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Mike Miller, president of the Maryland Senate, speaks during the first day of the legislative session, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017, in Annapolis, Maryland Governor Hogan also spoke at both the House and Senate.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY HANNAH KLARNER

Maryland's General Assembly Gavels for 2017 Session

By JACOB TAYLOR
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The 2017 session of the Maryland General Assembly began Wednesday amid confusion stemming from federal investigations plaguing Democrats and concern among Republicans over the possible override of

several vetoes issued by Gov. Larry Hogan at the end of the 2016 session. The Senate is scheduled to begin to debate the vetoes on Jan. 18.

Delegate Michael L. Vaughn, D-Prince George's, cited health concerns in a two-sentence resignation letter to House Speaker Michael E. Busch, D-Anne Arundel, on Wednesday, raising

questions that he may be involved in a federal investigation into corruption on the Prince George's County Liquor Board.

Vaughn, 59, sat on the House Economic Matters Committee and had been a legislator in the state since 2003.

Two business owners and two board members have already been charged, according to a

press release issued Thursday by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Although Democrats still have the three-fifths majority needed to override vetoes, their margin has shrunk, at least temporarily, by the sudden resignation of Sen. Lisa A. Gladden,

See 2017 SESSION Page A5

City Council Appoints Nicole Ard as Greenbelt's Next City Manager

By PRESS OFFICER
City of Greenbelt Council

GREENBELT, MD—At its regular meeting of January 9, 2017, the Greenbelt City Council unanimously approved to appoint Nicole C. Ard to succeed retiring City Manager Michael McLaughlin as Greenbelt's next City Manager. Ms. Ard was selected after an extensive nationwide search led by GovHR USA of Northbrook, IL. The search also included the input of Greenbelt citizens, Advisory Board and Committee members, the business community and Greenbelt senior staff.

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan commented, "Council worked to make sure a comprehensive search was conducted for our new City Manager. We were intentional about including significant opportunities for input from the public as a part of the process. Ms. Ard stood out from the more than 50 individuals who submitted applications. She is a seasoned manager with over 2 decades of municipal government experience with several jurisdictions. We felt that her skills and experience are the 'right fit' for Greenbelt going forward."

Ms. Ard has over 20 years experience in local government management and is an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Cre-



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Newly Appointed Greenbelt City Manager, Nicole C. Ard

denialed Manager. She has worked in Phoenix, AZ; Leesburg, VA.; Hillsborough, NC; Dayton, OH; Dublin, OH and as City Manager in Sandusky, OH. She has her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Howard University and her graduate degree in Public Administration from Ohio State University.

"I am excited to work with the City Council, community and staff. It is an honor to serve Greenbelt such a historic, friendly and welcoming community. I look forward to working with retiring City Manager Mike McLaughlin and Greenbelt's incredible staff."

See NICOLE ARD Page A7

Council Chair Appointed to COG Leadership Post

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D)—District 6, has been elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). District of Columbia Council Member Kenyan McDuffie will serve as Chair, and Loudoun County Supervisor

Matthew Letourneau will also serve as Vice-Chair.

Council Chair Davis says he is honored to be elected to serve in this capacity.

"As a member of the Board of Directors last year, I had the opportunity to work across jurisdictional lines and delve into the policies and functions that enable COG to effectively address our common challenges and needs across the region. I

See COG POST Page A3

Bowie State Suffers Heartbreaking 70-69 Home Loss to Virginia Union

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

BOWIE, MD—Virginia Union's Tavon Mealy (Richmond, VA) threw up an over-the-shoulder layup as time expired to lift the Panthers to a 70-69 overtime victory at Bowie State on Wednesday night. The loss, Bowie State's second in a row, drops the Bull-

dogs season mark to 7-11, 4-4 in league play and 0-1 in the Northern Division.

Bowie State junior Omari George (Baltimore, MD) came off the Bulldogs bench to pace the team with a team-high 18 points, on 5-of-7 shooting from the field and added five re-

See BOWIE STATE Page A5

PG County School Psychologists Donate Money, Supplies and Art to Chesapeake Life Center

By PRESS OFFICER
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, MD—The Prince George's County School Psychologists Association selected Chesapeake Life Center as its designated charity for the group's 2016 end-of-year giving campaign. Erica Chandler and Liz Magrogan, the association's president and vice president respectively, traveled to the nonprofit's headquarters in Pasadena on Dec. 21 to present art supplies, a painting and a check for \$1,600.

The two organizations have been building a partnership to better serve Prince George's County youth and their families. For example, the counselors at the Chesapeake Life Center recently presented to school psychologists on the topic of the impact that grief can have on the lives of children and teens.

"School psychologists are often the first line of support for children in need," Laurie Harrison, the center's director said. "We want to be sure school psychologists are



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

The Prince George's County School Psychologists Association present art supplies, a painting and a check for \$1,600 to Chesapeake Life Center in Pasadena. Pictured from left are Hospice of the Chesapeake CEO and President Ben Marcantonio, PGCSPA Vice President Liz Magrogan, PGCSPA President Erica Chandler and CLC Grief Counselor Sarah Montgomery, LCSW-C.

aware of the unique services we provide and reinforce the message that we are partners in the good work they do with their students."

Chandler said the painting the association gifted features footsteps of students' served by members of the association and reflects the theme of the 2016

School Psychology Awareness campaign: "Small Steps

See SUPPLIES Page A8

INSIDE

FACT SHEET: Equity in IDEA

Prior to these final regulations, districts identified as having significant disproportionality were not permitted to use their required 15 percent set aside for CEIS in order to serve students with disabilities, even if the district had identified racial disparities in the discipline and placement of children with disabilities.
Community, Page A3

Assessing President Obama's Impact and Legacy

During the Great Depression, Executive Secretary Eugene Kinckle Jones served on President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet." Lester Granger, who headed the League during World War II, is among those credited with persuading President Harry Truman to desegregate the Armed Forces.
Commentary, Page A4

Daily Fantasy Sports Now Regulated in MD to Ensure Fairness, Protect Consumers

In 2012, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation asserting that fantasy sports were not subject to state prohibitions against wagering and delegated authority to the Comptroller to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the law.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review: La La Land

Now, as much as I love the film, with its stylized reality and romantic heart and flights of fancy, it has a troubling flaw. The combination of breathy singing (they're not belting it out for the cheap seats) and unwieldy sound mixing makes it difficult to hear the lyrics during the first two numbers—a bad way to start a musical!
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that one of the big hurdles to growth in renewables is energy storage. What's new in the world of battery technologies? And will better forms of storage really accelerate the development of solar, wind and other alternative forms of energy?

—Maxwell Jay, Erie, PA
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Remembering the Challenger explosion, its connection to Morningside

Every year about this time I recall the shocking explosion of Space Shuttle *Challenger*, 73 seconds into its flight from Cape Canaveral, taking the lives of Frances R. Scobee, Michael J. Smith, Judith A. Resnik, Ellison S. Onizuka, Ronald McNair, Gregory B. Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe. That was Jan. 28, 1986.

This tragedy has particular relevance to our community because Christa McAuliffe, “the first teacher in space,” began her career in Morningside, teaching history at Benjamin D. Foulis Junior High School. Her husband Steven was an aide to Congressman Steny Hoyer.

At the time of her death she was teaching high school in Concord, N.H. In addition to her husband, she left behind two young children and her grieving students.

People

I had a delightful call from Sylvia Barbour. During our chat she told me, “Morningside is a wonderful town to live in.” That’s sweet!

Mary Alice Cleve sent word that her daughter Katy is living in Southern California working in casting for reality television. Mary Alice used to live on Clayton Lane in Skyline and was the daughter of the late Beverly and Bob Stolarski.

The Oxon Hill Food Pantry, now in its 33rd year, served 5,660 people last year and gave out 10,785 bags of food. The Pantry always needs help. If you’d like to volunteer, call Betty Cottrell at 301-420-8045.

As people come from all over the U.S. for the inauguration of Donald Trump, I remember the inaugurations I attended, often by myself. The first was Richard Nixon’s second term; with tickets from my Republican neighbor, Ted Burke. Then I continued with Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George H. W. Bush. I enjoyed the crowds and pomp and, back then, I even found a parking place every time.

Coming up

Sat., Feb. 4: Elijah’s Pantry will be open at Suitland Road Baptist Church, 10 a.m. to

12:00 noon. There’ll be food and clothing—free to the community. The church is at 6412 Suitland Road. For more information, call 301-219-2296.

Wed., Feb. 15: Skyline Citizens Association holds its quarterly meeting, 7 p.m. at the Morningside Fire House.

Tues., Feb. 28: On the day before Ash Wednesday, a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held in St. Philip’s Social Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are: adults, \$6; age 5 to 12, \$3; and \$20 for family. Four & under, free.

Every Wednesday: Smoking Cessation Class is held at Med-Star Health, Brandywine Community Room, 13950 Brandywine Road, 6 to 7 pm. Registration required. Info: 301-374-9098.

Applause

Bishop McNamara High School has been awarded the Prince George’s County Beautification Award for its Memorial Garden. Named in honor of student Terrell Edelen, class of 2014, the garden provides a serene place for the community to honor deceased loved ones, family, friends and teachers.

Morningside Memories: 1957

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission completed the water and sewage system in Morningside in 1957. The private water system was then placed on standby status while the WSSC system was checked for defects and leakage. In time, the old water system deep wells were abandoned altogether. The three wellheads can still be found in the 6900 block of Marianne Drive, in the 6900 block of Pickett Drive and in the 4500 block of Allies Road. (*From Morningside 50th Anniversary* by Charles J. Kiker.)

She served twice as Sodality prefect at St. Philip’s

Mary Frances Mazzullo, 89, of Columbia and formerly of Camp Springs, died Jan. 14. She was a native Washingtonian.

Years ago the Mazzullos were active members of St. Philip’s Parish. The children attended St. Philip’s School and Fran was twice elected prefect

of the Sodality, in 1969 and again in 1986.

Fran’s husband of 56 years, John F. Mazzullo Sr., brother Francis J. Murray and sister Catherine Reed preceded her in death. She is survived by her children, June Mitchell, Margaret Squires, Robert Mazzullo, John Mazzullo Jr., Mary Kennedy, Angela Mazzullo and Rita Meyers; siblings, John Murray, Marjorie Sproesser, Anna Murray and Rose Marie Murray; 13 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip’s, with burial at Resurrection Cemetery

He was given a tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers

James Panor, 87, a longtime member of the Clinton American Legion, died Jan. 14. He grew up in Washington, and graduated from the old Central High School in 1947 where he was active in football, baseball and track. He was inducted into the Washington Jock’s Hall of Fame which resulted in an invitation for him to try out with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

He worked with the superintendent staff of Prince George’s Schools. Among his duties, as population analyst, was to develop written descriptive boundaries for all public schools in the county.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Patricia Kowalowski Panor and sisters Helen and Sophie. He is survived by two sons, James and George Panor; a sister, Anne Panor; and four grandchildren. His funeral service was at SS. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Annapolis with burial at Glenwood Cemetery in Washington.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Robert Tretler Little, Jan. 26; Father Thomas LaHood and Yvonne Garvin, Jan. 27; Sister Zion and David Call, Jan. 30; Joanne (Clark) Bunch, Jan. 30; Donna Young and Robin Sawyer, Feb. 1; and Skyline Citizens Association’s president, Stanley Holmes, Feb. 2.

And will the groundhog see his shadow on February 2?

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

CONGRATULATIONS

Makayla Eugene daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene of Brandywine, Maryland traveled to participate in the Fusion Tap Festival in Dallas, Texas. Makayla is a proud member of the Jam Youth Project. The Jam Youth Project is a pre-professional tap dance company based in Washington, D.C. providing young tap dancers performance/multi-media based opportunities. This couldn’t have been possible without the love and support of family. It truly takes a village.

HEALTH & WELLNESS ZONE

All ages are welcome to participate in a variety of healthy activities that will improve the quality of your life Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 2:00-4:00 PM at Tucker Road Athletic Complex. The address is 1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Telephone number is 301-203-6000; TTY 301-699-2544.

STARPOWER TALENT COMPETITION

Join us for an exciting dance competition featuring some of the

most talented performers of all ages from coast to coast at the Show Place Arena Friday, February 24, 2017, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number is 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2255.

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

New Hope Fellowship Christ United Methodist Church Aquasco, Maryland is sponsoring *A Raisin in The Sun* at Arena Stage April 29, 2017. Showtime is 2:00 PM. The address is 1101 6th Street SW, Washington, D.C., 20024. Contact Phyllis Slater (301) 653-7345 or Crystal Washington (240) 299-1439 for more information.

BRANDYWINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Brandywine North Keys Civic Association was a participant in a special group formed to support a project to upgrade and make over the library and courtyard at Brandywine Elementary School. The project was spearheaded by the Heart of America Foundation in coordination with GS Proctor & Associates along with

several businesses operating in Brandywine. Volunteers from the community were sought to assist with completing the various tasks required by the project. This initiative is viewed as a way for companies and individuals to give back to the community.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Brandon Saunders, Iris Williams, Winthrop Chew, Jerrod Contee, Francis Deville, Barbara Hall, Elizabeth Hamilton, Kevin Milard and Walter Mozee who are celebrating their birthdays in the month of February.

SENIOR DAYS

Let’s move and get fit. Seniors who are Prince George’s County residents only are allowed use of both the pool and fitness center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 AM-12 Noon. Ages are 60 and up. The cost is free.

Location is the Prince George’s Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, Maryland 20785. Contact number is 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483 if you need more information.

Neighborhoods

WSSC is Prepared for the Wet Wintry Weather That We Can Expect This Season

LAUREL, MD—WSSC stands ready as forecasts call for the coldest weather since last February and some of the coldest December weather in the last several years. When temperatures drop precipitously, water main breaks occur more frequently. WSSC is operating under its emergency winter operation mode, and is ready to tackle the coming winter months.

Here are the steps WSSC is taking to do our best to help our customers:

- We have a 24/7 rapid response call center that quickly dispatches our crews.
- More than 200 personnel are strategically placed throughout Montgomery and Prince George’s counties to respond.
- Independent contractors are readily available to assist WSSC.
- Hundreds of pieces of heavy equipment are at the ready.
- We use GIS to help track and schedule maintenance and replacement activities.

WSSC maintains 5,784 miles of water mains and more than a third of the Commission’s water mains are over 50 years old. November through February are typically the busiest months for water main breaks and WSSC can experience as many as 600 in a given month. WSSC averages 1,795 breaks a year (this is a 10 year average from FY07-FY16).

Customers are encouraged to report a suspected broken water main as soon as possible. The sooner we know about a break, the sooner we can fix it. It is also a good idea to keep on hand 1-2 gallons of safe tap or bottled water per person per day for emergencies. A three-day supply of water is ideal, including water for pets.

While WSSC is not responsible for plumbing on our customers’ property, we feel it is important to share information that can help keep their pipes and water meters from freezing during the winter.

- Repair broken windows, doors and walls.
- Tightly close all doors and windows.
- Insulate outside walls.
- Check with your local hardware store about materials to insulate pipes and meters.
- On extremely cold nights open cabinet doors to expose your pipes to your home’s warmth.
- Let your kitchen or bathroom faucets drip slowly to keep water moving. Seal all leaks in crawl spaces and basements.
- Cover vents from the inside with insulation, cardboard, plastic or newspaper, if they will not close.
- Turn off the water to outside faucets, remove hoses and drain the pipes.

If a Pipe Freezes:

- Completely open the cold water faucet nearest the frozen pipe. This relieves the pressure and reduces the chance of breakage.
- Use a hand-held dryer if you decide to thaw the pipe yourself.

• If you’re not certain what to do, call a registered plumber.

WSSC maintains the pipes in the street, the connections to homes and businesses and outdoor water meters. Inside water meters are the responsibility of the property owner. Visit wsscwater.com/winterize for a complete list of winter preparation tips.

WSSC provides life-sustaining water and wastewater services that are critical to public health. Our work makes it possible for individuals, families, and businesses to enjoy quality of life. For nearly 100 years, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week, we have served the people of Prince George’s and Montgomery counties. WSSC drinking water has always met or surpassed federal standards.

Area student named to Dean’s List at West Virginia Wesleyan College

BUCKHANNON, WV—Winnifred Berry of Greenbelt was named to the Dean’s List at West Virginia Wesleyan College for the 2016 fall semester. Wesleyan’s Dean’s List requires students to earn a grade point average of 3.5 - 3.9 in 12 or more semester hours.

Founded in 1890, West Virginia Wesleyan is a private residential college located in Buckhannon. The college offers 49 majors and graduate programs in athletic training, business, education, English and nursing. Thirteen Wesleyan students have been selected as U.S. Department of State Fulbright Scholars.

BGE Focused on Innovating for Customers as Company Begins Third Century of Service to Central Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), founded as the Gas Light Company of Baltimore in 1816, marked its bicentenary throughout 2016 with both company employees and the residents and customers throughout central Maryland.

“As BGE’s 200th anniversary year comes to a close, it has never been more clear to us that the innovations of America’s first gas utility have been—and will always be—centered on our valued customers,” said Calvin G. Butler Jr, chief executive officer of BGE. “Moving smart energy forward with reliability, safety and a commitment to our community continues to be our purpose and our promise.”

To mark the 200th anniversary, BGE presented three legacy gifts to the central Maryland region in the areas of community development, arts & culture, and education:

- Development of a state-of-the-art youth development ballfield, Eddie Murray Field at BGE Park with the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation
- Installation of 100 Art Mosaics in Partnership with Art With a Heart in communities throughout central Maryland
- Establishment of nine annual scholarships to students in BGE’s service area

In addition to the legacy gifts, a series of events throughout the year gave residents and employees the opportunity to join in the fun:

- Serving as lead sponsors of Baltimore’s Light City festival, attended by more than 400,000.
- Marking June with Customer Appreciation Month with the Orioles.
- Sponsorships of Independence Day and fireworks celebrations throughout central Maryland.
- Sponsoring the BGE Main Stage at Artscape.
- Commissioning three large-scale murals on storage tanks at one of the major gateways to Baltimore depicting iconic Maryland images—blue crabs, thoroughbred horse racing and the Star Spangled Banner.
- Partnering with the Maryland Historic Society on the anniversary book, *Baltimore Gas and Electric at 200*.

“It has been an honor and privilege to call central Maryland our home for 200 years and to share our celebration throughout 2016,” said Butler. “In the same way that customers have counted on us to deliver through the years, you can be sure that BGE’s 3,200 employees are continuing to shape the future of energy here in central Maryland. We look forward to a new era of energy innovation, when BGE and our customers—together—will move smart energy forward with no less drive and passion than the generations before us.”

BGE, founded in 1816 as the nation’s first gas utility, is Maryland’s largest natural gas and electric utility. Headquartered in Baltimore, BGE delivers power to more than 1.25 million electric customers and more than 650,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company’s approximately 3,200 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation’s leading competitive energy provider. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

Interactive Game Room Opens in White Marsh

WHITE MARSH, MD—MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate Services, LLC is pleased to announce that Get A Clue Games, LLC has signed a lease for 2,500 square feet at 8019 Corporate Drive, part of the centrally located Tyler Ridge development in White Marsh, Maryland. The MacKenzie team of Meghan Roy, Matt Mueller, Joe Bradley, and Henson Ford represented the owner, Kenwood Management, in the transaction.

A new venture for owners Joey and Dawn Fox, yet a growing entertainment trend, Get A Clue Games consists of real-life interactive clue rooms where people work together as teams to solve puzzles, find hidden objects, and crack codes to solve a mystery within one hour. This location features three staged rooms and offers team building workshops and private parties.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Some Couples Invest in Their Future in Ways Other Than a Diamond Ring

What does an engagement ring look like? For many people, my wife included, the answer is a diamond ring. While that's a concept that didn't become widely accepted until the diamond industry's marketing campaigns in the mid-1900s, it's one that holds strong today. However, some couples are going in an alternative direction. The intention isn't to be cheap, but rather to use the savings to make a different kind of meaningful investment in their future together.



When and how a proposal happens can be a surprise, but hopefully, the answer won't be. That is likely doubly true if the question is popped without a diamond engagement ring, or perhaps without a ring at all. As always in a relationship, communication is key. While some people may be excited by the idea, it could be a deal breaker for others.

What will a meaningful investment look like to the both of you? A friend of mine recently shared with me the story of how he proposed to his now wife, and the decision to forgo an engagement ring altogether.

When they first started discussing marriage and engagement rings, she said she'd rather put the money towards a down payment because starting a home together was more meaningful to her than a ring. He didn't ask right away, but when he did take a knee, ringless, and ask her to marry him—clearly she said yes. Today they live in the home the savings helped buy, wear only wedding bands and he says neither of them regrets the decision.

A down payment might not make sense for you, but there are other ways to invest in your future together. For some couples, paying down debts or saving for their wedding so that they don't go into debt might be a better fit. Or, you might want to start a travel or honeymoon fund.

Consider your options if you want to buy a ring. Understandably, the idea of proposing without an engagement ring isn't for everyone, and there is a middle ground. A less expensive engagement ring with the savings going towards your shared goal.

Here are few options you could discuss with your significant other:

- **Alternative stones.** There are a variety of alternative precious and semi-precious stones you could pick for the ring. Matching a stone's color to the person's eyes or choosing their birthstone could imbue the ring with a personal touch. However, be careful about picking a "soft" gem that could be easily scratched if it's worn daily.
- **Diamond look-alikes.** You could choose a synthetic diamond or a stone that looks similar to a diamond but costs much less, such as a cubic zirconia. Some of the man-made and alternative options can look more brilliant than genuine diamonds, and you don't need to worry about whether or not the stone is conflict-free.
- **A solid band.** While it won't have the same flash as a ring with a large gemstone, choosing a smaller diamond or solid metal band with a symbolic meaning could be just as meaningful to your partner.

Family heirlooms can also make for memorable engagement rings and often there isn't a price tag attached (although a lengthy discussion might be in order). A vintage ring could appeal to some people's style, or the center stone could be reset in a modern band. In either case, there's something special about wearing a gemstone that's been in one of your families for generations.

Decide on your priorities as a couple and act accordingly. According to The Knot's 2015 Real Weddings Study, an average of \$5,871 was spent on engagement rings. For some, there's no better way to spend money. After all, it's a ring that's going to be worn for decades.

However, you can discuss engagement ring expectations before you ask someone to marry you. If a diamond isn't particularly important, an alternative ring or gemstone, or no ring at all, can be an equally timeless and beautiful gesture of love when you both know the money is going to an important step in your future together.

COG Postfrom A1

look forward to continuing that work in this regional leadership position, serving alongside Chairman McDuffie and Vice-Chair Letourneau."

Council Chair Davis also noted the important work ahead to restore confidence in the Metrorail system.

"The long term viability of Metro, and the safety of riders who rely on the rail system to fulfil their transportation needs, remains central on our radar. While the board will focus on a number of issues this year, working towards the restoration of confidence in Metro remains a top priority."

COG is an independent, nonprofit association of 23 local governments supported by financial contributions from its member governments, Federal and State grants and contracts, and donations from foundations and the private sector. COG connects leaders across borders to help shape strong communities in Metropolitan Washington.

The Board of Directors is COG's governing body and is responsible for its overall policies, functions, and funds. Board members are appointed each year by the participating local governments and by caucuses of state legislative delegations from the region.

FACT SHEET: Equity in IDEA

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Education today made available to the public final regulations under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), aimed at promoting equity by targeting widespread disparities in the treatment of students of color with disabilities. The regulations will address a number of issues related to significant disproportionality in the identification, placement, and discipline of students with disabilities based on race or ethnicity. The Department is also releasing a new Dear Colleague Letter addressing racial discrimination.

"Children with disabilities are often disproportionately and unfairly suspended and expelled from school and educated in classrooms separate from their peers," said U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. "Children of color with disabilities are overrepresented within the special education population, and the contrast in how frequently they are disciplined is even starker."

King added, "Today's new regulations and supporting documents provide the necessary guidance and support to school districts and build upon the work from public education advocates and local leaders who believe, like we do, that we need to address racial and ethnic disparities in special education. This important step forward is about ensuring the right services get to the right students in the right way."

In order to address those inequities, IDEA requires states to identify districts with "significant disproportionality" in special education—that is, when districts identify, place in more restrictive settings, or discipline children from any racial or ethnic group at markedly higher rates than their peers.

Children of color—particularly African American and American Indian youth—are identified as students with disabilities at substantially higher rates than their peers. It is critical to ensure that overrepresentation is not the result of misidentification, including both over- and under-identification, which can interfere with a school's ability to provide children with the appropriate educational services required by law. It is equally important to ensure that all children who are suspected of having a disability are evaluated and, as appropriate, receive needed special education and related services in the most appropriate setting

and with the most appropriate discipline strategies employed.

This rule sets a common standard for identifying significant disproportionality in representation of students within special education, segregated school settings, and in receipt of disciplinary actions and ensures that school districts where disproportionality is found carefully review their policies and practices to determine root causes and whether changes are needed. The final rule ensures that school districts explore and address situations where the cause of significant disproportionality is due to under-identification of a group as well as over-identification.

President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Task Force identified restoring equity for students with disabilities as a key priority, because there are lasting impacts on children when they are misidentified, including them being taught in classrooms separate from their peers and subjected to inappropriate disciplinary action. Today's announcement delivers on that commitment.

A Standard Approach

The final regulations establish a standard approach that States must use in determining whether significant disproportionality based on race or ethnicity is occurring in the state and in its districts. In 2013, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report finding that, because states currently use a wide variety of methodologies for examining their districts, few states take action to address significant disproportionality; in fact, as the GAO found, only two to three percent of all districts nationwide are identified as having significant disproportionality, and some states' methodologies for identifying districts for disproportionality were constructed in such a way that the GAO found districts would likely never be identified. Accordingly, GAO recommended that the Department require that all states adopt a standard approach to identify racial and ethnic disparities. With these final regulations, all states will use the same methodology, which will allow for more accurate comparisons within and across states.

Focusing on Discipline

In addition to requiring a standard methodology, the regulations shine a spotlight on disparities in the discipline of students with disabilities on the basis of race or ethnicity by requiring states to examine districts for significant disproportionality in their disciplinary

practices. Specifically, the regulations clarify that States must address significant disproportionality in the incidence, duration, and type of disciplinary actions, including suspensions and expulsions, using the same statutory remedies required to address significant disproportionality in the identification and placement of children with disabilities.

Addressing the Root Causes of Disproportionality

In order to eliminate the racial and ethnic disparities that are the focus of these regulations, districts must identify and address the root causes of significant disproportionality. Accordingly, the final regulations clarify requirements for the review and revision of policies, practices, and procedures when significant disproportionality is found. Districts will be required to identify and address the factors contributing to significant disproportionality as part of comprehensive, coordinated early intervening services (CEIS). In addition, new flexibilities in the use of CEIS will further help districts identified with large disparities in addressing the underlying causes of the disparity.

Providing Support for Districts to Take Action

The Department understands that districts need support to effectively address significant disproportionality, and these final regulations provide that support through additional flexibilities in the use of CEIS. Prior to these final regulations, districts identified as having significant disproportionality were not permitted to use their required 15 percent set aside for CEIS in order to serve students with disabilities, even if the district had identified racial disparities in the discipline and placement of children with disabilities. Likewise, CEIS funds could not be used to serve preschool children. Now, with these final regulations, districts identified as having significant disproportionality will have the flexibility to use their CEIS set aside to assist students with disabilities and preschool children with and without disabilities.

All children who require special education services should be appropriately identified and supported. At the same time, no child should be inappropriately identified for special education services, segregated from his or her peers, or disciplined more frequently or harshly simply because they are a student of color with a disability. These regulations will help ensure that the promise of

IDEA is fulfilled without regard to race or ethnicity.

The final regulations incorporate changes to the Department's initial proposals from the comments we received in many ways, including:

- Better addressing how the risk ratio applies to small districts; under the final regulations;
- States need not calculate risk ratios for any racial or ethnic group that does not meet minimum cell or n-sizes set by the state;
- Explicitly prohibiting the use of quotas or of artificially reducing the number of children identified as children with disabilities; and
- Clarifying that states have flexibility not to identify significant disproportionality in districts that make reasonable progress in lowering risk ratios for two prior consecutive years.

Meanwhile, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is also releasing a new policy document to support educators and administrators as they work to identify students' need for special education. This new policy document was created to remind states, school districts, and public schools of their legal obligation to prevent discrimination on the basis of race in special education. OCR's enforcement experience suggests both over-identification and under-identification based on race are occurring in schools.

"All students deserve access to the world-class education federal civil rights laws demand," said Catherine E. Lhamon, assistant secretary for civil rights. "The Department will continue its work with school communities to safeguard the rights of our students with disabilities, students of color, and all students to ensure educational equity."

Specifically, the Dear Colleague Letter explains the Title VI requirement that students of all races and national origins have equitable access to general education interventions and to a timely referral for an evaluation for disability under the IDEA or Section 504; and that students of all races and national origins be treated equitably in the evaluation process, in the quality of special education services and supports they receive, and in the degree of restrictiveness of their educational environment.

The letter outlines how to avoid racial discrimination in the referral for disability evaluation, the evaluation process itself, and the provision of special education. It also provides ten illustrative examples that provide further guidance on those processes.

Whitehall Elementary Recognized for Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Whitehall Elementary School in Bowie is the recipient of a 2016 Maryland Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) Award, one of only 10 schools statewide selected for this honor.

"Whitehall Elementary exemplifies the gold standard of gifted and talented education in our state," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). "It's important for all students to have educational opportunities that keep them challenged and engaged. We could not be prouder."

The EGATE Award recognizes public school programs that offer superior and equitable gifted and talented education. The rigorous application process requires school teams to document how their school's gifted and talented education program aligns with the Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Education Program Guidelines.

Whitehall joins 14 other PGCPS schools that have received this award in the past:

- Accokeek Academy (2012–2013)
- Calverton Elementary School (2015–2016)
- Capitol Heights Elementary School (2013–2014)
- Glenarden Woods Elementary School (2012–2013)

- Greenbelt Elementary School (2014–2015)
- Greenbelt Middle School (2013–2014)
- Heather Hills Elementary School (2012–2013)
- Kenmoor Middle School (2015–2016)
- Mattaponi Elementary School (2013–2014)
- Montpelier Elementary School (2011–2012)
- Rockledge Elementary School (2012–2013)
- University Park Elementary School (2015–2016)
- Valley View Elementary School (2011–2012)
- Walker Mill Middle School (2011–2012)

This year's new EGATE schools will be honored during Maryland's Gifted and Talented

Education Month at a reception and awards ceremony on Feb. 16 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at North County High School in Glen Burnie. The schools will receive a citation from Gov. Larry Hogan and an EGATE banner to display on their school buildings and websites. In addition, schools will be honored during a Maryland State Board of Education meeting, host celebratory visits from members of the Maryland Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education and serve as models and resources to other schools working to achieve EGATE status.

For more information about the PGCPS Talented and Gifted program, visit the website at <http://www1.pgcps.org/tag/>.

COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



Congressman Steny Hoyer Attends Maryland Rally to Save Health Care

BOWIE, MD—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) joined elected officials from throughout Maryland at the Maryland Rally to Save Health Care, part of the national day of action in opposition to Republican attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act without immediately replacing it. Below are highlights from his remarks:

“Good afternoon and thank you all for being here. When the Democrats in the House and Senate were working to pass the Affordable Care Act in 2009, a lot of people showed up at the Capitol and they called themselves the ‘Tea Party.’ Well I call them the ‘Me Party.’ And I call all of us Democrats the ‘We Party.’

“We are in this together. We care about our fellow citizens. We care about seniors, and young people, and those with disabilities, and those with pre-existing conditions, and those who have health care costs that they can’t afford. We care about them.

“I am a grandfather, and I tell people who ask me why I am worried about someone else’s

health care that I have grandchildren going to school. I want the kids to the left of them, and to the right of them, and in front of them, and behind them to be healthy. We are all in this together. We are the ‘We Party.’

“America is the richest land on the face of earth, and we must make sure that all of our fellow citizens have access to affordable, quality insurance because that is what this is all about. That’s what America is about. That’s what Obamacare is about.

“We are going to win. We are going to win because they don’t have an alternative. It’s a shell game. There is no pea under any one of the shells. It’s been seven years now and they can’t find the pea.

“The ‘We Party’ will prevail. I want all of you to understand this. We just had an election, and over two million more people voted to keep the Affordable Care Act. We represent the majority of Americans willing to say we are in this together. Thank you!”



NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
The hub of all NASA tracking activities, Goddard is also responsible for the development of unmanned sounding rockets, and research in space and earth sciences including NASA’s Mission to Planet Earth. Through interactive educational exhibits, visitors explore Goddard Space Flight Center with a focus on 1958 to present. Collections include space flight artifacts and photographs. Model rocket launchings, gift shop and special group tours available. Open 10-4 p.m. Admission is free. The main campus of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center is located at 8800 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20771. The Visitor Center is located adjacent to the main campus, off ICESat Road (formerly Soil Conservation Road). For more information call 301-286-8981.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



Moral Courage: Standing Up for What is Right

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Even a superficial look at history reveals that no social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. Every step towards the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle ... This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”
—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Wednesday, Senator Cory A. Booker (D-NJ) and Representative John Lewis (D-GA) joined the list of speakers testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee against the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) for Attorney General of the United States. Both were assigned to a panel at the very end of the hearing process, a slot fellow panelist Representative Cedric L. Richmond (D-LA), the head of the Congressional Black Caucus, called “the equivalent of being made to go to the back of the bus.” Several Senate committee members who have already publicly supported Senator Sessions left before Senator Booker’s and Representative Lewis’ important testimony began. But that didn’t deter them from speaking out against the threat they see to the civil rights progress our nation has made if Senator Sessions becomes Attorney General.

Congressman Lewis noted that he was born in rural Alabama too, not far from where Senator Sessions grew up, but as a Black child he inherited a far different society: “There was no way to escape or deny the choke hold of discrimination and racial hate that surrounded us.” He said, “A clear majority of Americans say they want this to be a fair, just, and open nation ... They are concerned that some leaders reject decades of progress and want to return to the dark past, when the power of law was used to deny the freedoms protected by the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and its Amendments. These are the voices I represent today. We can pretend that the law is blind. We can pretend that it is even-handed. But if we are honest with ourselves, we know that we are called

upon daily by the people we represent to help them deal with unfairness in how the law is written and enforced. Those who are committed to equal justice in our society wonder whether Senator Sessions’ call for ‘law and order’ will mean today what it meant in Alabama, when I was coming up back then. The rule of law was used to violate the human and civil rights of the poor, the dispossessed, people of color.”

In additional written remarks Congressman Lewis was even clearer about some of his current fears: “Some people argue that the 48 years of a fully-operational Voting Rights Act simply erased hundreds of years of hate and violence. This is not ancient history; the scars and stains of racism are still deeply embedded in our society. This is proven by the thousands of pages of evidence submitted to Congress which verify continued voting rights discrimination across our nation and in the Deep South. Representing Alabama on this Committee, Senator Sessions had an opportunity to lead. Instead, the Senator turned a blind eye to the persistent and consistent efforts to make it harder and

more difficult for minorities, the poor, the elderly, and others to exercise the right to vote ... After the *Shelby v. Holder* decision [the 2013 Supreme Court decision striking down key provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act], minorities were in mourning as Senator Sessions was celebrating. He declared the decision was ‘good news for the South.’ Alabama and other states immediately adopted voter ID legislation—making it harder for minorities to execute their right to vote. We must face the truth. We are a multi-racial, multi-ethnic country ... [a]nd we cannot avoid the fact that there is a systematic, deliberate attempt to destroy the advances of civil rights in this country and take us back to a period when America declared its greatness on one hand, but fostered the worst kind of racial discrimination on the other.”

Senator Booker, born after the Civil Rights Movement, made it clear that he feels personally indebted to heroes like John Lewis who were attacked and some even killed during

See WATCH, Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



U.S. Senate Has Failed to Move the Needle When It Comes to Diversity

“America’s possibilities are limitless, for we possess all the qualities that this world without boundaries demands: youth and drive; diversity and openness; an endless capacity for risk and a gift for reinvention. My fellow Americans, we are made for this moment, and we will seize it—so long as we seize it together.”

—Barack Obama

Since our founding in 1910, the National Urban League has been focused on economic civil rights and empowerment issues. At the core of economic civil rights is the idea that all people should have access to jobs for which they are qualified. For instance, in the 1960’s the venerable Whitney M. Young, worked to convince CEO’s of America’s top corporations that “Negroes” were qualified to do more than just mop floors. Mr. Young described his proposals for integration and affirmative action in his two books, *To Be Equal* (1964) and *Beyond Racism* (1969).

Even today, the National Urban League is engaged with corporate America in the areas of diversity and inclusion. We have worked with companies such as ATT, Verizon and Comcast to diversify their companies from top to bottom. While there is work to do yet, we’ve seen some progress. For instance, there are nearly 40 general counsel of color standing at the legal helm of Fortune 500 companies.

In spite of the progress this country has made related to corporate diversity, our Congress, specifically the U.S. Senate, has failed to move the needle when it comes to diversity and inclusion. While policy decisions affecting all Americans are debated in the halls of Congress, persons of color are largely absent in top level staff positions. Thus, on issues like education, the economy, health care, and decisions of war and peace, Members of Congress are legislating without the perspectives of black and brown staff.

The lack of diversity on Capitol Hill is not a new issue. I addressed this issue in 2006 in a submission to the Bay State Banner. There I stated, “So senators will still preach the benefits of diversity, but they won’t necessarily put their sermons into practice. And even if they don’t talk the talk, they should walk the walk—not just for the sake of the people they represent, but for the nation as a whole.”

The lack of diversity is especially pronounced at the senior level. There are 100 Senators. Each Senator has three senior positions in their personal offices—Chief of Staff, Legislative Director and Communications Director. Those three

positions, unlike any others assist in the management of the Senator’s office and the Senate legislative agenda, shape the \$3.8 trillion U.S. federal budget, provide oversight of federal agencies and hire, manage, mentor and promote junior Senate staff. These influential top three aides advise the senators on all issues and their recommendations are usually carried out.

In 2015, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies released a 31-page report depicting the diversity problem. It found that although people of color make up over 36% of the U.S. population, they represent only 7% of Chiefs of Staff, Communication Directors and Legislative Directors in the personal offices of all U.S. Senators. And when it comes to numbers for African Americans the findings are even more alarming. There is only one African American Chief of Staff out of 100. There is only one African American legislative director out of 100. There is only one African American communications director out of 100. Most troubling is the fact that out of the three African American senior staffers just mentioned, only one works for a democratic senator.

So why hasn’t this issue been addressed in the past? The answer is simple: Members of Congress have exempted themselves from most labor laws like the Equal Employment Act of 1972 and the 1964 Civil Rights Act. As a result, there is no legal requirement for Senators to provide answers to anyone when it comes to the employees they hire for their personal staffs and/or committee assignments. The Senate also doesn’t have to follow the federal Freedom of Information Act that gives citizens access to information about their government. So citizens and groups like NUL can’t get access to Congressional employment figures even though we can get such numbers from companies that receive federal contracts.

On January 5th, the Washington Bureau hosted a lunch and panel discussion on this important issue. At the event, the discussion centered on solutions for addressing the lack of diversity at the senior staff level and discussed the creation of a pipeline for junior staffers of color. During the discussion, the National Urban League proposed the following solutions:

1. Congress must enact legislation or rules subjecting it to employment laws which require reporting of employment demographics.

See U.S. SENATE Page A5

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Parenting A Teenager Made Easier

Yes, being the parent of a teen can be made "easier," but sorry, it's probably never going to be "easy." The teenage years are a difficult time in the life of a young person and, unfortunately, that usually makes for a difficult time in the life of the parents.

Teens don't consciously mean to be non-communicative, withdrawn and perhaps even hostile when it comes to a relationship with parents. In reality, teens are more often confused, scared and simply unsure of themselves, but instead of wanting to let others, especially those in charge, see those "weaknesses," the defense mechanism is to try and keep as much information as possible from the parental units.

What makes the teen years so difficult are the personal changes and situations facing your child. School is probably more challenging than it was a few years before. At the same time, the teen is dealing with a body that is maturing, hormonal changes, and increased pressure about unknowns like college or a career.

Meanwhile, your role is as the authority figure, setting rules and limits. The result is your teen is more likely to talk and share feelings with friends than with you. Why? Friends are usually less critical, less judgmental and more likely facing the same issues. And friends don't try to parent, but you do.

The cure isn't to give up your parenting role, but simply to soften it a bit. Invest some time in the things that interest your teen — friends, food, TV, video games and other favorite activities. Encourage your teen to invite friends to the house and spend some time listening to your child's favorite music. Your goal isn't to like any of your teen's choices, but rather to demonstrate that you understand and respect your teen's decisions.

Teen parenting frustration can also be lessened by simply offering communication opportunities. Be available to your teen and learn to ask questions and really listen non-critically to any responses. Don't immediately offer advice or criticism. Giving your opinion or suggestion without being asked is a sure-fire way to shut down communication.

Your goal is for your teen to see you not just as a parent, but also as someone who respects him or her and is willing to listen without giving instant advice or judgments. Achieve that and the teenage years may indeed seem easier, at least from the parent's side.

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

Watch from A4

the struggle to make America a more just nation—and equally resolute against moving backwards. He took the courageous step of being the first sitting Senator to testify against the confirmation of another Senator. In his prepared remarks he said, "I want an Attorney General who is committed to supporting law enforcement and securing law and order. But that is not enough. America was founded heralding not law and order, but justice for all. And critical to that is equal justice under the law. Law and order without justice is unobtainable ... If there is no justice, there is no peace. The Alabama State Troopers on the Edmund Pettis Bridge were seeking law and order. The marchers were seeking justice—and ultimately the greater peace."

Senator Booker added: "If confirmed, Senator Sessions will be required to pursue justice for women, but his record indicates that he won't. He will be expected to defend the equal rights of gay and lesbian Americans, but his record indicates that he won't. He will be expected to defend voting rights, but his record indicates that he won't. He will be expected to defend the rights of immigrants and affirm their human dignity, but his record indicates he won't. His record indicates that as Attorney General he would obstruct the growing national bipartisan movement toward criminal justice reform. His record indicates that we cannot count on him to support state and national efforts toward bring-

ing justice to a justice system that people on both sides of the aisle readily admit is biased against the poor, drug addicted, mentally ill, and people of color. His record indicates that at a time when even the FBI director is speaking out about implicit racial bias in policing and the need to address it; at a time when the last two Attorneys General have taken steps to fix our broken criminal justice system; and at a time when the Justice Department he would lead has uncovered systemic abuses in police departments all over the United States including Ferguson, including Newark; Senator Sessions would not continue to lead urgently needed change ... Challenges of race in America cannot be addressed if we refuse to confront them. Persistent biases cannot be defeated unless we combat them. The arc of the universe does not just naturally curve toward justice—we must bend it."

I'm deeply grateful to Senator Booker and Congressman Lewis for their extraordinary testimony and moral leadership. At the end of his statement Congressman Lewis said, "Leadership is not easy. You are expected to make tough decisions—to do what is right, what is just, and what is fair for all the people of this nation who rely on you to speak up and speak out on their behalf." They spoke on behalf of the majority, millions of Americans, who are afraid of a new onslaught of attempts to push the arc of our nation away from justice—and seek

See WATCH, Page 8

Daily Fantasy Sports Now Regulated in MD to Ensure Fairness, Protect Consumers

Regulations Don't Apply to Casual, Season-Long Fantasy Sports Games

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Comptroller

ANNAPOLIS, MD—With daily fantasy sports games drawing in hundreds of thousands of Marylanders, regulations took effect Monday, January 2, to help ensure the games are fair and that winners pay appropriate Maryland taxes.

"Daily online fantasy sports games have a significant presence in Maryland," Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot said. "It is entirely appropriate that we enforce basic rules to ensure the games are fair, anti-competitive abuses are declared out of bounds, and appropriate taxes are paid."

The New Maryland Regulations:

- Ban daily fantasy sports game participation by Marylanders under 18; professional athletes in games of their individual sport; and employees, principals,

officers, directors or contractors of fantasy sports operators (or members of those individuals' immediate families).

- Ban games based on amateur or college sports.

- Require game operators to clearly identify players that are highly experienced.

- Ban the use by players of third-party created anti-competitive "scripts"—mini-programs which experienced players are currently using to gain advantages that are unfair to more casual players.

- Limit participants to a maximum of \$1,000 in deposits per month unless they proactively ask the operator to raise their limit—and certify to the operator they have the financial ability to afford losses which may result from daily fantasy sports competition play at the higher deposit level requested.

- Bar game operators from extending any credit to a player.

- Require game operators to hold player funds separate from company operating funds and to establish a reserve fund sufficient to pay all prizes offered to winning Fantasy Sports players.

- Prohibit game operators from depicting minors, students and school or college settings in their advertisements.

- Require game operators to notify Marylanders of their potential tax obligations, and require game operators to comply with State and Federal data security laws.

The regulations apply only to daily fantasy sports contests, not the traditional, season-long fantasy leagues run by companies like Yahoo and ESPN that attract office coworkers, softball teammates or church groups.

Daily fantasy sports are a subset of Internet-based fantasy sports games. Players compete against other players by building teams of professional athletes from a particular sports league

or competition. The players earn points based on the actual statistical performance of those athletes in real-world competitions.

Daily fantasy sports are an accelerated variety of these fantasy sports in which contests are conducted over short-term periods such as a week or a day instead of over an entire season. They are usually marketed as a "contest," with winners receiving a share of a pre-determined pot of dollars funded by the players' collective entry fees.

In 2012, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation asserting that fantasy sports were not subject to state prohibitions against wagering and delegated authority to the Comptroller to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the law. The popularity of the games has grown exponentially.

Maryland's regulations are similar to those in effect in states that have taken action. Rules on the activity are still relatively new.

2017 Session from A1

D-Baltimore, due to illness.

Hogan has said he intends to attend the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, despite telling the *Baltimore Sun* that he didn't vote for the controversial Republican businessman.

Hogan, a Republican, enjoys high approval ratings in a majority Democratic state and refused to endorse Trump during the campaign.

Looking toward the 2018 gubernatorial election, Hogan faces a complicated political arena as many Republican voters will likely expect the governor to support the Republican president. At the same time, his refusal to endorse or support Trump during the election gained him ground among Maryland's majority liberal voting population.

According to Amelia Chassé, the governor's deputy communications director, "the governor does what he thinks is right, this is not about political maneuvering; Governor Hogan had a strong relationship with the Obama administration without supporting President Obama."

Chassé said Hogan's top priority for the 2017 legislative session remains repealing the Maryland Open Transportation

Decision Act of 2016. The bill requires the governor's office to score transportation funding projects before they receive funding.

The governor's office refers to the bill as the "roadkill-bill" and Chassé said that it will prevent the administration from moving forward with important projects.

During remarks at Wednesday's first Senate session, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., D-Calvert, Charles and Prince George's, told Hogan that the Senate would look at the transportation bill and consider ways to make it "more palatable" to the governor.

Miller also said that the governor's office and both legislative bodies are united in their commitment to address opioid abuse in the state.

There is wide bipartisan support to fight the heroin and opioid epidemic in Maryland. In previous years, the legislature has addressed the issue by picking "low hanging fruit," said Delegate Clarence Lam, D-Baltimore and Howard counties, such as by enacting laws that protect people from arrest for calling 911 for an overdose, or by distributing Naloxone, which can reverse the effects of opioids.

Lam and other delegates hope to go further by providing more

funding for preventative measures and addiction treatment centers, he said.

Miller praised Hogan's budget allocations for environmental initiatives.

However, the governor vetoed a 2016 bill that would have increased Maryland's renewable portfolio standard, which regulates the amount of electricity in the state connected to renewable energy sources.

Also, Sen. Robert Zirkin, D-Baltimore County, said that one of his top priorities in 2017 "is to ban fracking in Maryland." Zirkin went on to say that "it would be the height of legislative negligence if we failed to do that."

Maryland currently has a moratorium on fracking that expires later this year.

Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh, a former Democratic senator, was a guest on the Senate floor and took a moment to thank the senators who supported her mayoral campaign.

Pugh says that "making sure the funding is in place" for education in the city is one of her administration's top priorities during the 2017 session.

Shortly after arriving at the State House, Pugh was approached by Hogan, who embraced her in a hug.

Their conversation was muffled, but Hogan could be heard saying enthusiastically "time for a change in Baltimore City" as Pugh nodded and the two separated.

Sen. J.B. Jennings, R-Baltimore County, Harford, said "overall, my priority is to make this a successful session."

Hogan proposed a sick leave plan late last year that would give Maryland workers five days of paid leave for businesses with at least 50 workers.

While some lawmakers want his plan to have a further reach, it provides a good "starting point for discussions," Lam said.

Annapolis lawmakers are bracing themselves for the president-elect Trump's plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Without the current level of federal funding for healthcare, Maryland lawmakers may have to scramble to pick up the costs, working within an already tight budget, said Delegate Terri Hill, D-Baltimore and Howard counties.

If the state can't find the funds, thousands could potentially lose their healthcare, Lam said.

Please Note: Capital News Service reporters Natalie Schwartz and Jack Chavez contributed to this report.

Bowie State from A1

bounds, one block and a pair of steals. Junior Ahmaad Wilson (Baltimore, MD) contributed 17 points and senior Enuoma Ebinum (Greenbelt, MD) hauled down a team-high 12 rebounds to go along with nine points and two blocked shots.

Virginia Union (14-5, 6-1 CIAA, 1-1 North) was led by Ray Anderson (Wilmington, DE.) with a game-high 24 points, which included a perfect 9-of-9 at the free throw line. Kory Cooley (Washington, D.C.) also scored in double figures, chipping in 11 points for

the Panthers. VUU's Mealy led all players on the glass, ripping down 13 boards and tallied eight points.

The Bulldogs jumped out to an early 6-0 lead via back-to-back 3-pointers by redshirt freshman David Belle (Hyattsville, MD) and Wilson and led the Panthers 7-2 over the first four minutes of the contest.

Virginia Union's Panthers responded with a 9-2 run to take their first lead (11-9) at the 12:26 mark of the opening half. The Panthers stretched its lead to ten points twice in the first 20 minutes with the last coming (23-13) with 6:08 to go.

The Bulldogs defense really intensified and the Bowie State offense answered with an 8-0 run to pull within two at 23-21 with just over five minutes left before halftime. Bowie State would regain the first half lead at 30-29 after a Wilson triple and went into the break holding a 37-34 advantage.

The lead would change hands three times in the second half and resulted in regulation ending at 65-61.

Mealy scored the first points of overtime for Virginia Union and Bowie State's George drove the paint for layup to tie the game at 67-67 with 2:39 left in the extra period.

VUU's John Mitchell (Harlem, NY) shifted the advantage back over to the Panthers at 68-67 after making 1-of-2 free throws.

BSU's George made a twisting layup on the Bulldogs next possession to shift the lead back to the home team at 69-68 with 1:48 remaining in overtime. Unfortunately, the Panthers were able to steal a win after Mealy's stick back as time expired.

Bowie State will look to snap this two-game slide on Saturday (1/21) on the road at Chowan. Game time between the Bulldogs and Hawks is set for 4 p.m. the CU's Helms Center.

U. S. Senate from A4

2. Congress must publish and announce vacancies for senior staff positions so those vacancies are no longer filled in secrecy and behind closed doors.

3. Once vacancies are announced, fair interview processes must be established employing the National Football League's "Rooney Rule." The

Rooney Rule is the NFL's policy that requires league teams to interview minority candidates for head coaching and senior football operation jobs.

The National Urban League will continue to monitor this issue. In the coming weeks, we will send the resumes of senior level candidates of color to newly elected senators and senators representing states with

high minority populations. The hope is to provide the members with a qualified talent pool to interview when senior positions become open. We also plan to make diversity and inclusion a part of our legislative priorities. When our affiliates arrive in Washington, D.C. on May 2 for the Legislative Policy Conference, diversity and inclusion will be on our

agenda. We have to make it a priority. It's about time the U.S. Congress brings its diversity problem out of the attic—if not for the sake of minorities attempting to make a name for themselves on Capitol Hill then for the integrity and effectiveness of our nation's laws. Capitol Hill should look like the model of diversity, not like a members-only country club.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

La La Land

La La Land
Grade: A-
Rated PG-13, one F-word, a lot of singing?
2 hrs., 8 min

La La Land is a musical from the writer-director of *Whiplash* (my favorite film of 2014), starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, set in Tinseltown, heavily influenced by *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (one of my all-time favorite films). In other words, it may have been built in a lab specifically to appeal to me. I'm flattered.

This perpetually sunny, bittersweet, primary-colored fantasia begins in a December traffic jam populated by L.A. strivers, all rehearsing their lines or going over their music on their way to their auditions or day jobs. Two of them are Mia (Emma Stone), a struggling actress who works at a coffee shop; and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), a jazz pianist who pays the bills playing dull Christmas standards but wants to open his own club. Mia and Sebastian meet, then continue to bump into each other over the next several months as they pursue their own lives.

The story eventually becomes a romance, of course, in L.A. fashion. Mia and Sebastian go to a screening of *Rebel Without a Cause*, then visit the Griffith Observatory, where that movie's climax takes place. Sebastian, unable to open his club yet but wanting to be a responsible adult, accepts a gig playing with an old acquaintance, Keith (John Legend), whose band mixes classic jazz with hip-hop, which Sebastian feels conflicted about. Mia goes to auditions where she acts her soul out in front of semi-attentive casting agents.

Damien Chazelle's screenplay offers simple conflicts, mostly centered on the age-old battle between ambition and love. He makes sure we grasp that Mia and Sebastian are gen-



ROTTENTOMATOES

Written and directed by Academy Award® nominee Damien Chazelle, *La La Land* tells the story of Mia [Emma Stone], an aspiring actress, and Sebastian [Ryan Gosling], a dedicated jazz musician, who are struggling to make ends meet in a city known for crushing hopes and breaking hearts. Set in modern day Los Angeles, this original musical about everyday life explores the joy and pain of pursuing your dreams.

uinely talented, not hopeless dreamers (or not just hopeless dreamers, anyway). Mia's acting is soulful and impeccable; Sebastian plays and composes skillfully; and Chazelle trains the camera on them when they're working so we can see it. (Yes, that's really Gosling tickling those ivories.)

The songs (music by Justin Hurwitz, lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul) are catchy, jazz-tinged ditties, and they include a charming "no, we're not falling in love, no sir" number, complete with a bit of tap dancing. In every instance, Chazelle and his cinematographer, costumers, and other technicians seek to recreate the widescreen Technicolor exuberance of old musicals, not just in content but in appearance. That means when Gosling and Stone dance, we see them from head to foot, in steady shots that linger for many seconds at a time (the opposite of, say, *Chicago*, which I adore but which is shot like a music video).

And it means our connection to them is based on character

and emotion more than plot or conflict. Mia's wide-eyed beauty, Sebastian's bemused intensity, the inside jokes they establish as their relationship develops: these are people we enjoy spending time with. Gosling's performance is understated and funny (his comedic skills always sneak up on you), while Stone's starts slow and builds to a bravura climax.

Now, as much as I love the film, with its stylized reality and romantic heart and flights of fancy, it has a troubling flaw. The combination of breathy singing (they're not belting it out for the cheap seats) and unwise sound mixing makes it difficult to hear the lyrics during the first two numbers — a bad way to start a musical! (I've seen it twice, once in a theater and once on DVD with a good home stereo system, and it was the same.) It's a weird misstep for a movie that's otherwise so meticulous about its aesthetic, but it would take a lot more than that to kill the deeply felt warm-and-fuzzies it inspires.

John Legend delivers what I think is the key line. Sebastian wants to keep jazz music alive and introduce it to the next generation, but he doesn't want to modernize or change it. Legend says, "How are you going to be a revolutionary when you're such a traditionalist?" Sebastian doesn't have an answer to that, but he would if he watched *La La Land*, a film so unabashedly traditional that it feels revolutionary. Technology lets Chazelle do things Busby Berkeley couldn't do—stage an elaborate, single-take musical number on an actual L.A. freeway, for example—but Chazelle doesn't modernize the vintage storyline, doesn't use choppy 21st-century editing, and doesn't approach any part of it ironically. To make an earnest, gleeful song-and-dance musical in 2016 with no political subtext or social commentary, not as a parody or deconstruction but simply as an old-fashioned ode to dreaming, is revolutionary.

Epic Tale of Family Legacy Launches Black History Month at the Publick Playhouse

By PRESS OFFICER
Public Playhouse

CHEVERLY, MD—The importance of legacy is the theme of Cotton Field to Concert Hall, an epic told in song, dance, narration and visuals that will be performed at the Publick Playhouse on February 5. The collaboratively conceived script tells the story through spoken word and song, and includes dance and instrumental performances as well.

Performance artist, and actress Betty Entzminger (*White Boy Brown, In the Line of Fire*), narrates the story of the grandmother, a slave on a plantation, whose life becomes a legacy inherited by her great-great-granddaughter, an opera diva. Soprano Amcerah Sabreen sings traditional spirituals in the role of the grandmother, and in the role of the opera diva, performs arias including the familiar "Quando m'en vo" (Musetta's Waltz) from *La Bohème*. But not all the singing is solo; the Artist Group Chorale under the direction of Kelvin Page performs several spirituals in this multi-faceted musical drama.

In addition to traditional African dance and drums from Sierra Leone, performed by the Malcolm X Drummers and Dancers, a soloist from the Washington Ballet dances to the spiritual "Lord, I Done Done What You Want Me to Do," and violinist Alexander Strachan also performs.

Cotton Field to Concert Hall is only one of many performances at the Publick Playhouse that honors and celebrates Black History Month. Other performances include *Luther Re-Lives*, a Luther Van Dross tribute concert on February 18; the popular annual PRAISE Liturgical Dance Festival, on February 26; a gospel concert for seniors featuring Pink PaLiSh on February 24; and Smithsonian Discovery Associates: *How Old is a Hero? Young People of the Civil Rights Movement*, a family matinee on February 11.

Here are all the Black History Month performances at the Publick Playhouse:
Thursday, February 2, 10:15 am & 12 noon
Black History Heroes, Soldiers & Spies,

Tickets: \$8/General Admission, \$6/Groups of 20 or more

Sunday, February 5, 4 pm
Cotton Field to Concert Hall
Tickets: \$20/General Admission

Friday, February 10, 11 am
Platinum Movie: Miles Ahead
Tickets: \$2/Seniors 60 and better

Saturday, February 11, 2 pm
Smithsonian Discovery Associates *How Old is a Hero? Young People of the Civil Rights Movement*
Tickets: \$5/General Admission

Thursday, February 16, 9:30 am & 11:15 am
Anansegromma of Ghana: African Drum, Songs, Story and Game
Tickets: \$5/General Admission

Saturday, February 18, 8pm
Luther Re-Lives
Tickets \$30/General Admission, \$25/Seniors, Students, Groups of 20 or more

Thursday, February 23, 10:15 am & 12 noon
Black History Hall of Fame,
Tickets \$8/General Admission, \$6/Groups of 20 or more

Friday, February 24, 11 am
A Black History Month Gospel

Celebration featuring Washington D.C.'s own Pink PaLiSh
Tickets: \$10/Seniors 60 and better only

Sunday, February 26, 4pm
PRAISE Liturgical Dance Festival
Tickets \$25/General Admission, \$20/Seniors, Students, Groups of 20 or More

Cotton Field to Concert Hall is produced by the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA), more information about CAAPA can be found at www.4caapa.org.

For more about performances at the Publick Playhouse, please contact Jenna Ward, jenna.ward@pgparks.com, 301-277-1710. High-resolution photos are available upon request.

The Playhouse is a facility of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Arts and Cultural Heritage Division. More information is found at arts.pgparks.com under Prince George's Publick Playhouse.

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

Soul Men: Coach Pop and Cornel West



This country is currently rife with crisis and conflict. If you are young, have black or brown skin and are without financial means, the less likely your concerns will be heard. On a Sunday in San Antonio, Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich and Harvard professor and civil-rights activist Dr. Cornel West tried to chip away at that suffocating status quo.

The basketball coach and the author/educator are both renowned in their fields, and yet they're not necessarily two people we put in the same sentence. But on November 20, Coach Pop and Dr. West sat on a stage at the Carver Community Center and for over two hours they took questions from 250 students who attend Sam Houston High School on San Antonio's East Side. Also in the audience were the Spurs, the coaching staff, everyone who works on both the basketball and business operation for the team, as well as invitees from the broader community. Somehow, I was the moderator of this event, and it was as unforgettable as it sounds.

For over two hours, the students asked tough questions about the state of the world and their own place within a country that just elected a president who, in their view, seems to hold them in open contempt. Pop and Dr. West answered in kind, without condescension and with straight talk about the importance of education, the state of the world and how these young people could navigate our troubled times.

Pop told the crowd that he wanted to host this kind of meeting because, "I wanted to show you, the students at Sam Houston, that there are people in your community who care and we understand that there are things that have to be fixed and we are willing to listen and participate with you in making that happen."

The student questions were focused on their own ability to move forward with a sense of optimism and hope given the current state of this country. Coach Pop said, "I think the most important thing is that you can't do anything by yourself. You have to join together, and be prepared, ready and active."

Dr. West answered about the importance of students seeing themselves as part of a collective community and not isolated individuals. He said, "Do you respect yourself? Do you have confidence in yourself? Do you believe in yourself? If so, that will enable you to learn how to respect others. And in respecting others, you'll be able to deal with what is coming at you. But at the larger, institutional level, you're going to have to learn how to organize, mobilize, and create networks and even movements. You all seen the folks marching on television? Did young people march here in San Antonio? Then you know what I'm talking about."

Both Pop and Dr. West also spoke with emotion about how important it was for students to know that this wasn't just a fly-by event but that they would be there to help the Sam Houston community going forward.

A student asked, of course, whether the Spurs were going to win a title, and here was one of the emotional high points of the day. Coach Popovich responded:

"Win the championship? I don't know, but it's not a priority in my life. I'd be much happier if I knew that my players were going to make society better, who had good families and who took care of the people around them. I'd get more satisfaction out of that than a title. I would love to win another championship, and we'll work our butts off to try and do that. But we have to want more than success in our jobs. That's why we're here. We're here so you'll understand that you can overcome obstacles by being prepared and if you educate the hell out of yourself. If you become respectful, disciplined people in this world, you can fight anything. If you join with each other and you believe in yourself and each other, that's what matters. That's what we want to relay to you all: that we believe that about you or we wouldn't be here."

Dr. West seemed stunned by Coach Pop's words and said: "This is what makes brother Popovich not just a great coach but a great human being. There are not that many coaches who would say what he just said. He wants to win a championship, but as a human being, he wants to make sure that all the young people live lives that matter. That's what it means to be a great person, not just a great basketball player or coach. That's true for everyone sitting around here. No matter how much money they have or don't have, it depends on what kind of human being they are. Are they choosing integrity, honesty, and decency or are they choosing trickery? That's fundamental."

There were lighter moments as well. At one point Pop and Cornel West engaged in the duet of "Soul Man" by Sam and Dave that probably won't garner them a record deal. But most importantly what I saw in San Antonio was the

See SOUL MEN Page A7

Calendar of Events

January 26 — February 1, 2017

Suburban Maryland Spring Home Show

Date and Time: Friday, January 27, 2017 11 am–8 pm
Saturday, January 28, 2017 10 am–8 pm
Sunday, January 29, 2017 10 am–6 pm

Description: The Home Show will inspire, motivate and excite you whether you are planning a minor renovation, a home improvement or dreaming of the future. This event will feature a wide selection of home improvement professionals in a fun, interactive environment. The show starts on Friday, January 27 and runs through Sunday, January 29, 2017; times vary (See above).

Cost: Free Admission and Free Parking

Location: The Show Place Arena

14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2255

Health and Wellness:

A Healthy Balance: Family Cooking Session

Date and Time: January 27, 2017, 11am–12 noon

Description: Finding the right balance can be difficult, but when it comes to food, it doesn't always have to be! We invite you and your family to join us for a FREE cooking demonstration. Learn simple tips and tricks for creating healthy and balanced meals that the whole family will love! Enjoy free food samples and take home new recipes. For more information, e-mail Health and Wellness wellness@pgparks.com.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages

Location: Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex

7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD

Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY: 301-699-2544

Fashion Boot Camp 101

Date and Time: Friday, January 27, 2017 7–9:30 pm

Description: Are you a teen interested in modeling/fashion? If so, join the Fashion Bootcamp 101! Classes are held on Fridays from 7–9:30 pm and Sundays from 12:30–3:30 pm (6 weeks).

Cost: \$50 Residents \$65 Non-Residents

Ages: 12–17

Location: Good Luck Community Center

8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD

Contact: 301-552-1093

Burns Night Supper

Date and Time: Saturday, January 28, 2017, 6–8 pm

Description: You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy our Burns Night Supper! Dine with us and experience the atmosphere and flavor of one of Scotland's oldest and most cherished traditions. Celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet. Program includes dinner, music, poetry, bagpipes, history, and fun!

Reservations & payment required in advance.

Cost: Resident \$45; Non-resident \$54

Ages: Ages 21 & up

Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum

14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Winter Concert Series: Afro Bop Alliance

Date and Time: Saturday, January 28, 2017, 8 pm

Description: Experience our Winter Concert Series in partnership with Bowie State University and be entertained by Latin Grammy award-winning Afro Bop Alliance! Be inspired by the great be-bop tradition and their rich rhythmic stylings of Afro-Caribbean music. Purchase online at <https://smartlink.pgparks.com/POSweb/POSItemDetails.aspx?POSItemKey=17373>

Cost: \$35/person

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Bowie State University Fine & Performing Arts Center

14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie 20715

Contact: 301-446-3232 TTY 301-699-2544

Newton White Mansion Annual Bridal Showcase

Date and Time: Sunday, January 29, 2017, 2–5 pm

Description: Join us to meet with vendors to plan your wedding from beginning to end! Clients will be able to meet vendors to plan their weddings/events and participate in food tastings, meet event planners, DJs, bartenders, photographers etc. Mansion tours will be available.

Cost: Resident: \$10; Non-Resident: \$13

Ages: Adults Only

Location: Newton White Mansion

2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721

Contact: 301-249-2004; TTY 301-699-2544

Freedom Songs: The Music of Black History

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 10:30 am

Description: Join our energetic actors in this entertaining musical revue of the history of black music! From the work songs of slavery ("Hoe Emma Hoe") and the hymns of the Underground Railroad ("Follow of the Drinking Gourd") to the blues of Beale Street and the anthems of the civil rights movement, music has always been an integral part of our nation's past.

Cost: \$5/person

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center

10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD

Contact: 301-203-6070; 301-699-2544

Nicole Ard Post from A1

Ms. Ard will start her position with Greenbelt on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Mr. McLaughlin will stay on for a couple of weeks to insure a smooth transition. On Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, the Greenbelt City Council will hold a welcoming recep-

tion for Ms. Ard where all will have the opportunity to meet her. The City of Greenbelt is excited to work with Ms. Ard in continuing in the grand tradition of service and excellence provided by Mr. McLaughlin over the past 37 years.

For more information on Ms. Ard and the transition, contact Michael McLaughlin, City Manager at 301-474-8000.

EARTH TALK ...

What's New With Batteries These Days?

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that one of the big hurdles to growth in renewables is energy storage. What's new in the world of battery technologies? And will better forms of storage really accelerate the development of solar, wind and other alternative forms of energy?

—Maxwell Jay,
Erie, PA

It's true that energy storage has been an Achilles heel in the emerging renewable energy sector, given the large environmental footprint required to produce and distribute our current crop of lithium ion and other types of batteries—and the fact that they do not hold nearly the capacity needed to make intermittent renewable sources (like solar and wind) viable as secure year-round sources of power. Whether or not renewables can replace fossil fuels in the future may well depend on our ability to drastically improve the way we store electricity.

But given the importance of solving this problem, a lot of great minds are working on it. Electric carmaker Tesla is close to finishing construction on a "Gigafactory" in the desert outside of Sparks, Nevada to produce lithium ion batteries for its signature electric cars and its new line of utility-grade and household energy storage appliances. By 2018, the

new renewable energy-powered facility will reach full capacity with an annual battery production capacity of 35 gigawatt-hours—and will produce more lithium ion batteries annually than were produced worldwide in 2013. Tesla expects its Gigafactory to shave upwards of 30 percent off battery production costs, and serve as a model for how to mass produce green technology with a triple (social, environmental and financial) bottom line in mind.

But critics point out that merely lowering the production costs for existing technologies by a third won't provide the quantum leap in storage capacity needed to make intermittent renewables as reliable as traditional "baseload" (e.g., consistent generation) sources such as coal, natural gas or hydropower.

"Many researchers believe energy storage will have to take an entirely new chemistry and new physical form, beyond the lithium-ion batteries that over the last decade have shoved aside competing technologies in consumer electronics, electric vehicles and grid-scale storage systems," reports Richard Martin, senior editor for energy at *MIT Technology Review*.

Some of the most promising designs employ cheap and abundant natural materials (such as air, water, carbon, sodium, quinone, and even sand) as catalytic substrates. But Martin points out that



CREDIT: NAKHON100, FLICKRCC.

Tesla Motors will produce more lithium ion batteries in its new Nevada Gigafactory than were produced worldwide in 2013.

there are so many competing technologies "from foam batteries to flow batteries to exotic chemistries, that no one clear winner is attracting most of the funding and research activity."

He adds that these small start-ups lack the capitalization to get their products ready for the mass market. Setting up a small manufacturing line and testing various combinations of materials to optimize a new battery technology's potential storage capacity and charge/discharge rates could cost as much as \$500 million, but most start-ups in the space can expect investments averaging only about \$5 million a year. "That huge investment gap is hard to overcome," concludes Martin.

For now, Tesla is poised to dominate the world's battery mar-

ket with its Gigafactory coming online later this year. But analysts think we'll have some new alternatives to the lithium ion battery standard within a decade or so, especially if venture capitalists and other investors begin to grasp how important better energy storage options may be to our future.

CONTACTS: Tesla Energy, www.tesla.com/energy; MIT Technology Review, www.technologyreview.com.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of **E - The Environmental Magazine** (www.emagazine.com).

Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

American Wind Energy Association Statement on Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act Veto Override

By PRESS OFFICER
AWEA

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Senator Brian Feldman and Delegate Bill Frick, sponsors of the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act, joined with other state lawmakers, business leaders, and advocates, calling for a veto override today at the Maryland State House. American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) CEO Tom Kiernan, representing 1,000 member companies that manufacture, construct, and operate wind turbines in America, signaled his support for the override:

"We are encouraged by Governor Hogan's intention to promote economic growth and environmental quality as he outlined this week in his 2017 agenda. The Clean Energy Jobs Act is the most

effective way for him to meet those goals, creating new jobs in wind power and other industries while attracting hundreds of millions of dollars in new private investment to Maryland. We strongly support a veto override. It will signal Maryland means business and is committed to job growth while strengthening the state's energy supply."—Tom Kiernan, CEO of AWEA.

In April 2016, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Clean Energy Jobs Act, legislation that would have increased the state's renewable energy standard by five percent so that a quarter of its energy comes from renewable sources by 2020. In May 2016, Governor Hogan vetoed the bill.

States representing roughly a quarter of the U.S. population

(California, Oregon, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia) have chosen to raise their renewable energy goals over the past year while adding jobs and investment. California, Oregon, New York and Hawaii have standards aiming for 50 percent renewable energy and beyond.

Maryland risks losing jobs and investment in energy sources like wind and solar if the Governor's veto is permitted to stand. Wind power already supports close to 500 jobs in Maryland and has attracted \$380 million in private investment to date.

For a library of up-to-date library images of wind energy use this link <http://www.awea.org/MediaCenter/content.aspx?ItemNumber=7244>.

AWEA is the national trade association of the U.S. wind energy industry, with over 1,000 member companies, including global leaders in wind power and energy development, wind turbine manufacturing, component and service suppliers, and the Western Hemisphere's largest wind power trade show, the AWEA WINDPOWER Conference & Exhibition, which takes place next in Anaheim, California, May 22-26, 2017. AWEA is the voice of wind energy in the U.S., promoting renewable energy to power a cleaner, stronger America. Look up information on wind energy at the AWEA website. Find insight on industry issues at AWEA's blog Into the Wind. Join AWEA on Facebook. Follow AWEA on Twitter.

Soul Men from A6

shape of things to come: hundreds of engaged young people seeking ideas for not letting this current political moment define the limits of their future.

Cornel West put it in a way the audience—or at least I—will never forget. Speaking about our spiritually adrift celebrity culture and politics, he said, "There's a difference between a peacock and an eagle. A peacock walks around and says look at me, look at me, I'm part of a spectacle. A peacock struts because he can't fly. Eagles fly high with nobility. They look concerned with folks who are downtrodden. We need more examples of eagles. And those examples are becoming more and more apparent from the young generation. That's why I salute you."

The last words were to Coach Pop, who said, "Hopefully, you all believe in your soul that there are many people who care about you, love you, and know that you have tremendous value. Don't let anybody take that away from you because the more you believe that about yourselves, the more you can handle whatever comes your way."

After this event took place, a basketball commentator for ESPN asked me how the organizers of this event "got Coach Pop to do it." The answer is that no one got Coach Pop to do it. This was his idea. He made it happen in the middle of the season, and the Spurs organization backed him to the hilt. That's the part of this story that matters. We can all be change-makers, no matter where we work and no matter who we are. We can all take the time to listen to young people and impart the message that the way things are isn't necessarily the way things have to be.

DRIVE IT, DON'T IDLE IT

Winter means cold temperatures in the morning, but it doesn't mean you have to run your vehicle prior to taking off. Consider these few ways to cut vehicle warm up times.

- ▶ The best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it.
- ▶ Vehicle experts and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggest warming up your vehicle for no more than 30 seconds on cold, winter days.
- ▶ Warming up your vehicle for a lengthy time forces the engine to operate in a very inefficient mode that can degrade the engine's performance.

ENVIRONMENT
MAY 2016