

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 84, No. 2 January 14 — January 20, 2016 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents



PHOTO BY TIM LAUER VIA USDA/FLICKR

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is working to provide students with regular meals and the nutrition they need to succeed in school.

New Program Offers Free Meals, Cuts Hunger in Maryland Schools

By RACHEL KUIPERS
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Some Baltimore City students don't have to worry about where their next meal will come from, and that started this school year.

The best part is, students don't need to fill out the forms that officials suspect keep many from seeing the benefits. According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), all schools in Balti-

more City qualify—meaning every student in every school in Baltimore City has access to free breakfasts and lunches.

This school year brought a change to the school system that has already improved the lives of many students. If 40 percent of students in a single school qualify for the free and reduced-price meals program because of low family income, the entire school qualifies for free breakfasts and lunches, thanks to the Community Eligibility Provision funded by

the federal government's Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2015.

According to state education officials, over 84 percent of students in Baltimore City schools qualified for free and reduced-price meals (FARMS) in the past two years. In comparison, Loudoun County, Va., which has topped the U.S. Census Bureau's list of richest counties, has just over 17 percent of students that are eligible. Nearby Montgomery County in Maryland has about 32 percent of stu-

dents qualifying for free or lower-cost meals.

From 2009 to 2013, the median household income in Baltimore City was \$41,385, according to data from the Census Bureau. In comparison, the median household income of Loudoun County was almost three times higher at \$122,238. During the same period of time, the median home value of Baltimore City was

See **FREE MEALS** Page A5

Largo High School Selected as GRAMMY® Signature School Enterprise Award Semifinalist

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Largo High School choir, in Prince George's County, was recently selected as a GRAMMY® Signature School Enterprise Award Semifinalist—the only school in the Washington metropolitan area to receive the honor.

Created in 1998, the GRAMMY Signature Schools program recognizes top U.S. public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education during an academic school year. For schools that are economically underserved, the GRAMMY Foundation established the En-

terprise Award to recognize the efforts these schools have made in music education.

"I am so proud of our choir and the accomplishments they continue to achieve," said Principal Dr. Afie Mirshah-Nayar. "I am truly impressed with their musical talents and the passion they demonstrate on a daily basis. They are so deserving of this award."

Brandon Felder, Director of Choral Activities for Largo High School, submitted an on-line application for the award in September. The application requested detailed information/data about the school's music program, enrollment, demographics,

See **LARGO** Page A6

Council Leadership Supports Renaming University of Maryland Football Stadium

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

Prince George's County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D) – District 6, and Vice-Chair Dannielle Glaros (D)—District 3, have expressed support for University of Maryland President Wallace Loh and student advocates calling for a change in the name of the university's

football stadium. Byrd Stadium, with a capacity of more than 50,000, is home to the Maryland Terrapins football team. The stadium name honors the legacy of H.C. "Curly" Byrd, who served as university president for 43 years, retiring in 1954.

See **STADIUM** Page A5

PGCSDDD Division Collects 150 Unwrapped Toys and Canned Food Items for Families in Need this Holiday Season

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Recently, the Prince George's County Supplier Development & Diversity Division (SDDD) in the Office of Central Services hosted 130 business executives at the 4th Annual Supplier Diversity Appreciation Night. This annual awards reception celebrates supplier diversity in Prince George's County.

The featured speaker for the event was Sharon Pinder, President/CEO, Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council (CRMSDC).

"Supplier Diversity is an inclusion initiative that links private businesses with diverse suppliers of goods and services. It is important because it leverages the core values of fairness and equal opportunity by at-

See **PGSDDD** Page A3

EDC President Jim Coleman Announces 'Activate Prosperity' Initiative

Kicks Off New Year With New Mission—"Now is Not the Time to Cool Off" Says Jim Coleman

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Economic Development Corporation President and CEO Jim Coleman announced a new initiative called "Activate Prosperity" for 2016 and beyond at a packed job fair for MGM and Whiting Turner at EDC headquarters in Largo, MD. The MGM/Whiting-Turner job fair turned out more than 50 job-seekers at 7 a.m. this morning, all on time and motivated; looking for a better way of life. "Activate Prosperity" is a three-year plan geared toward increasing the median household income and assessable tax rate and decreasing the County's poverty rate.

"We've got to think differently in 2016 in order to change the world for our residents," said Mr. Coleman. "No more status quo for Prince George's County. I have no respect for the status quo. It's



PHOTO COURTESY PGCEDC

Center: EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman

time to stir things up and push the envelope on making radical changes to positively impact the prosperity of our residents and businesses. They deserve nothing less."

Part of the fuel behind "Activate Prosperity" came from the need to ensure that the 27,000 residents who are currently unemployed have high paying, family sustaining

wages. An active workforce is a prosperous workforce. "Activate Prosperity" will maximize the deployment of the Economic Development Corporations efforts and financial resources in order to raise awareness about current job opportunities and help businesses to take advantage of available programs so they can grow and create more jobs.

Effective immediately, the EDC will begin by meeting with the CEO's of the top 300 companies in the region over the next three years, discussing the value proposition of Prince George's County, which includes the ability to utilize the

See **PROSPERITY** Page A3

RETRACTION/CORRECTION— Vol. 83, No. 53 December 31 – January 6, 2016

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

The byline for this article was incorrect, the correct byline should have read:

by Lori C. Valentine, *Director of Communications*
Prince George's County
Economic Development Corporation

The photograph was also taken by and supplied to us by Lori C. Valentine, *Director of Communications*

INSIDE

Commission, Congress Evaluate SNAP and Needs of Hungry Americans

There were 781,497 Marylanders who received SNAP benefits in August 2015, out of 45.4 million total recipients in the United States, according to data collected by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Community, Page A3

Whither America

Children of color, already the majority of our youngest children, soon will be the majority of our children in 2020. Millions of them lack their basic needs for enough food, decent housing, health care and quality early childhood supports during their years of greatest brain development.

Commentary, Page A4

Record-Keeping Biggest Concern for Maryland Police Following Statewide Audit

That practice resulted in unusually large balances across certain accounts, including one with a \$44 million deficit and another with a \$34 million surplus—"neither of which were reasonable," according to the audit.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Point Break

Johnny Utah, an "extreme sport polyathlete" turned fledgling FBI agent, is played by Luke Bracey. In this version, Johnny Utah is haunted by the events of the movie's first two minutes, when he and his motocross biker friend were doing dangerous things on the tops of pointy mountains, and then the friend fell to his death, as one does.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Whatever happened to Al Gore? He was all over the media around the time of *An Inconvenient Truth* but lately I haven't heard anything about him.

—Jim Mercer,
St. Paul, MN

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Scotland's national poet celebrated with Burns Night Supper at Darnall's Chance

You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy Burns Night Supper at Darnall's Chance House Museum. Robert Burns is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide. He was born Jan. 25, 1759.

Come to the Burns Night Supper and experience the atmosphere and flavor of Scotland and poet Burns, on Saturday, Jan. 30, 6 to 8 p.m. Reservations and payment required in advance. For ages 21 and up, the fee is \$45 for residents; \$54 for non-residents. Call 301-952-8010. Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, overlooking Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro.

By the way, just what did Robert Burns wax poetic about? How about "Auld Lang Syne," "A Red, Red, Rose" and "A Man's a Man for A' That."

Coming up

The next Morningside Town Meeting will be Jan. 19, 7 p.m., in the Town Hall.

Incidentally, Vice-Mayor Benn Cann is working with a company, REVIZE, to build a new website for the town.

Health Screenings: Med-Star Southern Maryland Hospital will be offering blood draws for cholesterol and glucose check on Thurs., Jan. 21, 9:30-11 a.m. in the Blue Heron Room at the Camp Springs Senior Activity Center. (Participants should fast from midnight the night before.) Blood pressure will also be checked. Free.

Applause

Dominique Holder, a senior at Oxon Hill High School, was recently named the first youth poet laureate of Prince George's County. The prize comes with opportunities to perform her poems around the county and to publish a book of her own poems.

Hannah Tripp, a 6th grader at St. Philip's School, was awarded 1st place in Division II (grades 4-6) of the Catholic Standard newspaper's annual Christmas Card Contest. She received a Barnes & Noble gift card.

Morningside memories, 1961

These items are from the Jan. 1961 issue of the Morningside-Side-Lines.

Fifty-five years ago, Morningside held its annual Christmas House Decorating Contest. Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Duff, of 508 Allies Road, won 1st place. Other winners were: 2nd place, Mr. and Mrs. Enos Ralston, 406 Maple Road; 3rd, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Whitfield, 203 Maple Road; honorable mention, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Harder, 21 Marianne Drive.

On a sadder note: Joe and Mary College, of 504 Maple Road, had a Thank You note in the newsletter. They were thanking their neighbors and friends who came to their assistance during and after a recent fire in their home. The fire was started by two of their children playing with matches in a storage room.

May they rest in peace

Peter Salvatore Paterno, Jr., 80, formerly of Skyline, a retired sergeant with the Metropolitan Police Dept., died Nov. 27. During his career he worked in the old 1st Precinct, then in the traffic division where he served as a motorcycle police officer. He also oversaw the cadet program, as well as the alcohol enforcement van. He was the son of the late Pete and Florence Paterno, my neighbors on Skyline Drive. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Zola; children, Debi, Cindy, Craig, Jeffrey and foster son Edward Stuart; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Services were held in Easton.

James Ira Hooe, 84, of District Heights, died Dec. 27. He served in the Air Force for

25 years and upon retirement, worked as a U.S. Capitol Police Officer for 20 years. He was the husband for 61 years of Loretta Hooe, a regular reader of this column whose emails often provided news for me; she died in 2014. Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Donna Hooe, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter. Another son, James, died in 1987. Services were at Lee's and burial will be at Cheltenham.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Carmina Young and Evelyn Lozano, Jan. 2; Gene Desmarais and Courtnei Bland, Jan. 3; Jennifer Jung (proprietor of GI Market), J.B. Thomas and Christa Neale, Jan. 4; Darlie Norton, Ariel Thomas, Sarah Vilky and Terry Foster, Jan. 6; Eva Hugings and Charles Boxley, Jan. 8; Martin Miller, Frank Binsted and Roc Wheeler, Jan. 13; Curtis DeMarco Knowles, my son Mike McHale, Kathleen Giroux and Joanie Mangum, Jan. 14; Dolly Wood, Jan. 16; Nikial M. Boston, Jan. 17; Dennis Seaman and Linda Cullinan, Jan. 19; June Nicholson and Gina Glagola Hull, Jan. 20.

Happy anniversary to Tom and Monique Laws on Jan. 3; my grandson Conor and Heather McHale, their 12th on Jan. 3; my son John and Michelle McHale, their 19th on Jan. 4; Diane and Steve Zirkle, Jan. 9; David and Lori Williams, Jan. 9; Gary and Melody Barnes, Jan. 14; and Frank and Sharleen Kelly Capella, their 61st on Jan. 15.

On Jan. 3, Jack and I would have celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary. (Jack died in 2004.) We were married Jan. 3, 1951, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Saginaw, Mich., and honeymooned in Traverse City, up north on the shores of Lake Michigan. In January!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Steven Carter, Dr. Sandra Jones, Davion Dorsett, Khadija Hakim-Hinton, Nurbert Hughes, Jr., Walter Joiner, Ian Williams, Janice Patterson, Bernestine (Bunny) Bryan, Mavis Turnbull, Nicole Falby, Beatrice Chapman, Abu Davies, Ben Fauber, Brandon Holmes, Lawrence Omoregbe, Jordan Joseph, Roseline Omoregbe, Yannick Bourne, William Terry, Donovan Cain, Florella Wallace who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays during the month of January 2016.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATIONS

Happy wedding anniversary to George & Paula Carter, Nurbert & Carol Hughes, Buddy & Betty King, Walter & Teresa Lindsey Joiner who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries during the month of January.

GREATER BADEN MEDICAL SERVICE, INC.

Services available at the Community Health Center in Brandywine, Maryland are dental services, mental health, family health, pregnancy, diagnostic services, primary health care and immunizations.

The Center operates year-round and primarily serves the rural population in Brandywine and surrounding cities. The address is 7450 Albert Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-3035. Phone number is (301) 599-0460. Website is www.gbms.org.

THE SHOW PLACE ARENA

Join us at the Show Place Arena dancing and singing the night away with Urban Vibe Entertainments' Valentines Love Jam. Invite that very special someone to be serenaded by the smooth sounds of Bobby Brown, Mint Condition, Ginuwine, and 112. Cost of tickets are \$59-\$95, plus service charges. Tickets are on sale at all Ticketmaster locations, Ticketmaster.com and Phonecharge. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact number is 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544.

RESIDENT TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Prince George's County Public Schools will host a series of information sessions in January. Resident Teacher Information Sessions will be held Wednesday, January 13 at Laurel High School (Cafeteria):

8000 Cherry Lane, Laurel, Maryland 20707 and Wednesday, January 20 Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School (Cafeteria), 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

The Resident Teacher Program is a Maryland Approved Alternative Program for individuals who have not received any teacher training, but possess at least a Bachelor's Degree. For more information about the Resident Teacher program, please visit website: <http://www.residentteacherprogram.org/>.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Financial Peace University (FPU) is coming to Clinton UMC starting February 13, 2016, from 1:00 PM-2:30 PM on Saturdays. The church will be hosting the classes to help individuals to learn to manage money God's way, getting out of debt, saving money, investing for the future and outrageous generosity in a way that is scripturally based, practical, and proven. The classes are 90 minutes each, once a week for 9 consecutive weeks. If you are interested in enrolling in these finance classes please register on line at <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1009945>.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement on Passage of Omnibus Spending Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement regarding the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which will keep the federal government funded through September. The legislation passed the House 316-113.

"Today's omnibus legislation is a bipartisan compromise, and is therefore far from perfect. It is certainly not the bill I would have written, as I am deeply concerned that it ends the ban on crude oil exports, includes the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA), provides no financial assistance for Puerto Rico, and further erodes disclosure on political spending requirements.

"However, it does accomplish several important tasks for Maryland and the American people. Namely, it avoids another disastrous Republican government shutdown right before the holidays, makes vital investments for working families, ensures federal employees receive a long-overdue pay increase, and provides critical funding for numerous projects in Maryland. The package includes almost none of the horrendous new policy riders Republicans threatened to include that would have devastated women's access to health and reproductive care, environmental protections, and net neutrality. The bill also avoids a litany of giveaways to numerous Republican special interests.

"I continue to hold out hope that Republicans will end their ongoing practice of creating one manufactured crisis after another and work with Democrats to create jobs, strengthen the middle class, and invest in America's future."

Rep. Edwards was a cosponsor of the following efforts that were included in the bill:

- Reauthorizes the key James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, making the Health Program permanent and reauthorizing the Victims Compensation Fund for five years;
- Delays the so-called "Cadillac" tax, a tax on employer-provided health plans worth over a certain threshold, for two years—from 2018 to 2020.

Important federal priorities:

- Federal Employees: Provides for an average 1.3 percent pay increase, free identity protection coverage, and \$5,000,000 in identity theft insurance for 10 years, \$290 million increase for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and an increase to \$250 a month, from \$130, in the pre-tax public transportation subsidy allowed for all employees, not just federal workers. The increase would be retroactive to January 1 and would increase to \$255 in 2016 for transit customers. The 2016 level also would apply to the parking subsidy, now at \$250, for those who drive.
- Renewable Energy: Provides a major boost to renewable energy by extending the wind Production Tax Credit for five years (through 2019), and extending the solar Investment Tax Credit for five years (through 2021), while phasing both credits down



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

somewhat over time. Extending the solar tax credit is estimated to create 61,000 jobs in 2017 alone. It is also estimated that the wind industry will grow to over 100,000 jobs over four years with the renewed wind tax credit.

- Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy R&D: Provides an 8 percent increase over 2015 for R&D activities in the pursuit of new clean energy and energy efficiency technologies.
- Overall Education: The bill restores the \$2.5 billion cut in education that the GOP had proposed and also makes critical additional investments of \$1.4 billion above FY2015, in such areas as Title I that serves 24 million at-risk students.

• Early Learning: Investing in Head Start produces results—and this bill invests nearly \$400 million more than the House GOP bill and nearly \$600 million more than FY2015 in this vital initiative. The bill also provides \$250 million for Preschool Development Grants, assisting 18 states across the country.

• Medical Research: Medical research at NIH has been underfunded for the last several years. This bill provides \$900 million more than the House GOP bill and \$2 billion more than FY2015 for this life-saving research.

• Infrastructure: The popular TIGER grants are being used across the country to repair infrastructure and contribute to economic growth. The House GOP bill had slashed TIGER grants by 80 percent, killing jobs, but this bill restores the funding to the FY2015 level of \$500 million.

• Law Enforcement: The bill provides \$187 million for COPS hiring grants, \$7 million above the FY2015 level and \$187 million above the House GOP bill, which had eliminated the hiring grants. The bill also provides \$80 million for the Community Policing Initiative, including \$22.5 million for body-worn cameras and \$15 million for Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grants, an increase over the House bill.

Important Maryland priorities:

- Consolidated FBI Headquarters: \$390 million;
- WMATA Metro: Fully restores \$150 million federal subsidy;
- Purple Line: \$100 million;
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): Provides \$19.3 billion for NASA, \$1.3 billion (7%) more than FY2015 and \$756 million (4%) more than the request.
- National Institutes of Health (NIH): Provides \$32.084 billion for the NIH, an increase of \$2 billion from last year's level, and the

largest increase since FY2003. The increase fully funds the budget request of \$200 million for the new Precision Medicine Initiative and provides an increase of \$350 million for Alzheimer's disease research. It also includes increases of \$85 million for the BRAIN Initiative and \$100 million for research to combat antimicrobial resistance. Every NIH Institute and Center receives increased funding to support investments to advance science and speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics, and preventive measures to improve the health of all Americans.

• National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): Provides an additional \$100 million to the FY2015 level, for a total of \$964 million.

NW Bio Plans to Expand Board, Welcomes Woodford's Call for Independent Investigation of Allegations in Anonymous Internet Report

BETHESDA, MD—Northwest Biotherapeutics (NASDAQ: NWBO) ("NW Bio"), a U.S. biotechnology company developing DCVax® personalized immune therapies for solid tumor cancers, announced today that the Board is committed to adding an additional independent director, and the Company welcomes Neil Woodford's call for an independent investigation of allegations in a recent anonymous internet report on NW Bio. The Company's Board is under way on both initiatives.

NW Bio CEO Linda Powers stated, "We agree with Mr. Woodford that, at NW Bio's current stage of development, expanding our Board to include another independent director with financial expertise can be quite helpful for the Company's continued growth. Our clinical programs are growing, and we have expanded the management personnel in important areas during this year, including expansion of the independent external team that has been performing our CFO function since 2012, as well as expansion of internal financial personnel and clinical personnel. It makes sense to expand the Board as well."

"The interview and consideration process for a new Board seat is well under way with Mr. Woodford's candidate, Mr. Elliott Leary. Our Board is hoping to meet with him again in the next couple of days, and to promptly complete the process."

Ms. Powers also commented: "We also welcome Mr. Woodford's proposal for an independent investigation of claims made in a recent internet report. Most of those claims have been recycled over and over, and the internet report was anonymous. However, the Company and the Board take such claims seriously, the Board has already been meeting to address the report, and the Board plans to meet again this week in regard to moving forward on an independent investigation such as Mr. Woodford has proposed."

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Create a Financial Calendar for the New Year



When was the last time you made a financial resolution on New Year's Eve? If you can't remember, you're in good company.

The Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America's annual New Year's resolutions survey www.allianzlife.com/about/news-and-events for 2014 reported that 49 percent of respondents said that health and wellness were their first priorities for the coming year, up from 43 percent in 2013. Only 30 percent ranked financial stability as their top goal for the year.

In 2016, maybe it's time to push financial fitness to the top of your list by creating an annual financial calendar that helps you save, spend and invest a little smarter. Here are some suggestions to build your calendar:

Set three important money goals for the year. Three money goals may not sound like a lot, but if you've never thought about money goals before, establishing these targets can make a major difference in your financial life. Set goals that address key money concerns or serve as a springboard for a solid financial future. Choose what makes sense for you, but here are three basic goals to start with:

- Create or reset your budget. If you've never made a budget before, spend a month or two tracking everything you spend. Review your findings closely and see whether you're spending less than you earn. If not, determine if you can cut spending to direct more funds to meet key goals. If you already have a budget, consider reevaluating your finances to see where you could cut costs.
- Build an emergency fund. An emergency fund (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/emergencyfund>) contains between three to six months of living expenses you can draw upon only in a real financial emergency such as unemployment, illness or a major unplanned expense.
- Save for something special. Make one of your three goals a fun goal—a vacation, a new bike, a wardrobe upgrade—something that feels like a reward.

Here are calendar items that might help you reach those goals.

Make sure you note staggered receipt dates for each of your three free credit reports (<https://www.annualcreditreport.com>) from Experian, TransUnion and Equifax so you can keep a steady eye on your credit and spot irregularities if they happen.

Prevent severe money surprises by marking key repair or replacement dates on home, appliance and other personal expenses that might be coming up in the future. Use the time you have now to schedule inspections and estimates for each so you'll be able to start setting aside funds in advance.

Retirement readiness is another key calendar item. At least once a year, consider reviewing your holdings in retirement or investment accounts to make sure they're still performing as you've planned or if not, whether you need to restructure the investments in your portfolio.

Put the open enrollment dates for employer- or self-employment benefits on your calendar and then mark a date several weeks before to allow you to start thinking through necessary changes. The way you choose employer or self-employment benefits is a key part of your financial planning and should intersect with other independent money decisions you're making for yourself and your family.

Insurance renewal dates are important to mark as well. If you're not comparison-shopping for the auto, homeowners or health insurance coverage you buy on your own, there's a good possibility you're losing out on money, service or coverage.

Set two dates each year to review your overall finances. You might consider dates in June and November to see how you're doing with budget, savings, spending, investment and tax issues. The June date is for corrective actions; the November date is to determine the last-minute spending, savings or tax moves you want to make before December 31 and to set financial goals for the New Year. If you work with a qualified financial or tax expert, consider involving him or her in the conversation.

Bottom line: If you use a calendar or datebook to keep on schedule, add important money dates and activities so you can meet your lifetime financial goals.

Prosperity from A1

County's \$50 million Economic Development Incentive Fund and Hire Prince George's County incentives, and increasing the number of small business matchmaking forums and meetings it will hold.

The EDC will also utilize 'Activate Prosperity' by working to maximize the State's investment in County projects, securing federal grant funding to deploy a One-Stop Career Center in the Prince George's County Correctional Facility, and utilizing the EDC's Workforce Development Division to host workforce and economic de-

velopment Open Houses at the County's mega churches to build maximum awareness of the job opportunities and resources within the EDC.

For more information on business development assistance or expansion, contact the Pradeep Ganguly (pganguly@co.pg.md.us) at 301-583-4602.

For more information on jobs, contact Brenda Gillis (bgillis@co.pg.md.us) at the Largo One-Stop Career Center (301-618-8425) or Adrienne Stay (astay@co.pg.md.us) at the Laurel One-Stop Career Center (301-362-9708).

Commission, Congress Evaluate SNAP and Needs of Hungry Americans

By JULIE GALLAGHER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Forty eight million.

That is how many people lived in hungry households in the United States in 2014, according to the Food Research and Action Center.

In order to combat this huge problem, the National Commission on Hunger recently recommended that Congress and the Obama administration create a cross-agency, coordinated national plan to end hunger.

"Clearly we need to improve our current programs, but we also need to address the root causes of hunger and ensure we are counting and supporting the most vulnerable citizens of America," commission co-chair Dr. Mariana Chilton said about the steps needed to be taken to eliminate hunger.

This commission, a 10-person bipartisan task force that began work in 2015, was the handiwork of outgoing Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., who was a prominent congressional advocate on hunger issues. The panel, whose members were appointed by the House and Senate, was given the job of identifying the causes of hunger and creating solutions to bring relief to those 48 million Americans.

Co-chairs Chilton and Robert Doar met with Congress on Nov. 18—during National Hunger Awareness Week—to discuss their year-long study, their observations about the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP), and some of their final recommendations for Congress. The findings will be released in a report in the upcoming weeks.

Some of the commission's major findings were the need for job-training and assistance programs in order to lift low-income

Americans (who are most likely to be hungry) out of poverty, special attention to families with children and veterans who are hungry, as well as adjustments to the SNAP program to allow families more time to stabilize after getting a job.

Originally scheduled to be released in October, the final report was delayed because the commission could not agree on several of the final recommendations, according to Doar.

Chilton said that many people will often get a job and lose their SNAP benefits before they have a chance to adjust to their new income, making them even more likely to be hungry.

There were 781,497 Marylanders who received SNAP benefits in August 2015, out of 45.4 million total recipients in the United States, according to data collected by the United States Department of Agriculture.

"From my perspective as a scientist, my sense is that many legislators and just the general public do not understand what the experience of hunger is like," Chilton said. "They think it could be an eyeball diagnosis and see it very easily, but it manifests in many invisible and harmful ways."

Even though Maryland is the wealthiest state in the country, there are still high rates of hunger, said Michael J. Wilson, director of Maryland Hunger Solutions, a nonprofit in Maryland that works to eliminate hunger, utilize federal hunger solution programs, encourage healthy nutrition, and train other nonprofit groups around the state.

"There is a single word answer why there is hunger in Maryland: poverty," Wilson said in a phone interview.

Doar said at the hearing that the commission found that while

SNAP does help low-income people buy food, it does not address any other underlying causes of poverty and hunger, such as lack of work.

Wilson argued that job-training programs may help some Americans, but it is not always the solution, especially for children and retirees.

Wilson said that the Maryland Department of Human Resources works with nonprofits and supports the work of local organizations. Maryland offers an array of other services, including a state-funded breakfast program.

"Maryland should lead the way," Wilson said about finding solutions to hunger.

Wilson hoped that the commission will propose a "multi-level approach" and broad recommendations in the report.

Rep. Stacey Plaskett, D-Virgin Islands, expressed concerns at the hearing about the presence of food deserts in the United States.

Food deserts, which are low-income communities that have no supermarkets with affordable, healthy food within a reasonable distance, are present in Maryland.

One in four Baltimore residents live in a food desert, and that number is even higher for children, where the rate is 1 in 3, according to Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Baltimore, who spoke at a pop-up farmers' market about hunger and food deserts in Maryland last month.

"We will continue to engage in this fight for healthier lives, both in Washington and at City Hall," Cummings said. "Yet we all know that the challenge of food deserts—and their effect on diet and health—still persists."

Cummings represents the hungriest region in the state—Baltimore City.

According to statistics from Feeding America, Baltimore City had the highest rate of food insecurity in 2013. The nonprofit found that 22.7 percent of Baltimore residents had a lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life, according to the USDA's definition of food insecurity. Somerset County followed behind with 19.1 percent.

Cummings' district had the highest food insecurity of all the Maryland congressional districts, with 19.7 percent. Sixty-seven percent of his constituents are eligible for government aid such as SNAP, WIC, TEFAP, and free school meals.

The Food Research Action Center (FRAC) ranked the Baltimore-Towson metropolitan area as 79th in food hardship, which is defined as a "struggle to put food on the table", in 2013-2014, with 16.5 percent of people identifying as having difficulties affording food. Maryland ranked 42nd out of 50 states, with 14.0 percent facing food hardships.

Chilton said that the commission was only able to study food deserts briefly, yet heard from many citizens who testified throughout the country that people lacked the money to buy food and had no access to transportation to get food.

Doar said the commission urged the USDA to approve more stores to participate in the SNAP program to encourage more availability of food in these food deserts, both urban and rural.

Cummings said at the farmer's market that the local and federal governments and businesses will fight for expanded access to healthy foods, but asked his constituents to continue demanding such healthy food.

"At the end of the day, our health and survival is up to us," Cummings said.

PGSDDD from A1

tempting to level the playing field," said Sharon Moore Jackson, Acting Executive Director for the Supplier Development & Diversity Division. "Our program would not be successful without our expert facilitators and resource partners. I also want to extend my sincerest gratitude for the generous support and partnership of Corvias Solutions and Essex Construction, LLC, our event sponsors."

Every year, this event honors those who have helped SDDD provide valuable information and resources to assist in the growth of small, minority, disadvantaged, and veteran-owned businesses in Prince George's County. During the awards ceremony, some of the County's newly certified firms and contract awardees were also recognized, hoping to inspire business owners and help them recognize how they too can leverage their certification.

In the spirit of the holiday season, SDDD called on members of the business community, resource partners and other event attendees and collected over 150 unwrapped toys and nonperishable food items that will be distributed by the Prince George's County Department of Social Services to children and families in the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) communities.

The honorees for the 2015 Supplier Diversity Appreciation Night are as follows:

Diversity Outreach Program Facilitators

Tami Mullen, The Intuitive Group; Marie Wright, Internal Revenue Service; Terry Speigner, NGEN, LLC; Mary Battle, Ebony Wilkerson and Jade Haynes of the Supplier Development & Diversity Division; J. Steward Smith and Shelly Gross-Wade, FSC First; Toni Miles, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation; Canjor Reed and Marie Day of Contract Administration & Procurement, Office of Central Services; Diane Brown, Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union; Jeffrey Miles, BB&T Bank; Nadine Boone, U.S. Small Business Administration; Glenn Ivey; Sheryl Ponds; Dawn Booth, The Booth Law Office; Wes Owens, Prince George's County Public Schools;

County Connections Series Presenters

Barbara Manley, Alicia Proctor, and Maurice Craney and of Contract Administration & Procurement, Office of Central Services; Malcolm Clerkey, General Services Division, Office of Central Services; Richard Hilmer, Fleet Management, Office of Central Services; Brandon Hill, Department of Permitting, Inspec-

tions and Enforcement; James Lyons, Department of the Environment; Kimberly Funk, Corvias Solutions; Shirley Canty and Kaaryn Stanford of the Department of Corrections; Amanda Gullickson, Office of the Sheriff; Wes Owens, Andrew Onukwubiri, Cathy Atchison, Keith Wharton, Corey Carter, Donna Parks, Johnna Smarr, Brenda Allen, Youssef Antar, Jackson Ibrinke, Mark Turner, Kara Miley-Libby, Shari Blohm, and Denise Yorkshire of Prince George's County Public Schools; Kevin Berman, Casey Berman, Scott Troise, and Theresa Mitchell, Berman Enterprises; Kevin Lewis, BECO Management; James Harper, Hanniyah Madyun, Brad Lewis, Steve Day, Jacob Erbes, Tim Davis, and David Fisher of Hensel Phelps.

Certification Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), County-Based Business (CBB) and County-Located Certification (CLB) Recognitions:

Avalon Consulting, LLC, Comer Construction, Inc., F&L Construction, Inc., The New Barbet II Corporation and Trusted Associates, LLP; Boatman & Magnani, Inc., Commercial Demolition, LLC, Erimax, Inc., Habersham Builders IV, Inc., Perrin Enterprises, LLC and Anchor Construction Corporation; CSA Central, Inc.; Dixie Construction Company; Graybar

Electric Company, Inc. and Motorola Solutions.

Outstanding Contract Awardees:

Capital Transmission, Inc.; E & R Services, Inc.; Gilford Corporation; MCA Construction, Inc.; Nardi Construction, Inc.; Timothy Handy & Associates, Inc.

The 4th Annual Supplier Diversity Appreciation Night was made possible because of our event sponsors partners: Corvias Solutions and Essex Construction, LLC.

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 businesses 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 us at <http://diversity.mypgc.us> or call 301-883-6480.

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Statement on Tax Extenders Package

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, praised the passage of a package of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, which renews expiring or expired tax provisions. The PATH Act or tax extenders package is designed to provide certainty for American businesses and support for American taxpayers and families by using the tax code to encourage economic growth and development, innovation, and job creation. By making several major provisions permanent, including enhancements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), the package also provides critical support to low- and middle-income families and individuals. Senator Cardin was pleased that the package also makes permanent parity for benefits related to the use of public transit, incentives for conservation easements, and the Low Income House Credit minimum rate for new construction, all of which are important for Baltimore and communities throughout Maryland.

"Our tax code directly or indirectly affects every American and resident of the U.S. We desperately need to enact comprehensive tax reform, but in the meantime, we should be doing all we can to make the current system better encourage economic growth and development, spur innovation, and create jobs. We also can use the tax code to provide critical support for our children, families, and workers, and provide stability and predictability for our businesses," said Senator Cardin. "I do not agree with every provision that has been included in the bill, and I am gravely disappointed that the so much of this package has not been offset further. But overall, the tax exten-

ders package is a balanced one that contains significant and much-needed improvements for individuals and businesses alike."

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

"I am very proud of my work to extend the availability of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to promote the hiring of the long-term unemployed—and am particularly pleased that WOTC, with this improvement, has been extended for five years. WOTC has been extremely effective in encouraging employers to take chance on hiring individuals who are difficult to hire and in so doing, dramatically reduced the burden of public assistance with respect to the unemployed. Studies on the Work Opportunity Tax Credit have shown that for every WOTC hire, the federal government saves approximately \$17,000 by encouraging the hiring of hard-to-employ individuals. This long-term extension is good not only for helping Marylanders and individuals throughout the country find work—it is also good for the overall economic health of our government."

New Markets Tax Credit

"I am gratified that a five-year extension of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) was adopted into the extenders package. The NMTC has leveraged an unprecedented level of investment to low income communities, helping revitalize blighted areas with high levels of poverty and unemployment. In Maryland, I've seen it make a real difference, creating over 7,000 full-time jobs and more than 25,000 construction jobs over the past

See Tax Extenders, Page A6

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Natalie Cole: Still Unforgettable

"Natalie fought a fierce, courageous battle, dying how she live ... with dignity, strength and honor. Our beloved Mother and sister will be greatly missed and remain UNFORGETTABLE in our hearts forever."

—Robert Yancy,
Timolin Cole & Casey Cole, January 2016

Natalie Cole was an accomplished product of her deep-rooted musical heritage. A chart topping R&B crooner in the '70s, Cole went on to even greater popularity and accolade with her smooth transition to jazz and pop music standards—successfully reinterpreting American classics and singing the tunes that once made her father an international recording star.

Cole's budding music career began at the tender age of six, singing on a Christmas album with her father Nat "King" Cole. Born in 1950, Cole grew up surrounded by music and music royalty. Her father was already a rising music star and renowned jazz pianist. Her mother, Maria Cole, was a one-time performer with the Duke Ellington Orchestra. Cole once said that her father—who died of lung cancer in 1965 when Cole was 15-years-old—had been everything to her, and that was more than evident in the turn her ever-evolving career would take; reuniting her voice with her father's through the miracle of technology.

Cole got her start in the music industry as an R&B singer. Her singing style was a marked departure from her father's style. Where Nat was cool and refined, Natalie was warmer and soulful. The American music buying public went on to embrace Natalie Cole's new sound and solo career. Ten years after the death of her famous father, and a brief detour from music that earned her a bachelor's degree in child psychology, Cole went on to win two of her nine career Grammys. She earned one for Best New Artist of 1975 and the other for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for her up-beat, chart topper "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)." Her career soared with four gold and two platinum records. Her first platinum album, "Unpredictable," spawned another R&B hit and slow jam standard "I've Got

Love on My Mind." Her fourth album "Thankful," which also went platinum, gave us the gift of another signature hit "Our Love."

Despite her musical legacy and birthright, despite her own undeniable, autonomous claim to success, Cole suffered setbacks and faced demons that threatened to dismantle everything her beautiful voice had built.

Cole's star dimmed in the '80s, much of it due to alcohol abuse and cocaine addiction. At the height of her troubles, her mother filed a petition for conservatorship to handle Cole's affairs when she no longer could. After spending time in rehab, her career came back to life in the late 80s with a cover of Bruce Springsteen's "Pink Cadillac" and the soaring ballad "I Live for Your Love." It was in 1991 that Cole would go on to achieve her greatest success with an album that was as much a nod to the past as it was an acknowledgement of the future of music and its capacity. Cole reunited with her father's voice and paid tribute to him with new arrangements of songs once made famous by Nat "King" Cole on the album "Unforgettable ... With Love." The album, complete with a technologically assisted father-daughter duet of "Unforgettable" 25 years after his death, earned Cole six GRAMMYS, including Song of the Year, Record of the Year and Album of the Year, and the album sold 14 million copies worldwide.

In 2008, Cole announced that she had been diagnosed with hepatitis C, a liver disease spread through blood, which she blamed on her past intravenous drug use. Her growing health concerns never stopped Cole from working and creating that beautiful music that attracted so many fans.

But Cole was more than her voice and her many accomplishments in music, film and entertainment. In an interview with *People Magazine*, Cole is said to have described herself as "a walking testimony [that] you can have scars ... you can go through turbulent times and still have victory in your life." Natalie Cole was a fighter, a model for redemption and legacy in her own right, whose influence and signature on America's cultural landscape will remain unforgettable.



The Prince George's County Genealogical Society
Open to the Public
PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF BOWIE

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
The Prince George's County Genealogical Society was founded in 1969 and is the oldest county genealogical society in continuous existence in the State of Maryland. Initially the Founding and Charter members loaned books from their personal libraries to one another. As the Society acquired books through purchase or gift, a Library Committee was appointed and the Librarian transported the small collection to and from meetings. The library is housed in a circa 1961 Bowie ranch-style house. The library is open to the public 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and also on the last Saturday of each month 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. While the Library is open to the public, only Society members may borrow books, periodicals and video media.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



Whither America

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality. ... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word[.]"

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance
Speech, December 10, 1964

The start of this New Year finds America at an inflection point as wars and terrorism abroad are echoed in violence, suspicion, and fear at home. How will we meet the moment? Hundreds of organizations and individuals have signed on to the urgent message of the campaign We Are Better Than This: "We grieve the many lives that have been lost or painfully transformed in recent weeks through extreme acts of violence. And we are appalled by the surge of divisive rhetoric that sows the seeds of more violence to come. A dangerous tide of hatred, violence, and suspicion is rising in America—whether aimed at Arab and Muslim Americans, women and the places we seek health care, Black people, immigrants and refugees, or people just going about their daily lives. This tide is made more dangerous by easy access to guns. When has hate ever led to progress? Is this really what we want America to be? We are better than this."

We are better than this. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great German Protestant theologian who died opposing Hitler's holocaust, believed that the test of the morality of a society is how it treats its children. We flunk Bonhoeffer's test every hour of every day in America as we let the violence of guns and the violence of poverty relentlessly stalk and sap countless child lives. A child or teen is killed by a gun every three and a half hours, nearly 7 a day, 48 a week. More than 15.5 million children are poor and children are the poorest age group in America—the world's largest economy. And the younger children are the poorer they are. Children of color, already the majority of our youngest children, soon will be the majority of our children

in 2020. Millions of them lack their basic needs for enough food, decent housing, health care and quality early childhood supports during their years of greatest brain development. And over six decades after *Brown v. Board of Education*, a majority of children of color are still waiting for a fair and equal chance to learn. A majority of all fourth and eighth grade public school students and more than 80 percent of Black and 73 percent of Hispanic students in these grades cannot read or compute at grade level and face dim futures as a jobless landscape looms. They also lack assurance that their lives matter and are at great risk of being sucked into a prison pipeline. Those of us who remember McCarthyism see familiar signs in the hateful rhetoric and hatred aimed at Muslims, refugees, and immigrants. Even children report being bullied and attacked and hearing hateful words. And the pervasive and relentless threat of violence and terror continues to attack and frighten children and adults from Syria to Paris to California and in our cities and rural areas.

There is another way. Once again, Dr. King's words lead us there—through a world that of-

ten can feel suffocated by "starless midnight" to belief in a new day. He warned us that excessive materialism, militarism, racism, and poverty could be America's undoing but that it was up to us to act and combat these evils. The great Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, introducing Dr. King to a Rabbinical Assembly shortly before he was assassinated, said: "Where in America today do we hear a voice like the voice of the prophets of Israel? Martin Luther King is a sign that God has not forsaken the United States. God has sent him to us." Heschel continued, "His mission is sacred... The situation of the poor in America is our plight, our sickness. To be deaf to their cry is to condemn ourselves." Heschel believed, "Martin Luther King, Jr., is a voice, a vision, and a way. I call upon every Jew," and I would add, every person of faith, "to harken to his voice, to share his vision, to follow his way. The whole future of America will depend on the impact and influence of Dr. King." I would add the world.

In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech Dr. King also told us he

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George's Post

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Contents © 2016, The Prince George's Post

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Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

They're Not New Year's Resolutions—Just Mini-Goals

It's New Year's Resolution time, or more accurately, time for setting big life changing goals and then soon discovering you're probably not going to reach them.

Why? Because most of us tend to think too big. Stop smoking ... lose weight ... make it to the gym more often. While these are all good goals to aim for, achieving success can be difficult since that often means major life changes. It's fairly easy to say "I want to give up cigarettes," or "I'm going to drop 30 pounds this year," but actually making those things happen requires some drastic and difficult changes in the life we've gotten used to living.

The result, as we bump into those difficult changes, or as we perhaps drift back a bit after making progress toward our goal, is that we become discouraged and just give up on what we're trying to achieve.

The answer to the problem is actually quite simple—don't try and bite off too much at once. While that final goal, say of losing those 30 pounds, may be what you want to achieve, it's something that's going to take a long time to reach. And, let's be honest, most of us aren't very patient people. We want to see results as soon as possible!

So how to make that happen? Set smaller goals. For weight loss, for example, forget about the final goal and set small goals that you know you can achieve. Maybe it's just to lose 4 pounds in the next month. Eat a bit healthier, don't obsess about jumping on that scale every ten minutes, increase your exercise a bit, and at the end of the month you'll probably have hit that mini-goal. When it happens, reward yourself. No, not with a celebratory ice cream sundae, but with something that makes you feel good about what you've achieved, and that will help motivate you to set another mini-goal towards your final target.

Regardless of the resolution, setting mini-goals is the best way to get you moving. Achievable goals provide positive feedback and help you reach your final destination. And if you do happen to fall really short along the way, just accept that we're all human and we all stumble now and then. Reexamine those goals and what changes you need to make. Start small, give it another try and pretty soon you will be closer to that final goal.

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

Stadium from A1

In a letter to the University of Maryland Board of Regents, the governing body with authority to effect a name change, President Loh says former President Byrd "dramatically increased enrollment, faculty, funding and the size of the campus," laying the foundation for the university's current achievements and earning him a place in the institution's history.

Noting that former President Byrd was also an "ardent proponent of racial segregation and discrimination," against African-Americans however, President Loh recommends a name change for Byrd Stadium, memorializing the former president's legacy in one of the campus' main libraries instead.

Chair Davis says he favors the recommendation for a new stadium name.

"In Prince George's County, our diversity is our strength. I firmly stand in solidarity with President Loh and the students who want to see the name changed to reflect our community's unity, rather than honor division, especially on the campuses of our institutions of higher learning."

Vice-Chair Glaros, whose constituent area includes the University of Maryland, says President Loh and student community are doing the right thing.

"If we are to value our rich diversity, and address the deep wrongs of the past, we must acknowledge all of our history. Mr. Byrd deserves recognition but the stadium name should be replaced to reflect our community's inclusiveness."

The University of Maryland Board of Regents is scheduled to consider the matter of renaming Byrd stadium during a meeting on Friday, December 11, 2015.

Record-Keeping Biggest Concern for Maryland Police Following Statewide Audit

By JACOB BELL
Capital News Service

PIKESVILLE, MD—Book-keeping errors by the Maryland Department of State Police contributed to what looked to be questionable spending and inaccurate handgun records, according to an audit released Tuesday.

The audit found the department had been lumping together expenditures in its state accounting records rather than identifying the specific activities it was spending money on. That practice resulted in unusually large balances across certain accounts, including one with a \$44 million deficit and another with a \$34 million surplus—"neither of which were reasonable," according to the audit.

The audit also concluded the department failed to provide enough evidence to buttress several of its budgeting claims and decisions.

Audits serve to "find things that we could be doing better," said Greg Shipley, spokesman for the State Police Department. "This was, as audits go, a very good audit for the Maryland state police."

For example, a June 2014 record showing \$28.2 million in

revenue that could have been used to cover the department's incurred expenses was not supported by additional documents. And for four contracts totaling \$9 million, the department did not offer a sufficient breakdown as to how it selected the contract recipients, how it determined the necessary price of the contracts, or how the money would be spent, the audit found.

The audit also found discrepancies in roughly 4,000 handgun serial numbers in a 10-month period across two electronic databases—the Maryland Automated Firearms Services System and the Information Sharing for Applicant Background and Licensing—that the department uses to keep track of registered firearms.

The discrepancies stemmed largely from the systems' different purposes, according to Shipley.

MAFSS is a legacy system that tracks firearms and firearm ownership in Maryland, and is the system law enforcement officers actively use, Shipley said. Conversely, ISABL is a new database not currently used by police. Rather, the department's licensing division developed the database in an effort to make the tracking process more automated.

The department established the newer system earlier this year, but the system is still a work in progress—accounting for some of discrepancies between the systems, according to Shipley. Given the accuracy of MAFSS, the handgun serial numbers were not lost or unaccounted for, Shipley said.

In October 2013, the Firearms Safety Act amped up gun regulations throughout Maryland. The law made it so that anyone selling, renting or transferring a gun in Maryland may only do so if the person receiving the gun has and can show a valid Handgun Qualification License.

To obtain a license, individuals must pay a \$50 fee and undergo fingerprinting, a handgun safety course and a criminal background check.

The newer system is part of a larger push from the department to automate the licensing process to make it more streamlined and "eliminate a lot of these errors," Shipley said. And prior to the audit's release, the department had been working to improve its record-keeping. Earlier this year, it established a three-tiered quality control system for data, part of which provides a full-time employee for data entry, Shipley said.

The department agreed with all but one of the suggestions provided in the audit. The lone exception was a critique that the department require a paper copy of individuals' handgun licenses. While the department plans to follow that guideline, the recommendation doesn't fit into its move toward electronic documentation and is somewhat redundant, according to Shipley.

"There's no need for the dealer to provide us a piece of paper with a photocopy of your HQL on it because we're the ones that issued it to you," Shipley said.

"A comparison of this would be like the Motor Vehicle Administration requiring that you send them a photocopy of your license to verify that you have a driver's license," he added.

A representative from Gov. Larry Hogan's office had not responded to a request for comment by late Wednesday afternoon. The audit, which looked at financial records from 2011 to 2014, covered the last three years of former Gov. Martin O'Malley's second term. Representatives from O'Malley's presidential campaign also did not respond to a request for comment.

Free Meals from A1

\$157,900 and that of Loudoun County was, again, almost three times higher at \$437,700.

Other Maryland school systems taking part in the free meal program are Somerset County schools, most Washington County schools and one Howard County school.

Somerset County Public Schools Superintendent John Gaddis said that adopting the provision has been very productive in his schools. The county was the first in Maryland to provide free meals for all, and Gaddis said last year they served 105,000 more meals than the previous year.

"The best thing I've done as superintendent was to enroll our system in this program," Gaddis said. "It has changed things dramatically in our schools and in our community; the fact that we know all our kids are being fed at least two meals a day is huge for us. We're in a very poor district but we're a proud district and we work hard."

The Community Eligibility Provision supports 23 schools in Maryland taking part in this program beyond all of the Baltimore City schools, giving more than 7,500 students access to free meals, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services.

The new program allows students that normally wouldn't eat at school, either because they're embarrassed to eat the free meals or because they aren't in school, to have meals available to them daily. With about 85,000 students in Baltimore City public schools, this is very important, both on a nutrition level and an education level.

"We're served around 5,000 more meals every day this school year compared to last year," said Elizabeth Marchetta, director of food and nutrition for Baltimore City Public Schools.

Not only are they focusing on eradicating hunger from their classrooms, officials want to ensure that students are eating nutritious foods. According to the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), low-

income families often don't have the same access to fresh foods, such as fruits and vegetables, for several reasons.

"Vehicle access is perhaps the most important determinant of whether or not a family can access affordable and nutritious food," according to the USDA, and low-income families are less likely to have access to a vehicle.

Even if a low-income family does have access to a grocery store that supplies healthy, fresh foods, healthy food in general tends to be more expensive when you take into consideration how quickly it goes to waste and how much is required to completely fill a child's stomach. Based on that, low-income families are more vulnerable to obesity, according to FRAC.

"In a city like Baltimore where we don't have a lot of fresh options available to a lot of our students, we offer free, unlimited fresh fruit and vegetables," Marchetta said, "so it's a really powerful thing to say that no matter what school you go to in Baltimore City,

you can have as much fresh [fruits and vegetables] as you want for free."

Students that would qualify for free or reduced meals often don't simply because they can't get the paperwork in for one reason or another, said Baltimore City Del. Keith Haynes.

Sometimes the parents or guardians can't or don't fill out the required paperwork, or sometimes the students don't have anyone to fill it out for them. Or, if they do get everything signed and turned in, they choose not to get the meals because of the stigma attached to the free meals.

This new program equalizes all students, allowing the students that fall through the cracks to get the nutrition they need. Filling all students' stomachs isn't the only benefit, said Haynes, who supported the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2015, the law that allows the Community Eligibility Provision to benefit Baltimore City.

See **Free Meals**, Page A7

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RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment is making it easy for residents to recycle cut Christmas trees (no artificial trees) by offering convenient drop-off locations and curbside pick up.

Beginning December 28, 2015 through January 29, 2016, residents with Yard Waste Collection may place their undecorated, unbagged, live Christmas trees at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on their regularly scheduled yard waste collection day.

*Please remove all plastic bags, tinsel and decorations
No artificial trees

Residents may also bring unadorned trees, free of charge, to the following locations for recycling:

<p>BROWN STATION ROAD PUBLIC CONVENIENCE CENTER 3501 Brown Station Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.</p>	<p>PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY YARD WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY 6601 Southeast Crain Highway Upper Marlboro, Maryland Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>
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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review
Point Break

Point Break
Grade: D+
Rated PG-13, some profanity,
some mild sexuality,
a little violence
1 hr., 53 min

The new version of *Point Break* is pretty dumb. But in other ways, it's not like the original at all. For example, it's tedious. Say what you will about Kathryn Bigelow's Keanu Reeves/Patrick Swayze 1991 cult favorite (for example, that it's pretty dumb), its action scenes sizzle. This remake, written by Kurt Wimmer (of the *Total Recall* remake), keeps the dumbness, increases it tenfold, and pummels the audience with weak, pointless action. It's hard to imagine making a worse *Point Break* without doing it on purpose.

Johnny Utah, an "extreme sport polyathlete" turned fledgling FBI agent, is played by Luke Bracey, an Australian piece of driftwood with a face painted on it. In this version, Johnny Utah is haunted by the events of the movie's first two minutes, when he and his motocross biker friend were doing dangerous things on the tops of pointy mountains, and then the friend fell to his death, as one does. A lot of movies begin with something like this so the protagonist can feel haunted and self-doubting afterward, but the rushed, perfunctory manner with which *Point Break* gets it out of the way has the air of an assignment that wasn't started until the night before the due date. That it has no bearing on the rest of the movie and could have been omitted entirely just makes it funnier.

The real story, seven years later, is that there's been a series of high-profile robberies that



An undercover cop makes his way into a scene of bank-robbing extreme-sports athletes in this remake of Kathryn Bigelow's *Point Break*. Ericson Core directs from a script by *Equilibrium*'s Kurt Wimmer. —Jeremy Wheeler, Rovi

new FBI moper Johnny Utah thinks are the work of people who, like him, are extreme sport polyathletes. One heist involved skydiving, for example, and a bank job required skilled motorcycling. What's more, the thieves keep distributing the money rather than keep it. Johnny Utah believes they're trying to accomplish a series of eight metaphysical challenges outlined by a renowned extreme guru, and the robberies are just, I don't know, for fun. These crooks don't want money. They want nirvana.

Based on this hunch and zero evidence, the FBI sends Johnny Utah to infiltrate the group. He knows (well, he guesses, which is the same thing in this movie) where they're going to be next: in the middle of the ocean, surfing giant waves caused by a rare weather pattern. Sure enough, he's quickly able to befriend the group's leader, a smug ramekin of patchouli oil named Bodhi (Edgar Ramirez), who saves his life when

the surfing goes awry. This leads to an exchange of dialogue that exemplifies the movie's irritating hippie-dippy philosophy:

JOHNNY UTAH: I owe Bodhi for pulling me out.

THE GIRL OF THE GROUP: We don't believe in "owing."

Ugh, shut up. Shut up about being One with Nature and choose your own destiny and "I love the sea and its power" and "A man who pushes boundaries ultimately finds them" and all the rest of your sage, hollow platitudes. Shut up and snowboard down a cliff face already.

Johnny Utah, Bodhi, and the gang—they have names like Roach, Grommet, and Chowder, and the girl is named Samsara (Teresa Palmer), but she's only there sometimes—trot the globe doing more extreme stunts, some of which involve grand larceny and some of which do not. Director/cinematographer Ericson Core ("Invincible") captures the awesome beauty of the film's

many natural settings, ranging from the snowy Alps to the tropical forests of Venezuela. If this were a National Geographic travelogue, it would be stunning.

Unfortunately, it's a narrative film with flat characters and a low-stakes plot. The trouble with portraying the robbers as non-greedy, non-evil thrill-seekers is that who cares if the FBI ever catches them? They do finally start killing people in the course of their work, justifying the enormous efforts of Johnny Utah and his support team, but it feels like an afterthought. For the most part, the "villains" don't seem villainous—but they don't seem like Johnny Utah's chums, either. The inevitable moment when Johnny Utah must choose between doing his duty and protecting his new best friends rings as false as everything else. The only plausible explanation is that this was all a ruse to make us appreciate the original *Point Break* more. It didn't work, but I respect the attempt.

Largo from A1

and curriculum, as well as the school's philosophy of music. Felder also had to answer why the school's program should be considered for the award.

"Largo High School strives to have quality music training and to develop and enhance our student's talents," wrote Felder. "We have been able to do this, but additional funding is needed, as resources are scarce in a time when arts and music programs are cut. We have a desire for new instruments and would like to complete our music technology studio."

He continued: "The vision and desire for our program is to promote a holistic approach to music that utilizes arts integration, music technology, literacy and a well-rounded artistic scholar. Winning this award will help support our vision."

The 65-member choir is preparing vocally and learning how to utilize their music ethic and discipline. They recorded 15 songs and submitted 11 to the GRAMMY Foundation® for review on January 7. The GRAMMY Foundation will announce the winners in April 2016. Winners will receive monetary grants that range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

"Our Largo scholars are extremely excited and slightly anxious about recording music for our submission," said Felder. "This is an incredible opportunity, and they are ready to impress the foundation and bring national recognition to the exceptional program and talented students within Prince George's county public schools and also here at Largo High School."

The Largo High School choir regularly performs for community events and sings various genres, such as sacred, folk, foreign language, jazz, classical, and gospel/inspirational. The choir performed at many pres-

tigious venues in the last three years, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Center, Historic Howard Theatre, University of Maryland Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Ithaca College, Howard University Rankin Chapel, NASA Goddard, Fairwood Park Arts Festival, and the Verizon Center for the Washington Wizards, as well as the opening of Tanger Outlets at the National Harbor. The team will travel internationally in June 2016 to Toronto to perform at York University and Toronto SkyDome for a Toronto Blue Jays Game.

Tax Extenders from A4

decade, all while expanding local business opportunities and community services."

179D

"Energy efficiency improvements are a smart, cost-effective way to reduce pollution, increase the competitiveness of our manufacturers, and put Americans back to work. It's simply good business and good policy," said Senator Cardin, who also is a senior member of the Environ-

ment and Public Works Committee. "I am pleased that the package extends the 179D deduction for energy efficient buildings for two years."

Public Transit Credit

"We're putting money back in the pockets of hard-working families and improving air quality during the most congested times of the day. This is a hard-fought win for workers, our communities and public health," said Senator Cardin of the provision that makes permanent en-

hanced pre-tax savings for workers who use public transit. Important for federal workers and middle-class commuters nationwide, this tax benefit has been brought back into parity with the commuter tax benefit for drivers.

American Opportunity Tax Credit

"All Americans deserve a fair shot at obtaining a high quality, yet affordable, education. All too often, I hear from Maryland students about how hard they

and their families are working to get them into and through college—often undertaking significant financial debt in order to pay for their educational goals. Making the American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent is one way to help, and the tax extenders package has done so. This credit provides up to \$2,500 in savings for each college student—important financial assistance that these families can now rely on, without the uncertainty that has plagued the recurring extenders process."

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Why Donald Trump Wants to Render Muslim Athletes Invisible



In his speech on the threat of terrorism delivered to the nation on Sunday night, President Obama cautioned people to not conflate ISIS-inspired attacks with the religion of Islam. It seems like an obvious point, but in the wake of the San Bernardino shootings, anti-Syrian immigrant hysteria, and violent vigilante attacks it was a critical one to make. Even George W. Bush knew to reiterate this in every sabre-rattling speech. Nothing does ISIS more favors than the idea that there is a war of "Islam vs. the West."

President Obama said, "Muslim-Americans are our friends and our neighbors, our co-workers, our sports heroes. And, yes, they are our men and women in uniform who are willing to die in defense of our country. We have to remember that."

The reference to sports heroes in particular caught many people's attention, including Republican front-runner Donald Trump. He tweeted, "Obama said in his speech that Muslims are our sports heroes. What sport is he talking about, and who? Is Obama profiling?"

What in the name of Muhammad Ali is Donald Trump inhaling, other than the fumes of his own gaseous ego? I mean, this photo alone should have shut his perpetually pursed lips.

It would be easy—as many have already done—to list off the dozens of Muslim athletes and discuss how the United States has cheered them on for decades. Anyone is free to go to the very incomplete Wikipedia page. (The list fails to mention the great number of female Muslim athletes who complete at a world-class level.)

It should be obvious just how indescribably desolate the US sports landscape would have been without Ali, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, or Hakeem Olajuwon, to name just a few. (Some put Shaq on this list as well, but in his own words, "I'm Muslim. I'm Jewish. I'm Buddhist. I'm everybody because I'm a people person.") Yet Trump's efforts to render them invisible also demonstrates just how powerful sports can be as an instrument against anti-Islamic bigotry.

Perhaps we should just ignore Trump's idiocy, as we would any troll's. However, the Trump troll is its own breed, like a cockroach that's survived repeated blasts of Raid and has emerged stronger and more resistant to the normal remedies. Ignoring the person who is building a leading presidential campaign on a brand of racism being aped by the other candidates is an unaffordable luxury.

The best sports-related antidote to this toxicity would be to read *Giant Steps*, Kareem's 1983 memoir. This book was my first introduction to what it means to be a Muslim. The all-time NBA scoring leader explained the difference between Sunni and Shia beliefs and outlined the gap between the Nation of Islam and classical texts. He wrote, "My choosing Islam was not a political statement; it was a spiritual statement." He also writes about the role that spirituality plays in his life, giving him a sense of perspective and strength. Not knowing any Muslims as a kid, this was a life-changing read, and had a great effect on how I see the world. Bluntly, it is very difficult to support the bombing and demonization of an entire people when you understand them to be human.

When Muhammad Ali became a member of the Nation of Islam, and when Kareem announced that he was no longer Lew Alcindor, the world changed. In the Good Muslim/Bad Muslim dynamic so favored by the press, Ali—with his connection to Elijah Muhammad, opposition to war, and opposition to liberal integration—was seen as the dangerous threat. Kareem was viewed as joining the more peaceful version of Islam, the variant of the faith Ali eventually joined—to much mainstream praise—as well.

Now even that dynamic has been turned on its head. All of the ignorance and demonization shoveled onto the NOI a generation ago has long since shifted to those who practice the way of Kareem. But it's all equally ignorant.

Everyone should read *Giant Steps*, if for no other reason than to break free from this mass hysteria that threatens to further bring the war home and turn it into a national purging.

Using sports to humanize people was a smart move by the president, just as it was smart for Bush to give Ali the National Medal of Honor, calling the champ "a man of peace" (while continuing to wage war). But we should also be clear that if someone is worth cheering, then their community is not worth criminalizing, and their people should not be killed indiscriminately. To think otherwise is not a road to any kind of peace or victory. It's a recipe for endless bloodshed.

It's also Trump's only path to the White House: making us as savage as his rhetoric. This is why he wants a cloak of invisibility on roundly admired people. It's the only way to brand them all as the enemy.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

The Prince George's Post Newspaper

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Calendar of Events

January 14 — January 20, 2016

Black History Month Exhibition: "Narrative in Black Identity"

Date and Time: Through Sunday, February 28, 2016,
10 am–5 pm (Daily); Public Reception:
Saturday, February 6, 1–3 pm

Description: Montpelier Arts Center is proud to honor Black History Month through this exhibition celebrating African American heritage and identity. Antonio McAfee, Tiffany Jones and Stephen Towns share their insights about identity through the media of painting and photography. Using historic photos, personal journeys and portraits, these Baltimore-based artists help the viewer understand the importance of history and identity in contemporary times.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

"Re-Invention" by Winston Harris

Date and Time: Saturday, January 9–Sunday, February 28, 2016,
10 am–5 pm (Daily)

Description: By combining printmaking techniques, digital manipulation, hand-colored processes and recycled past artwork, Winston Harris seeks to produce images that provoke and promote self-awareness and spiritual enlightenment.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

A Man with a Vision, Tribute to Dr. King

Date & Time: Friday, January 15, 2016, 5–7 pm
Description: Enjoy this tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we watch the movie *Selma* in honor of his birthday.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Deerfield Run Community Center
13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-953-7882; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Hip Hop Exercising

Date and Time: Friday, January 15, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Tonight teens will exercise to some of the hottest hip-hop songs around.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-445-4512

Seniors: Line Dance Party

Date & Time: Friday, January 15, 2016, 7:30–9:30 pm
Description: Calling all line dancers, join us for this fun event that is sure to get you moving! Learn the latest line dances and spend time with fellow dancers. Light refreshments and beverages are provided. Pre-registration is required; register at the front desk.

Cost: Resident: \$5; Non-Resident: \$6
Ages: 40 & up
Location: Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center
7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-206-3350; TTY 301-699-2544

Nature Hike

Date and Time: Saturday, January 16, 2016, 10 am–12 noon
Description: Join a naturalist for a woodland nature hike. Hunt for skunk cabbage along the trail.

Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident: \$3
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY 301-699-2544

Boy Scout Day

Date and Time: Saturday, January 16, 2016, 11 am–2 pm
Description: Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are invited to explore the history of aviation and science of flight with a variety of fun, educational activities that count towards badge requirements. Please call the museum in advance to register and obtain more information.

Cost: \$5/participant
Ages: 7 & up
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Maryland First LEGO League Robotics Competition

Date & Time: Saturday, January 16, 2016, 2–5 pm
Description: Join over 20 First LEGO Leagues as they compete to participate in the State FLL Championship.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Southern Technical/Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Basketball Clinic

Date and Time: Monday, January 18, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Its G.E.A.R. time again! Join us for our girls basketball clinic and improve your basketball skills.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Vansville Community Center
6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD
Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... What Ever Happened to Al Gore?

Climate Reform and Revolutionizing Investing Keeps Former Veep Busy

Dear EarthTalk:

Whatever happened to Al Gore? He was all over the media around the time of *An Inconvenient Truth* but lately I haven't heard anything about him.

—Jim Mercer,
St. Paul, MN

Al Gore, one of the first recognizable faces of the environmental movement, sent ripples throughout the political world when he released his enormously successful book, *An Inconvenient Truth*, back in 2006. His environmental leadership dates back much further, however: He was traveling the country warning about the impending climate crisis in the early 1990s, and as Vice-President under Bill Clinton, Gore was a key proponent of U.S. and international participation in the Kyoto Protocol, an ultimately unsuccessful effort to align international efforts on greenhouse gas emissions reductions back in 1997.

After losing his bid for the Presidency on a technicality in 2000, Gore left politics and devoted himself to raising awareness about climate change through speeches, activism and the publication of *An Inconvenient Truth*—as well as production of the follow-up documentary film of the same name, which took home an Oscar for Best Documentary.

With the publication of *An Inconvenient Truth*, Gore launched two non-profits committed to making climate

change a political priority in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which he consolidated into the Climate Reality Project in 2011. Gore still devotes about half his time to climate campaigning, recently addressing negotiators at the COP21 climate talks in Paris about how to enlist everyday people as "global citizens" in efforts to rein in greenhouse gas emissions.

Gore has also devoted lots of his time since 2000 on another form of green: making money. While it's well known that his investments since he lost the White House to George W. Bush have turned Gore into a rich man with a net worth in the hundreds of millions of dollars, less is known about the methods employed to make this money. Generation Investment Management (GIM), the firm he founded in 2004 with ex-Goldman Sachs executive, David Blood, practices an entirely new form of capitalism—a model they hope the entire world economy will one day share. Instead of religiously following the highest short-term revenue strategy, GIM's "sustainable investment" approach takes into account environmental, social and economic damage. Though not a new idea, here is the kicker: They are enormously profitable, with a 10-year average of 12.1 percent yearly increase, ranking them second of over 200 firms analyzed by the consulting firm Mercer.



CREDIT: EARTHTALK

Al Gore may not be in the spotlight as much these days, but he's been busy campaigning for climate reform and revolutionizing how the private sector invests.

While the current capitalist system focuses on short-term gains based on market demand, the sustainable-capitalist model also adds effects on environment and society. For example, Coca-Cola is enormously successful under the traditional system. However, Generation sees it as unsustainable, as its history of environmental conflict and its links to obesity will eventually result in health concerns, leading to a crash like the tobacco industry. Similarly, Generation views petroleum, while one of the largest industries today, as a bad bet over the long haul for similar reasons: The more oil that's burned, the bigger the reaction will be against it. The new approach that allows Generation to actually profit from this idealistic mentality is their ability

to see ethical investments as an advantage, rather than an inherent negative.

This revolutionary model is one of the newest trends in capitalism, and just might be its savior. Consuming at an unsustainable rate cannot continue for much longer, so adapting to this new system could be one of the most important legacies of Al Gore.

CONTACTS: Climate Reality Project, www.climaterealityproject.org; GIM, www.generationim.com.

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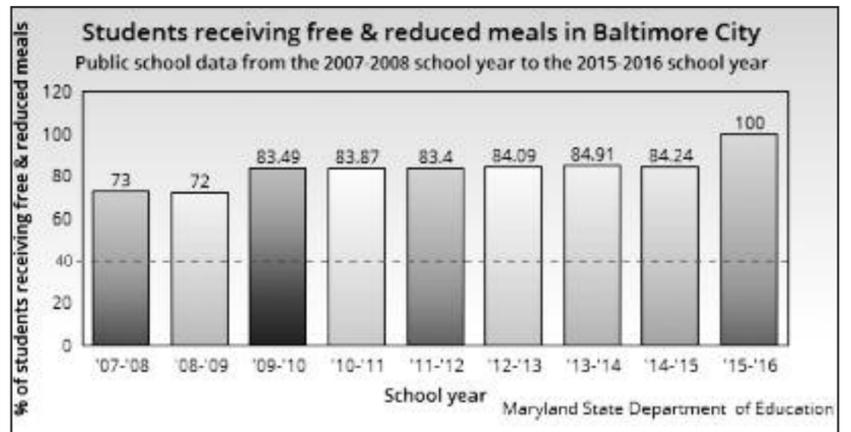
Free Meals from A5

"I actually have gone to a couple of schools and you just see a total difference in a child; their whole outcome, demeanor, attitude is different when they're receiving full, balanced nutritional meals and that carries over into their academic performance in the classroom," Haynes said.

"It's a direct correlation in which we (pretty much) all can relate to," he added. "I perform better at my job when I'm not hungry ... so the same thing is very true when we look at our students and (their education)."

The program is financially responsible for school systems as well, said Michael Wilson, the director of Maryland Hunger Solutions, a non-profit organization that lobbied for the legislation to pass under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2015 because of the many benefits it offered. Previously, when schools offered free and reduced-price meals to select students that qualified, the local government paid for the meals.

By contrast, when the schools participate in the Community El-



CAPITALNEWS SERVICE GRAPH BY GRAPHIC BY RACHEL KUIPERS.

Now all students in Baltimore City Public Schools get at least ten guaranteed meals a week in school.

igibility Provision, the state government funds the meals.

"If you're Baltimore City and you can use Community Eligibility, you can focus on other things instead of collecting meal applications," Wilson said.

Summer meals are offered as part of another provision of the bill. This program allows low-income students to continue getting meals over the summer.

"Summer meals are done because we've seen the evidence where kids who get breakfast and lunch throughout the school year no longer get that in summer ... there's a summer learning gap, (and a) summer hunger gap," Wilson said.

Rather than have schools sort through students to try to find those that would qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and then try to get students to return the

forms fully filled out, it's better for the students and the school system to serve them all the same, he said.

The program "was meant to ensure that high-poverty schools were able to feed their students in a more efficient way," he said.

Wilson said Maryland Hunger Solutions is currently encouraging other school systems to take part in the program to better serve their students.

Maryland Commission on Climate Change Recommends State Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions 40 Percent by 2030 with Strengthened Links to a Healthy Economy

By PRESS OFFICER
MDE

BALTIMORE, MD—A new report from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change that was adopted unanimously Wednesday calls on the State to develop and implement a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030 while strengthening efforts to improve the State's economy and creating new jobs.

A recent status report by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) found that the plan required by the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act, which is designed to achieve a 25 percent reduction by 2020, is estimated to create a net economic benefit between \$2.5 billion and \$3.5 billion and help create and

maintain between 26,000 and 33,000 new jobs.

The Commission also endorsed the recommendation in the MDE status report that the State continue its efforts to achieve the 25 by 20 goal established in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act while also enhancing efforts to support economic development and job creation. The MDE report shows that the State is on track to meet the 25 percent reduction goal by 2020.

"The Maryland Climate Change Commission is broad and diverse but all agree the State should be proactive and balanced in responding to the challenges and opportunities ahead," said Commission Chair and Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles. "The report reflects the members' wide range of per-

spectives, tracks recent and ongoing efforts and identifies a balanced and achievable path forward based on sound science, environmental progress and a strong economy in Maryland."

The Commission report summarizes research that led to the recommendations and highlights Maryland's vulnerability to sea level rise, one of the consequences of a warming climate.

"This report is testament to our commitment to address our ever-changing climate, an important ecological and economic issue for the state, its resources and its citizens," Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "By strengthening our ability to adapt and prepare, we can better protect our infrastructure, plan for anticipated sea level rise and increase our communities' resilience to change."

The report also endorses the Department of the Environment's recent recommendation that efforts to achieve deeper reductions must strengthen efforts to insure that the State's plan to address climate change will also have a net positive impact on the economy and help Maryland create and maintain jobs.

"The science presented to the Commission is clear: climate change is happening and is already impacting Marylanders statewide whether from rising sea level or more extreme storms," said Maryland Sen. Paul Pinsky, a lead sponsor of the 2009 law. "Our task is to ensure the State continues to make significant progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as climate change is an

See CLIMATE Page A12

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