.com; Kickstarter, www.kickstarter.com; Razoo, www.razoo.com.

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Departments of Environment and Transportation, Maryland Port Administration Announce Clean and Green Ports Agreement

EPA Presents Grant Funding to Assist in Lowering Emissions From Port Operations

By Press Officer MDE

BALTIMORE, MD—This month, State officials announced Maryland's commitment to cooperative efforts that will protect our environment while sustaining and advancing the economic health of the Port of Baltimore.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of Transportation

(MDOT) and MDOT's Maryland Port Administration, officials announced at the Dundalk Marine Terminal. The agreement is designed to create opportunities to secure funding from the non-profit sector or the federal government for programs that reduce air emissions.

Shawn Garvin, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 Administrator, presented grant funding of \$870,000 to be used for one such program: replacing trucks coming in and

out of the port with new, cleaner trucks with lower emissions. Other possibilities for reducing emissions could come through programs such as a locomotive idling reduction program, the use of solar panels or the electrification of cargo-handling activities at the Port.

"Our partnership with the port means cleaner air and a stronger economy for the region. Environmental stewardship with ships, trucks, trains and machines here at home opens the door to a healthier

bay and community and becomes a shining example for other ports around the world," Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles said.

The Port of Baltimore supports more than 13,600 direct jobs and nearly 130,000 jobs in our state that are linked to the Port.

"Today, working with our partners, the Port of Baltimore has committed to growing business and being a good neighbor," said Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn.

SAVE THE DATE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GREEN 2016 SUMMIT

MAY 19

8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Join us for this FREE, one-day green summit to engage, promote and empower action for environmental initiatives and sustainability practices in our County.

Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center
(On the campus of the University of Maryland)
7801 Alumni Drive
College Park, MD 20742

Stay Tuned: Further details to be announced early 2016